



Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

North West (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 14 July 2011

Subject: Wellbeing Fund Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

ALL

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

This report provides the Area Committee with a budget statement for Wellbeing funding for information. It highlights recent trends in small grant approvals and asks members to consider how they would to allocate the remaining funds in the small grants pot.

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- advise the Area Committee of the current position in relation to Wellbeing funding
- seek members views on the allocation of the remaining small grant fund.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Area Committees have a delegated responsibility for the allocation of capital and revenue Area Wellbeing funding.

2.2 The Inner North West Area Committee received an additional sum of £215,581 of Wellbeing revenue for 2011-12. After deducting any existing commitments and taking

account of the 2010-11 carry forward position, the Area Committee had £197,611 of funding available for allocation. All of this funding was committed to 17 projects at the March 2011 Area Committee meeting, as listed in section 1.2 of the enclosed appendix.

2.3 No additional capital Wellbeing was allocated to the Area Committee in 2011-12.

3.0 MAIN POINTS

3.1 New Budget Statement

The Inner North West Area Committee traditionally allocates its Wellbeing revenue large grant budget as part of a single commissioning round in quarter 4 each year, thereby requiring less discussion about Wellbeing funding at each of the remaining area committee meetings. A monitoring report is brought to every other meeting during the course of the year to update members on project delivery and quarterly spend against targets. The next monitoring report is due to come the 22 September 2011 meeting.

3.2 While this process has enabled the committee to efficiently allocate its Wellbeing funding and limit the amount of time on the agenda dedicated to Wellbeing discussions, there has been occasions where members have sought clarification on the current wellbeing budget status and no information has been available at the meeting. To address this issue and provide members with up to date information on Wellbeing funding, a new budget statement template has been developed. This is enclosed as Appendix 1 to this report.

3.3 This Wellbeing Budget Statement will be brought to all future area committee meetings. It will be included as an appendix to any Wellbeing commissioning or monitoring reports. Where no Wellbeing report is to be brought to that particular area committee meeting it will be included as an appendix to the Area Update report for members to note. Members are asked to note the content of the Wellbeing budget statement and comment on its format.

3.4 Small Grant Approval Process

Area Management have received a request from members to review the current approval process and to consider how small grants are allocated:

The current approval process is summarised as follows:

- Applications are received by area management and assessed against eligibility criteria (charitable nature of group, benefit to the inner north west area etc):
- Should the application meet eligibility criteria a summary of the application is distributed by email for members to consider. A quick turn around on decisions is a priority for small grants and Members are given 10 working days to consider the request.
- If no objections are made, the grant will be considered approved. Where members are in agreement about the application, a decision is recorded and the applicant is informed. Should members find that they cannot agree as to whether the application should be approved or rejected it is taken to the next area committee for a vote.

- 3.5 It has been custom and practice for small grant funding requests to be considered in the order they are received. This has resulted in some wards benefiting more than others. Below is a summary of the small grant applications approved in 2010-11 by ward to illustrate this point:

2010-11 Small Grant Approvals by Ward

Ward	Value of Grants Approved	Percentage of Total Value
Headingley	£4,438	56%
Hyde Park and Woodhouse	£3,686	26%
Kirkstall	£2,338	14%
Weetwood	£ 657	4%
Total	£17,117	100%

- 3.6 There is currently £4,925 remaining in the small grants pot for 2011-12. This includes funding available for any skip requests. Members are asked to consider if they would prefer to retain the small grants fund in a single pot, or would they rather split this by ward. Members are also asked to consider how much of the remaining small grant fund they would like to allocate to skips.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

There are no implications for council policy and governance.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

There are no legal implications. Should members agree to split the small grants budget, a situation could arise where some wards are oversubscribed with funding requests while other wards carry an underspend.

6.0 Conclusions

The new Wellbeing Budget Statement will be available at all future Area Committee meetings going forward. This represents a positive step in forward in providing financial information to the Area Committee.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 The Area Committee is requested to;
- A. note the Wellbeing budget statement attached as Appendix 1 and comment on its format and content as indicated in section 3.3,
 - B. note the current status of the small grants approval process as described in section 3.4 and
 - C. agree how the remaining small grants pot should be split and what amount should be allocated to skips as set out in section 3.6.

Background Papers : Area Committee Procedure Rules

Appendix 1: Wellbeing Budget Statement