

Report of East North East Area Leader

Report to Inner North East Area Committee

Date: 5th September 2011

Subject: Well Being Fund Capital and Revenue Budgets

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Chapel Allerton, Moortown, Roundhay		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. This report is provided in response to a request by Cllr Gruen, Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Regeneration, at a recent Area Leaders meeting to explore the added value of well being funding for capital projects. It describes how the capital well being budget in the East North East has been spent, for what purpose and the benefits gained from its expenditure.
2. The report also provides members with an update on the current position of the revenue budget for the Inner North East.
3. Applications made for funding are included in the report for member's consideration.

Recommendations

4. Members are asked to note the contents of this report and;
5. Approve the Member Well Being Group recommendation in relation to new applications for funding made as set out in the report;
 - o Groundwork Leeds - Sugarwell Hill Entrance £3,000

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight the major benefits and added value of Capital Well Being Funding in Inner North East Leeds.
- 1.2 The report also provides members with an update on the current position of the Revenue Well Being Funding for the Area Committee and sets out applications made for consideration by the Area Committee.

2. Background information

- 2.1. Cllr Gruen, Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Regeneration, requested at a recent Area Leaders meeting to explore the added value of well being funding for capital projects. It describes how the capital well being budget in the East North East has been spent, for what purpose and the benefits gained from its expenditure

Budget and expenditure

- 2.2. The capital budget for the 6 years between 2004 and end financial year 2010/11 is attached in Appendix 1, and Appendix 2 shows a breakdown of all projects funded and the match funding (where available). A budget of some £1.8m has been spent on 165 projects since the creation of the Well Being Capital scheme in 2004 across the east north east area, of this £580.1k was spent in the inner north east.

Benefits

- 2.3. In East North East Leeds a conservatively estimated £3.7m additional funding has been leveraged as match funding for capital works. Within the inner north east the estimated leverage is £1.4m. This figure does not include in kind contributions from volunteers or officer time from Leeds City Council core services which would increase this value. Many of these projects simply would not have taken place without the Area Committee capital budget being available and targeted against local priorities and the budget provides for at least five major benefits –
 - a) Developing community capacity and pride
 - b) Sealing the deal
 - c) Leverage
 - d) Implementing planned local actions
 - e) Supporting council departments and partners

Appendix 2 shows a full list of all projects funded, their benefits and where available the match funding drawn in.

3. Main issues

Developing community capacity and pride

- 3.1. Funding has been available to develop community capacity, pride and generating a sense of belonging often influenced by local residents. For example,
 - 3.1.1. Area Committee funding has provided various initiatives to be delivered to improve community safety and create spaces for residents to take ownership of, these have included alley gating schemes and fencing, drawing in match funding through Safer Leeds and East North East Homes Leeds (ENEHL) panel funding. These schemes have not only improved the aesthetics of local areas and reduced the resident's fear of crime, but have also played an integral part in reducing crime and ASB in the local areas.
 - 3.1.2. Improvements to Wyke Beck Valley are another example of a community led project. The capital budget matched funds secured by Groundwork Leeds to replace a bridge and create access for wheelchair users and people with pushchairs and enjoy the walks and wildlife that the area benefits from. The Friends of Group played an integral part in delivering the project using volunteers to work together to install new fencing and clearing the area.
 - 3.1.3. Within the East North East there are a large number of active residents who are keen to see the local allotments sites improved and in some cases extended to create more plots. Through the use of the Well Being Capital fund support has been given to several groups, from extending the Roundhay Allotment site to providing security fencing and improving the toilet and break facilities on other sites. Partnerships have also been able to be created with local schools and the probation service which helps to target intergenerational work and change community perceptions. The increased number of local people involved in the site has helped the site flourish and train other community members to manage the site effectively.

Sealing the deal

- 3.2. In some cases capital well being has gap funded projects for the project to proceed. For example,
 - 3.2.1. St Edmunds Church Hall is a key building within the Roundhay Ward providing activities for young people and families, in particular the uniformed organisations, funding was provided to enable them to draw down match funding to deliver improvement works to their base and open the facility up during the winter months through providing heating, new windows and insulation delivering a scheme with a value of £38,100, having raised the difference in funding through local fundraising efforts.
 - 3.2.2. CCTV cameras were installed at Gledhow Towers with funding from Area Committee, ENEHL central panel, ENEHL area panel and WYP. The CCTV assisted in customer perception of criminality and anti social behaviour and an increase in satisfaction of residents in Gledhow Towers.

3.2.3. As can be seen in appendix 2 a large number of schemes funded are used to match fund the whole project and in a number of cases the well being fund has been used when applications to other funding bodies have been unsuccessful.

Leverage

3.3. The Area Committee funding has acted as a catalyst to levering in funding from other sources in a vast number of projects. For example,

3.3.1. Area Committee funding of £3,500 was used towards a £20,000 scheme to transform an area of spare land at Moor Allerton Primary. Other funding sources were Moor Allerton Primary School capital and Awards for All. The funding allowed the development of the land in to a woodland trail with permanent hard paths, seating, tree / shrub / flower planting, rustic shelter, decked area and a wooden play structure.

3.3.2. Area Committee funding has enabled playbuilder funding to be drawn down for the Bumps Playspace in Roundhay delivering schemes to install new play equipment and creating traditional play spaces for young people in the wards, bringing in an additional £50,000 for this scheme alone.

Implementing planned local actions

3.4. Well being funding has enabled the Area Committee to implement key local developmental actions – particularly, environmental projects and community safety activities. The full extend of these can be seen in the appendix, some examples include,

3.4.1. Improvements to greenspace and enhanced public realm in Wyke Beck Valley which runs through the inner east and inner north east, enhancing pathways, installing new fencing and a new bridge.

3.4.2. Additional parking bays, improved paving and an access route for emergency vehicles was provided at Fieldhouse Drive in response to local issues and concerns of partners. In addition trees and shrubs were cut back to improve safety and seating areas created.

3.4.3. Alley gates were installed at Beckhill Approach to reduce ASB and criminal issues affecting this area of the estate, improve the immediate aesthetic and in particular environmental issues that are evident in this locality. In addition to providing the increased security it is also hoped that this gating will help to reduce the apathetic view to local services felt by many residents of this area and increase and improve community confidence.

Supporting council departments and partners

3.5. The Area Committee has been able to support our own council departments and supplement the funding of partner agencies to improve their services to the local community. For example,

3.5.1. The local Neighbourhood Policing Teams have worked closely with Area Management to highlight and deliver community safety initiatives such as memocams, alley gating and fencing initiatives and installation of CCTV to improve quality of life for residents and tackle crime and ASB.

3.5.2. Funding to improve cricket and football pitches at Prince Phillip Centre and Roundhay Park (as well as various other locations across the east north east) has given support to a wide range of providers delivering out of school activities for children and young people, including the youth service and VCFS groups. Additionally the support that has been provided to groups for the expansion and refurbishment of the club houses and facilities enables greater community engagement and cohesion to be delivered.

3.6. Revenue Well Being Budget and New Applications

3.6.1. Appendix 3 of this report provides members with an update of the current revenue budget position. It provides details of all projects that have been approved for funding and the remaining balance of funding available in the revenue budget for use on projects for the current financial year.

3.6.2. There is only one application for consideration by the Area Committee outstanding at this time made by Groundwork Leeds for the Sugarwell Hill project.

3.6.3. An amount of £3,000 is sought to match fund a project of £95,000 in total with the remainder of funding being made up from:

- £20,000 Grantscape
- £5,000 ENEHL Area panel
- £4,000 Groundwork Project Support Fund (LCC)
- £63,000 Section 106 funding

3.6.4. The project will provide resurfacing of existing paths, managing the woodland areas and introducing native bulbs as well as the installation of new seating at selected viewing points, interpretation boards and the re-cutting and surfacing and entrance features.

3.6.5. The recommendation of the Member Well Being Working Group was to approve £3,000 being awarded to Groundwork to administer.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 The local community and VCFS groups are consulted and the well being fund grant process is shared with them via the community engagement strategy and events that are attended. In addition feedback is provided via the Community Charter. Consultation on the priorities within the Community Charter is undertaken on an annual basis and shapes the priorities which the Well Being Fund is used to deliver.

4.1.2 The Well Being Member Working Group considers the applications for funding and makes a recommendation for the Area Committee to consider.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 Well Being Funding is used to ensure that inequalities within the local area are addressed through local projects and schemes and equality impact assessments carried out where necessary.

4.2.2 Not applicable in this instance.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The Well Being Fund projects seek to contribute to the City Priorities by improving the local area and addressing inequalities in the inner north east.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 Not applicable under this section

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 The decisions made in relation to Well Being Funding are subject to call in

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 Not applicable under this section.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The capital Well Being budget has provided a valuable opportunity for Elected Members to work with residents and local community groups in the development, maintenance and enhancement of the physical infrastructure in their communities. Often residents and community groups have supported the delivery and assured the sustainability of these projects themselves. This engagement has empowered local residents and confirmed their role as community leaders alongside local Councillors. The multifaceted benefits - articulated above - are a powerful reminder of added value and the judicious, timely and targeted use of locally delegated budgets to make a difference.

5.2 The VCFS play an important part in the goal of improving the local area and delivering the locality agenda and the capital projects that have been delivered both for them and by them have strengthened both the relationships and ability to deliver services where no other provision may be.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report and;

6.1.1 Note the amount investment that the Well Being Capital fund has levered in to the area;

6.1.2 Approve the recommendation of the member Well Being Working Group for the Sugarwell Hill project for £3,000 for Groundwork Leeds to administer.

7 Background documents

7.1 Area Committee Roles and Functions 2011/12