

**Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access & Performance)**

**Report to North West (Inner) Area Committee**

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

**Subject: Wellbeing Fund 2012-13 Update Report**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Headingley; Hyde Park & Woodhouse; Kirkstall; Weetwood.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. This report provides the North West (Inner) Area Committee with an update on the budget position for the Wellbeing Fund for 2012 -13. It also outlines the current position of both the Skips Budget and Small Grants budget and seeks Members opinions on how these are managed going forward.

**Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

- Note the current budget position for the Wellbeing Fund for 2012 -13.
- Note the current budget position of funding allocated for the hire of Skips and consider how they would like to manage further requests.
- Consider the Small Grants process and whether they wish to review the maximum amounts available to groups.

## 1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides members with an update on the budget position for the Wellbeing Fund for 2012 -13. It also outlines the current position of both the Skips Budget and Small Grants budget and seeks Members opinions on how these are managed going forward.

## 2 Background information

- 2.1 Area Committees have a delegated responsibility for the allocation of Area Wellbeing Funding. The amount of Wellbeing funding provided to each committee is calculated using a formula agreed at Full Council taking into consideration both population and deprivation of an area.
- 2.2 The Inner North West Area Committee seeks to ensure that Wellbeing fund recipients are able to commence delivery of their projects as early as possible in the financial year. To facilitate this process, a commissioning round is held prior to the financial year and the Area Committee meets to agree which projects will be funded in the year ahead.
- 2.3 In 2012-13, the North West (Inner) Area Committee received a sum of £215,581 of Wellbeing revenue. After deducting any existing commitments and taking account of the 2011-12 carry forward position, the Area Committee had £211,722 of funding available for allocation. All of this funding was committed to 27 projects at the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 Area Committee meeting, as listed in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.4 No additional capital Wellbeing was allocated to the Area Committee in 2012-13.

## 3 Main issues

### 3.1 Wellbeing Budget Statement 2012 -13

- 3.2 The latest Wellbeing Budget Statement for 2012-13 is included as **Appendix 1** to this report. This sets out the current budget position for Wellbeing projects showing the amount approved by Area Committee and the value of funds spent to date. As we are still within Quarter 1 of the financial year, most projects have yet to draw down funding.

- 3.3 The Wellbeing Budget statement also outlines the current budget position of those projects funded in previous years which still have funding left to spend.

### 3.4 Skips

- 3.5 Members attention is drawn to the current budget position of funding allocated towards the hiring of skips for 2012-13 (**Appendix 1, Section 4.0**). £2,000 was allocated to this heading, of which £1,746 has currently been spent as of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012. Members are therefore requested to consider how they would like the Area Support Team to manage further requests for skips and whether any additional funds should be allocated to the skips budget.

### 3.6 Small Grants

3.7 Members are asked to consider the guidance for small grant allocation to individual projects. Currently the Area Committee's small grants budget limit is £500 for a project covering one ward or £1,000 if it benefits more than one ward. This is in line with most other Area Committees in the city, and is advertised on the Leeds City Council website. However, the Area Support Team has recently received requests from Members asking whether the Area Committee could consider reducing the maximum amount available to individual projects.

3.8 Having reviewed the current approval process the Area Support Team recommends that, rather than changing the guidance for applicants, the Area Committee should continue to consider applications on a case by case basis. Where any Member proposes awarding an alternative amount to that applied for, this would then be deferred until the next Area Committee meeting for discussion. This would increase the length of time required to inform some applicants about funding decisions but would allow for a clear decision by Members.

3.9 Members are therefore asked to confirm the process of approval for Small Grants and whether they wish to review the maximum amounts available to groups.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 The Area Committee has previously been consulted on the projects detailed within the report. Local priorities are set through the Area Business Plan process and the commissioning round began with a communication to all Area Committee contacts.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

4.2.1 All Wellbeing funded projects are assessed in relation to Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration. In addition, the Area Committee Wellbeing process is currently being reviewed citywide, which will include undertaking a new Equality Impact Assessment to ensure the Wellbeing process continues to comply with all relevant policies and legislation.

### **4.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 Projects submitted to the Area Committee for Wellbeing funding are assessed to ensure that they are in line with Council and City priorities as set out in the following documents:

- Vision for Leeds
- Leeds Strategic Plan
- Health and Wellbeing City Priorities Plan
- Children and Young People's Plan
- Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
- Regeneration City Priority Plan

#### **4.4 Resources and value for money**

- 4.4.1 Aligning the distribution of Area Committee Wellbeing funding to local priorities will help to ensure that the maximum benefit can be provided.
- 4.4.2 In order to meet the Area Committee's functions (see Council's Constitution Part 3, section 3C), funding is available via Well Being budgets.

#### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

- 4.5.1 There are no legal implications or access to information issues. This report is subject to call in.

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

- 4.6.1 Risk implications and mitigation are considered on all well-being applications. Projects are assessed to ensure that applicants are able to deliver the intended benefits.

### **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 The North West (Inner) Area Committee Wellbeing Fund provides an important opportunity to support local organisations and drive forward improvements to services. This report provides members with an update on the Wellbeing programme for 2011-12 and provides.

### **6 Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

- Note the current budget position for the Wellbeing Fund for 2012 -13.
- Note the current budget position of funding allocated for the hire of Skips and consider how they would like to manage further requests.
- Consider the Small Grants process and whether they wish to review the maximum amounts available to groups.

### **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

- Report: *Wellbeing Funding Commissioning Report* – North West (Inner) Area Committee – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.