



Report of the Director of Environments and Neighbourhoods Directorate

South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 5th November 2007

Subject: Allocation of the Additional Well being Funding

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in 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

Each Area Committee has been allocated an additional £50,000 this year from General Fund Reserves for 2007/08. Two areas were identified by the Executive Board for consideration by Area Committees when deciding how to spend this extra money. These are: carrying out a conservation area review in their geographical area or introducing residents' only parking/extra parking provision in particular areas of concern.

The September Area Committee asked that clarification be sought on the Executive Boards recommendations on how the additional funds could be used as well as providing options for spend.

The report clarifies the Executive Boards position and makes recommendations to the Area Committee on the allocation of the additional Well being funding.

In September, the Area Committee agreed to spend £1,875 on a survey of the usage of Queensway Car Park in Morley.

The Committee are asked to consider allocating £25,000 on conservation area reviews in Morley and Rothwell and consider how the balance of £23,125 should be spent.

1.0 Purpose of This Report

The report outlines proposals for consideration by the Outer South Area Committee and asks the committee to agree how the remaining additional well being allocation is spent.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Each Area Committee has been allocated an additional £50,000 this year from General Fund Reserves for 2007/08. One of the areas identified by the Executive Board that they would like Area Committees to consider when deciding how to spend this extra money was on carrying out Conservation Area Reviews. This is a Best Value/Comprehensive Performance Assessment indicator for the Council. Executive Board would like to make progress in this area and feel that there is an opportunity for the Area Committees to influence how this work goes forward.
- 2.2 A report on conservation area appraisals was presented at the September 2007 Area Committee but members requested clarification on the Executive Boards recommendations on how this additional funding could be spent. This report is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.3 Executive Board also proposed funding residents' only parking/extra parking provision in particular areas of concern. It is known that City Development are undertaking work on wider parking issues across the city and a report on the outcomes of this work will come to Executive Board in the near future. Members may want to consider waiting for the outcome of that report before making a final decision. Also, while officers are aware of some current areas of concern regarding residents' only parking in Outer South, these are not developed sufficiently for consideration here.
- 2.4 Members should note that £1,875 was allocated by the Area Committee at the September meeting for a survey at Queensway Car Park in Morley. The results of the survey will come to the December committee.
- 2.5 In preparing options for Area Committee, officers have considered proposals to advance the refurbishment of key council owned facilities in Outer South. Among them Blackburn Hall in Rothwell has recently benefited from an upgrade of kitchen and toilet facilities. This upgrade was a priority due to the high level of use of the Hall by local community groups. Funding has been applied for to continue this programme of development and improvement to Blackburn Hall as part of the management of community venues across the Outer South. Officers are not aware of any issues in the Arsdley Robin Hood Ward. As a consequence proposals in this report to address this issue focus on Morley Town Hall.
- 2.6 The issue of local design statements has also been raised in the context of this funding.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 The Executive Board has approved an additional allocation for each area Committee of £50,000 revenue which must have no ongoing cost implications. The Executive Board identified two areas of strategic importance that they would like Area Committees to consider when deciding how to spend this extra money. These are: carrying out a conservation area review in their geographical area or introducing residents' only parking/extra parking provision in particular areas of concern.
- 3.2 In response to City Development completing a report on parking issues across the city. Members may want to consider ringfencing an amount of the additional wellbeing allocation to address parking issues in the Outer South based on recommendations in the future City Development report. It is therefore proposed that the balance of the additional allocation be used to commission improvements to Morley Town Hall, Blackburn Hall and any suitable council owned venues in Ardsley Robin Hood.
- 3.3 Members are asked to note that while there are no current residents parking issues for consideration; schemes could come forward to a future meeting for discussion.
- 3.4 Local design statements have been raised in the context of this funding. It is recommended that the committee invite officers from Development to provide further information on local design statements with a view to bringing forward proposals for consideration at a later date.
- 3.5 Conservation Area Reviews are a Best Value/Comprehensive Performance Assessment indicator for the Council.
- 3.6 The availability of capital funding from the wellbeing budget offers the potential to maximise the impact of the remaining additional allocation wellbeing funding by using it as match funding.

4.0 Proposals

- 4.1 It is suggested that the Committee considers allocating an amount from this year's well being allocation to support a review of a Conservation Area. This would then allow a programme to be developed and implemented over the next 12 months in a consistent manner which follows planning guidance. Once the details about the number of reviews to be supported has been collated this will enable officers to put together a programme and finalise the financial contributions required from each of the Committees.
 - 4.1.1 A proposed £25,000 would complete conservation area reviews for Morley and provide an update to the Rothwell conservation audit.
- 4.2 Subject to the Area Committee agreeing to ringfence an amount to address parking issues, the committee is asked to consider commissioning the remaining budget on improvements to Morley Town Hall.

4.2.1 The following list of priority items has been compiled by Area Management in discussions with Civic Building staff:

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|---|---------|
| Repairs to Mosaic Floor | £20,000 |
| New stage lighting in the Alexandra Hall | £10,000 |
| Replacement of Chairs in the Alexandra Hall | £15,000 |

4.3 Area Committee are asked to consider additional funding from the Wellbeing capital budget to contribute towards one or more item on the list outlined in 4.2.1

5.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance

5.1 The proposals outlined in this report fit with existing Council policy and address an area which will have an impact on Best Value/Comprehensive Performance Assessment indicators.

6.0 Legal and Resource Implications

6.1 As indicated, there is an estimate of £25,000 to complete two Conservation Area reviews at this stage. Corporate Finance has confirmed that a programme of reviews as suggested in the report would be an acceptable way to utilise the funding available to the Area Committees. Any spend from a co-ordinated programme of reviews from this year's allocation which slips into the next financial year would not present a problem.

6.2 Resource implications will be that the remaining balance of the Wellbeing Budget for capital will be reduced as a result of any projects funded.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 In making the additional £50,000 allocation to each Area Committee in 2007/08 the Executive Board had an expectation that Area Committees would spend some of this on carrying out Conservation Area Reviews. It is suggested that the Committee considers allocating an amount £25,000 to support reviews in Morley and Rothwell. This would then allow a programme to be developed and implemented over the next 12 months in a consistent manner which fits with planning guidance and can be incorporated into the work programme for the Sustainable Development Unit.

7.2 Subject to agreeing the allocation at 7.1, Members are to consider the proposals in this report and agree how to spend any residual balance of the additional Wellbeing allocation.

8.0 Recommendations

The Area Committee is asked:

- Note this report
- Consider the proposal in 3.2 to ringfencing an amount from the additional wellbeing allocation to address parking issues identified by City Development in a future report.
- Request further information from Development on local design statements as outlined in 3.3.
- Consider the proposal outlined in 4.1.1 and agree a funding allocation of £25,000 for priority conservation area reviews in the Outer South.
- Consider 4.2.1 and 4.3 and agree any items and funding allocation to maintenance of Morley Town Hall.