



Report of the East North East Area Manager

North East (Outer) Area Committee

Date: 20th September 2010

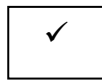
Subject: Well-Being Fund

Electoral Wards Affected:

Alwoodley, Harewood, Wetherby

Ward members consulted

(referred to in this report)



Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity



Community Cohesion



Narrowing the Gap



Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of wellbeing budget spending to date and presents for consideration a number of new project proposals requesting funding.

The Area Committee is asked to:

- Note the spend to date and current balances for the 2010/11 financial year;
- Consider the project proposals in paragraphs 12 – 50 and approve, where appropriate, the amount of grant to be awarded;
- Note the awarding of small grants for each ward;
- Note the projects in development.

Purpose of this report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide details of the wellbeing fund to the Area Committee, including details of new projects for consideration.

Background Information

- Each of the ten Area Committees receives an allocation of revenue and capital funding to commission projects and offer grants to organisations in the local area. The amount of funding for each Area Committee is determined by a formula based on population and deprivation in each area which has been previously agreed by the Council's Executive Board.

Revenue

- The initial Wellbeing revenue allocation for 2010/11 was based on a formula calculated upon 25% to 75% deprivation to population. The Executive Board, at its meeting on 21st July 2010 approved, with immediate effect, a change in this rational to 50% to 50% deprivation to population. Thus, the Wellbeing revenue allocation for the Outer North East area has been reduced by £15,634 to £127,586.
- On that basis and using the percentage measure of the total population of the outer area, the split between the three wards is now £47,462 for Alwoodley ward (37.2%), £38,403 for Harewood ward (30.1%) and £41,721 for Wetherby ward (32.7%).
- As a result and taking into account the carry forward figure from the previous years as well as funding committed to projects at the July 2010 Area Committee, the current balance for each ward is: Alwoodley £23,811, Harewood £26,223 and Wetherby £24,522.
- Appendix 1 to this report shows the spend to date and current balance for the revenue budget and reflects the above adjustments.
- An additional allocation of £50,000 was made available by the Executive Board in 2007 for each Area Committee to fund two areas of strategic importance:
 - Carrying out reviews of conservation areas in their geographical area.
 - Introducing residents' only parking / extra parking provision in particular areas of concern.
- Split between the three wards, the funding provided an allocation of £16,667 per ward. The allocation for Harewood and Wetherby wards has been spent, but the balance for Alwoodley ward remains unspent.

Small Grants

- Community organisations can apply for a small grant to support small scale projects in the community. A maximum of two grants of up to £500 can be awarded to any one group in any financial year, to enable as many groups as possible to benefit. There have been no new small grants applications for the period between July to September.

Capital

10. The capital allocation for 2009/10 was cut by 10%. In 2010/11 financial year £20,000 capital was initially allocated per each area committee. However, due to the loss of the Local Public Sector Agreement Reward Grant is no longer available.
11. In the preparation of this report an error in the reporting of capital wellbeing has been discovered. This goes back to the transfer of £20k between the Alwoodley and Wetherby wards, when, regrettably, this transaction was made and recorded twice. The affect of the error is that Wetherby ward's capital has been overestimated by £20k and Alwoodley ward's capital has been underestimated by the same amount. Harewood ward remains unaffected by this error. Appendix 2 shows the correct information on the availability of capital funding for each ward in the Outer North East Area Committee area.

New Projects for Consideration

Revenue projects

Conservation Area for Scholes - £6,000 (Harewood Ward)

12. This review will propose a new conservation area for Scholes and will produce an appraisal of the character of the area together with options for its management. The boundary may be amended as necessary after consultations at public meetings or drop-in sessions. The entire amount is sought from the Wellbeing budget.
13. The review will be undertaken by the Council's conservation area team. The process will start at the end of this, or beginning of the next financial year due to the volume of work carried out by the conservation area team. This work will be done in close co-operation with the Parish Council, who are keen champions of the scheme.
14. ADP Theme: Environment - Protect and improve the quality and sustainability of the built and natural environment.

Conservation Area Review – Shadwell - £6,000 (Harewood Ward)

15. Shadwell conservation area was designated in 1973 and to date has not been reviewed. The proposed review will produce an appraisal of the character of the area together with options for its management. The boundary may be amended as necessary after consultations at public meetings or drop-in sessions.
16. The review will be undertaken by the Council's conservation area team and conducted at the end of the current, or beginning of the next financial year due

to the volume of work experienced by the team. This work will be carried out in close co-operation with the Parish Council.

17. ADP Theme: Environment - Protect and improve the quality and sustainability of the built and natural environment.

Crime Reduction Operations – (Farmwatch and additional policing) £8,500 (£2,500 Harewood and £6,000 Wetherby Wards)

18. This project is a co-operation between the wards of Harewood and Wetherby to respond to rural crime. Farmwatch is a highly successful operation developed by the Wetherby Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) to combat rural crime and the fear of crime. Sponsorship has been secured from Ripon Farm Service for a Land Rover Defender and more recently for a second Land Rover from Hesco Bastion. The vehicles have greatly increased capability to patrol the rural areas previously inaccessible in standard patrol vehicles. In order to continue to run these vehicles funding needs to be secured for fuel to keep them on the road.
19. The request to fund fuel costs is split evenly between the two wards; £2,500 each.
20. Additional funding of £3,500 is further requested from the Wetherby ward to cover the costs of Pre Christmas Patrols which are designed to address anti-social behaviour brought on by alcohol abuse and public order offences among young people, leading to acquisitive crime in the town centre. The Police will conduct high visibility patrols thus engaging with the local community whilst maintaining the peace and addressing problems which may occur. The patrols will be supplemented by mounted police officers patrolling in the town centre on selected evenings.
21. ADP Theme: Thriving Places - Create Safer Environments by tackling crime and anti social behaviour.

Wetherby Community Bonfire - £1,000 (Wetherby Ward)

22. The Wetherby community bonfire and firework display provides an opportunity for local people to enjoy a safe bonfire night which is organised by the Town Council and local community groups. Those attending enjoy the bonfire, superb firework display and other entertainment. The idea of organised displays is favoured by the Fire Services and West Yorkshire Police.
23. ADP Theme: Culture - Support community cultural events and activities.

Wetherby Road Plantation - £1,000 (Wetherby Ward)

24. This project has been developed at a request of Ward Members. It will add to an existing hedge line to turn it into a woodland to promote species diversity and prevent anti social activity in the form of illegal camping on the plantation.
25. ADP Theme: Environment – To improve the condition and appearance of open, public spaces.

Reaching Out Project - £11,750 (Wetherby Ward)

26. This scheme will complete the major rebuilding project at the Wetherby Methodist Church and will enhance the premises for community use by redeveloping the Sanctuary to create a modern, and sustainable multi purpose building. The grant is requested to purchase 130 comfortable chairs with arms for use by elderly/infirm people who use the Sanctuary which is home to over 40 organisation each week ranging from music groups, sports groups, young and older people's activities.
27. ADP Theme: Harmonious Communities – Support to voluntary, community and faith sector to deliver priority service provision.

Leeds City Council Parks and Countryside Site Based Gardeners - £21,115 (Wetherby Ward)

28. This application seeks funding to ensure the continuation of a very successful project within Wetherby, the provision of on-site gardeners dedicated to the management and maintenance of parks, gardens and open spaces.
29. The Outer North East Area Committee, Wetherby ward, has been funding this initiative for a number of years now and local councillors want to ensure it continues in 2011 – 12. For that reason, an approval is being sought in the current financial year for the continuation of the scheme in 2011 – 12.
30. The project seeks to provide a full time gardener (37 hours) dedicated to managing the green spaces in Wetherby to include: the Harland Way, Wilderness car park, Sandringham Way play ground, Wetherby sports centre: incl. de-littering, Wetherby roundabout as well as de-littering large areas of grass verges in the locality.
31. The main output of this scheme is to ensure the continuation of engagement with members of the public rather than just employing staff to undertake horticultural and maintenance tasks and thereby continue to ensure that the service and the team play an important part in helping to enhance people's enjoyment of their parks and green spaces. Reinstating park gardeners helps Leeds to contribute to PSA (Public Service Agreement) objectives that include crime reduction, reducing public fear of crime, increasing voluntary and community engagement and the delivery of cleaner, safer and greener public spaces. Having an official presence in local parks increases public confidence and parental peace of mind in safety of children at play.

32. ADP Theme: Environment. Protect and improve the quality and sustainability of the built and natural environment.

Keeping Slaid Hill Clean, Green and Vibrant - £1,208.24 (Alwoodley Ward)

33. Slaid Hill in Bloom group have been working hard for the last 4 years to sustain and continue to improve the local environment at the Slaid Hill shopping parade and surrounding area and have received regular support from the Area Committee. This year they wish to purchase more bulbs for planting, high visibility vests, gloves and have the lawnmower serviced.
34. ADP Theme: Environment – Ensure local neighbourhoods are clean and well maintained and improve the condition and appearance of open, public spaces.

Capital projects

Alwoodley Methodist Church, Small Hall Toilets - £5,606 (Alwoodley Ward)

35. The existing single stall ladies and gents toilets will be renovated to create disabled facilities in the smaller of the church's community halls. The existing gents toilet will be altered to become a unisex disabled facility. In addition, the flooring needs to be replaced as existing tiles are chipped. The church has been advised that this work is essential and if not carried out the building will need to be closed and an important venue will cease to be available to the community.
36. ADP Theme: Harmonious Communities - Support to voluntary, community and faith sector to delivery priority service provision.

New Roof for Collingham Scout and Guide Group Headquarters - £6,500 (Harewood Ward)

37. The Scout and Guide headquarters was built over 30 years ago and the building is now becoming dangerous. After advice from a structural engineer it has been recommended that the roof should be replaced. Currently, around 130 young people attend beavers, cubs, scouts, rainbows, brownies and guides and have active support from parents and the community. The renovations will enable the activities to continue.
38. Harewood ward capital allocation is now exhausted and at the last ward meeting, the Councillors agreed to consider funding this project from Ward Based Initiatives, if appropriate.
39. ADP Theme: Harmonious Communities - Support to voluntary, community and faith section to deliver priority services.

Barleyfields Youth Centre redecoration - £4,960 + VAT (Wetherby Ward)

40. Barleyfields youth centre is used by a number of groups as well as providing an office space for Youth Services. The list below provides information about users.
- Youth Service is a principle user.
 - Help the Aged
 - Mental Health Group
 - Parents and Toddlers'
 - St John's Ambulance
41. Finance is required to paint and refresh the building which has become a little neglected. The work will be done internally by the Corporate Property Management service (CPM) from whom the above costings have been procured. Following negotiations with CPM it has been agreed that the work will be paid for from the central community centres budget administered by CPM.

Deepdale Play Space Fencing Parks & Countryside - £21,000 (Wetherby Ward)

42. This application seeks funding to erect fencing around the newly refurbished play space at Deepdale. The new equipment is proving a real success with local families, but concerns relating to the security of the existing fence along the roadside have been raised by the parish council and families using the play area. It is intended to erect fencing along the frontage of the play space to separate it from the buildings and the football field. More fencing will be constructed along the roadside of Deepdale Lane and the busy High Street. The fence line will consist of metal, vertical bar and rail panels which would be 1.2 metres high along the side of the football field and frontage, but 1.8 metres high along the roadside.
43. The main aim of this scheme is to ensure the safety of young people and children using the play space and to prevent them from getting out on to the road. In addition, the installation of a new metal fence along the road side and cutting down the existing hedge will open up the space, making it a much more inviting, visible from the road, and so increasing its natural surveillance and improving the over all safety of users.
44. ADP Theme: Harmonious Communities: Develop opportunities in and usage of community parks to get more people actively involved in their local parks.

Deepdale Play Area Provision of Boundary Fencing Parks & Countryside - £39,000 (Wetherby Ward)

45. This project is to provide fencing along the boundary line of Deepdale public open space. The money is to fund a 1.8 metre high metal fence along the frontage of the open space. The fence line would consist of metal, vertical bar

and rail panels painted black, complete with a new pedestrian access point by the skateboard park and improved vehicular access point to the car park.

46. The objective of the scheme is to:
 - Increase usage of the site
 - Decrease anti social behaviour
 - Increase safety of children and young people
 - Increase natural surveillance of the site
47. Parks and Countryside provided the costing for the project and will deliver it.
48. ADP Theme: Harmonious Communities - Develop opportunities in and usage of community parks to get more people actively involved in their local parks.

Wetherby Town Council

Wetherby Town Hall Roof Restoration Fund £27,500

49. Wetherby Town Hall is a listed building situated in the heart of Wetherby. The slate on the roof has, due to age, become very thin and a large number of these slates are broken and cracked. The whole roof needs replacing with slate, the type used will need approval by the Conservation Officer. A survey has identified that there will be work needed to the rafters and a very ornamental ceiling in the ballroom will need replacing. A number of leaks have occurred and an aerial survey has identified places where rain has been getting in. These are continually in need of patching so that further damage is limited. There is also lead work on the roof and chimney stacks that need remedial work. The Town Hall has been endeavouring to put money aside towards a new roof but these repairs now need to be carried out.
50. ADP Theme: Harmonious Communities: Support to voluntary, community and faith sector to deliver priority service provision

Projects in Development

51. The following projects are in development. This means that the Area Management Team is working with an organisation to ensure that any proposal submitted is linked to one or more of the Area Committee priorities, that full application forms with appropriate information are submitted for each one, and that other funding sources which may be able to contribute to the project are also explored.

Tree planting, Moor Lane, £12,000 (Harewood Ward)

52. A project is being developed to plant 40 trees as part of environmental improvements on Moor Lane near Collingham Moor just off Wattle Skye. The path is well used by ramblers and walkers, and the tree line is visible from the surrounding area.
53. ADP Theme: Environment.

Graveyard at St Paul's Church, Shadwell £9,016 (Harewood Ward)

54. Shadwell Parish Council is seeking a funding contribution towards the costs of undertaking repair and refurbishment work to the graveyard to create a safe and attractive greenspace with seating. This will include resetting of loose headstones and refurbishment of the path and grassed areas. The main footpath route through the village crosses the graveyard and many residents and visitors pass through the area.
55. ADP Theme: Environment.

Implications For Council Policy and Governance

56. Area Delivery Plans cover local priorities for wellbeing spend and these are linked to the Leeds Strategic Plan outcomes and improvement priorities.

Legal and Resource Implications

57. The Area Committee has delegated responsibility for taking decisions and monitoring activity relating to utilisation of well being budgets within the framework of the Council's Constitution and in accordance with Local Government Act 2000.

Conclusions

58. The well being fund provides financial support for projects in the Outer North East Area which help to deliver the priorities of the Area Delivery Plan.

Recommendations

59. The Area Committee is requested to:
- Note the spend to date and current balances for the 20010/11 financial year;
 - Consider the project proposals in paragraphs 12 - 50 and approve, where appropriate, the amount of grant to be awarded;
 - Note the projects in development.

Background Papers

Area Functions Schedule Report July 2010