

**Report of West North West Area Leader**

**Report to Special Meeting of the Inner West Area Committee**

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

**Subject: Well-being Fund Budget update**

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**Does the report contain information which has been identified as confidential or exempt?**

**Yes** (if exempt, please see the public interest test in section 4)  
Relevant section of the report:  
In accordance with Access to Information Procedure Rule:

**No**, this report does not contain information identified as confidential or exempt.

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**Is the decision eligible for call-in?**     **Yes**     **No – exempt**     **Not applicable**

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**Summary of main issues and corporate governance considerations**

1. This report seeks to update Members on the current amount of capital and revenue funding committed and available via the Area Committee Well-Being Budget for wards in the Inner West area. It seeks approval for new and continuing projects commissioned by the Area Committee.
2. The Well-being Budget update report from the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011, was deferred to allow further local discussion in relation to emerging projects, specifically Bramley Baths. In summary the report:
  - Outlines proposals to provide additional funding to Bramley Baths
  - Reviews projects commissioned by the Area Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011
  - Provides a summary of all the new projects which were included in the Well-being report on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2011
  - Provides several funding options for the Area Committee to review and approve

**Recommendations**

The Area Committee is asked to:

1. note the potential budget deficit set out in paragraph 3.9 if all projects identified are funded at their full amount
2. consider the new projects submitted for the Area Committee's consideration at Appendices 1-4
3. consider funding options 1-6 set out in Appendix 5 and their implications referred to in paragraphs 3.11-3.19
4. agree a preferred Funding Option

## **Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report seeks to update Members on the current amount of capital and revenue funding committed and available via the Area Committee Well-Being Budget for wards in the Inner West area. It seeks approval for new and continuing projects commissioned by the Area Committee.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 The Well-being Budget update report from the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011, was deferred to allow further local discussion in relation to emerging projects, specifically Bramley Baths. The Well-being Fund report reflects those local discussions and further discussions with the Area Committee Chair. Proposals have now been received from the Chief Recreation Officer for Bramley Baths and these have been included in the full list of projects requesting funding from the Area Committee.
- 2.2 In summary the report:
- Outlines proposals to provide additional funding to Bramley Baths, reflecting local discussions
  - Reviews projects that were commissioned by the Area Committee on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011
  - Provides a summary of all the new projects which were included in the Well-being report on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2011
  - Provides an overview of several funding options for the Area Committee to review and approve
- 2.3 The Council's 2011/12 Budget and Policy Framework provides for hours at Bramley Baths to reduce to 29 hours per week from September 2011. A separate report has been prepared by the Chief Recreation Officer setting out current issues and options for Bramley Baths and is attached elsewhere on this agenda. A full application form for Well-being funding has also been received.
- 2.4 The Well-being Fund report has now been revised to include two options for the Area Committee to provide funding for additional opening hours at Bramley Baths. This has necessitated reviewing the funding of projects which were approved at the February 16<sup>th</sup> Area Committee and also projects which were deferred at the April 5<sup>th</sup> Area Committee meeting.

## **3 Main issues**

### **Well-Being Capital Funding 2011/12**

- 3.1 There has been no new Well-Being capital allocation for 2011/12.

<b>Capital Allocation 2011/12</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Capital carry forward from 2010/11</b>	<b>£0</b>

- 3.1 At the February 16<sup>th</sup> 2011 Area Committee, a capital funding application was received for the installation of new litter bins in the Wythers, Bramley Falls Wood and Station Road

Armley, with the remaining capital allocation of £3,199. A recommendation was also made for Members to further discuss the allocation of the remaining capital funding, following a request for funding for Rodley Park under the Open Forum item. A site visit has since been carried out by Parks and Countryside and the resident concerned and resulted in a proposal for £1,000 funding for a new flower bed. The cost of purchase and installation of the litter bins is £2,890 therefore an additional £691 funding from the revenue funding would need allocating to this project. It is not suggested that this figure of £691 be reviewed as part of the funding review exercise as the sum is relatively small. If this revenue funding was withdrawn or reduced, it would create difficulties for spending the remainder of the capital allocation.

### **Well-Being Revenue Funding 2011/12**

3.2 The Well-being budget available for projects in 2011/12 has been calculated as follows:

Revenue Allocation 11/12	£136,710
Revenue carry forward from 10/11	£0
<b>Total Revenue Budget</b>	<b>£136,710</b>

- 3.3 The revenue allocation incorporates a reduction in funding of 12% on last years allocation which has been applied across all Area Committees which was agreed by Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011. There was no carry forward available from 2011/11.
- 3.4 Funding was approved for six projects at the Inner West Area Committee's meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011, subject to final confirmation of the Area Committee's Well-being budget for 2011/12. At that time, the proposed reduction in opening hours at Bramley Baths had not been brought to the Area Committee's attention.
- 3.5 Three further projects were submitted for the Area Committee's consideration at its April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting along with suggested budget allocations for small grants and skips. However, these were deferred, pending submission an application for funding for Bramley Baths. It should be noted that the Area Committee was keen to support smaller scale community projects and although the Well-being report was deferred
- 3.6 The report on proposals for Bramley Baths included on this agenda details two options for Area Committee funding.
- 1) £37,800 to allow Bramley Baths to increase the opening hours by 20 hours to 49 and;
  - 2) £25,515 to increase the opening hours by 13.5 hours to 42.5
- 3.7 In order for the Area Committee to consider funding Bramley Baths, a number of options have been identified. These involve reducing funding to other projects – some of which the Area Committee has already approved funding for and others which have not yet had their applications formally considered.
- 3.8 The options have been based on the following principles:
- protecting community projects and minimising the impact of any reduced funding on these
  - achieving a reasonable spread of funding across both Inner West wards

- supporting Bramley Baths as an important community asset
- trying to ensure that projects do not experience reduced funding greater than the 12% reduction applied across all Area Committee's Well-being funds for 2011/12

3.9 Appendix 5 sets out a series of options. The projects for consideration and the organisations who will deliver them are set out. The first column of figures then sets out the funding which was approved in February and in the lower half of the table, funding requests which have not yet been formally considered by the Area Committee. The bottom line of this column shows that these funding requests are not achievable within the Area Committee's budget. There would be a deficit of £26,137.

3.10 Options 1-3 outline the revised funding levels required if the Area Committee wishes to support Bramley Baths to open for 49 hours per week from September 2011 at a cost of £37,800. Options 4-6 set out the required funding choices if the Area Committee is minded to approve funding of £25,515 which would allow Bramley Baths to open for 42.5 hours from September 2011.

#### Option 1

3.11 Option 1 involves a reduction in funding across all projects of 19.3%, except I Love West Leeds, which it is suggested could receive £18,000. The rationale for this suggestion is that £18,000 was a feasible option presented to the Area Committee in February 2011. This level of funding would match that approved by Outer West and would still allow the festival day to go ahead.

3.12 The monetary impact of this reduction is clearly shown across each project. The Town Centre Manager (TCM) project, for example would see a reduction of funding from £25,000 to £20,175. This would mean that although the post could still be funded until March 2012, the TCM events budget would be reduced to £175. In effect, this would result in all TCM events in Armley being cancelled for the year ahead and would undermine the role of the TCM. The TCM is continuously seeking alternative funding and business sponsorship but this is proving very challenging.

#### Option 2

3.13 Option 2 suggests that the requirement to identify an additional £26,137 could be achieved by reducing funding only for the three most costly projects: Town Centre Manager, I Love West Leeds and the Community Centres Consortium project.

3.14 Again it is suggested that I Love West Leeds could be reduced to £18,000, given that this was a viable option presented to the Area Committee as set out in 3.11 above. The TCM project could be reduced to £20,000. However the removal of the TCM events budget would be problematic for the reasons outlined in 3.11. The Community Centres Consortium project would have more limited outcomes than proposed with £50,000. However it could still go ahead.

3.15 This option does however not impact on the smaller projects and minimises the need to review funding already approved. In many cases planning based on funding approved in February will already be well underway.

#### Option 3

3.16 Option 3 suggests that no project should face a reduction of funding greater than the 12% applied across all Area Committee's Well-being funds for 2011/12. However, the bottom

line of this column shows that this is not achievable as it would result in almost a £12,000 deficit.

- 3.17 As option 1-3 illustrate, it is extremely challenging to fund Bramley Baths at £37,800. Options 4-6 have therefore included the reduced option of £25,515 for Bramley Baths. This allows the principles outlined in paragraph 3.8 to be better applied.

#### Option 4

- 3.18 Option 4 suggests the three most costly projects could absorb the funding reductions. However, this has not been applied equally. Again, I Love West Leeds has been reduced to £18,000 for the reasons outlined above. The TCM budget has been reduced by £1,000 to £24,000, leaving sufficient funding for the post to continue and an events budget which would support most events planned for the year ahead. The Community Centre Consortium project would see a larger reduction, from £50,000 to £44,148. However, initial discussions with the project sponsor have suggested that the project is still feasible at the suggested funding level.

#### Option 5

- 3.19 Option 5 sees a 7% reduction across all projects except I Love West Leeds which again is reduced to £18,000 for the reasons set out above. It is envisaged that all projects could still go ahead with this level of funding, although their outcomes would be affected, for example Holiday Sports provision may have to run shorter courses, the Armley Sports project may not be able to run for the number of weeks proposed, some TCM events may have to be cancelled and one less small grant could be awarded.

#### Option 6

- 3.19 Option 6 suggests an equitable reduction of funding across all projects. This would see funding reduced by 11% across the board. This may affect the viability of all projects, for example cancellation of TCM events, inability to purchase equipment for Police covert operations and impact on the Armley Fun Day where a lot of planning has already taken place.

## **4 Corporate governance considerations**

### **4.1 Risk management**

- 4.11 Funding Options 1-6 each present their own level of risk. Examples of what impact reduced funding could have are set out in paragraphs 3.11-3.19.

### **4.2 Public Interest Test**

- 4.2.1 All projects presented to the Area Committee for possible funding have to meet a series of criteria

### **4.3 Forward Plan**

- 4.3.1 Not a key or major decision.

### **4.4 Scrutiny process: Call-In**

- 4.4.1 This delegated decision by an Area Committee may be called in.

## **4.5 Constitution and legal matters**

4.5.1 None

## **4.6 Financial and resource implications**

4.6.1 The financial and resource implications of the projects which have not previously been considered by the Area Committee are set out in Appendices 1-4. Details of the other projects were set out in the Well-being budget report submitted to Area Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011. Details of costs of increasing opening hours at Bramley Baths and also subsidy costs are set out in a separate report on this agenda.

## **4.7 Equality and Diversity and Cohesion and Integration**

4.7.1 All Well-being funded projects are considered prior to their submission to Area Committee for their impact on Equality and Diversity and Cohesion and Integration.

## **4.8 Council policies and City priorities**

4.8.1 Projects submitted to the Area Committee for funding support are assessed to ensure that they are in line with Council and City priorities.

## **4.9 Consultation**

4.9.1 The Area Committee has previously been consulted on some of the projects contained within the report. Local ward Members have been consulted on new projects being presented at this meeting of the Area Committee.

## **5 Recommendations**

The Area Committee is asked to:

- 5.1 note the potential budget deficit set out in paragraph 3.9 if all projects identified are funded at their full amount
- 5.2 consider the new projects submitted for the Area Committee's consideration at Appendices 1-4
- 5.3 consider funding options 1-6 set out in Appendix 5 and their implications referred to in paragraphs 3.11-3.19
- 5.4 agree a preferred Funding Option

## **6 Background documents**

- 6.1 Council Budget papers 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011
- 6.2 'Well-being Fund – Bramley Baths Additional Hours 2011/12' – report to Inner West Area Committee 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011
- 6.3 Inner West Area Committee Well-being Fund update – report to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011 meeting
- 6.4 Inner West Area Committee Well-being Fund update – report to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011 meeting