



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Northern Community Assembly Report

Report of: Northern Community Assembly Manager

Date: 10th July 2012

Subject: Northern Assembly Discretionary Budget –
Reallocation of funding.

Author of Report: Lisa Lyon / Marika Puglisi
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Summary:

An initial round of allocations from the Northern Assembly Discretionary Budget 2012/13 was agreed at the Assembly Meeting on March 27th 2012. This report makes proposals to amend a decision taken at that meeting by reallocating £26,000 of the Ward Pot project funding towards the Small Grants Budget. The Assembly previously agreed £36,000 to continue a Ward Pot project and £20,000 to run Small Grants in 2012/2013.

This report is recommending that the Ward Pot budget is reduced to £10,000 and that £26,000 is reallocated to the Small Grants Budget.

The report provides a summary of the two funds and the reasons for recommending an amendment to the above allocations.

Reasons for Recommendations:

The reallocation of funding is being recommended for two reasons:

- 1) The Northern Community Assembly has received more Small Grants applications in the first round of grants than the Assembly team had anticipated for the full year. 40 applications received for the first round of funding totalling more than £33,000. The total budget for the year is £20,000.
- 2) Cabinet have now confirmed that each Assembly have been allocated a Highways budget of £40,000. This means that any Highways scheme

requests can be considered for funding from this budget rather than the ward pot.

Recommendations:

That the Northern Community Assembly:

- (1) Considers the information contained within this report and re-allocates the following sums from Northern Assembly Discretionary funds:
 - Previously agreed Ward Pot budget reduced from £36,000 to £10,000 (£2,500 per ward)
 - £26,000 from Ward Pot funding reallocated towards Small Grants Project (increasing Small Grants pot from £20,000 to £46,000)

- (2) Delegates authority to the Northern Community Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Assembly and also, in the case of the Ward Pot funding, with the relevant ward members, to agree the allocation of funds from the Ward Pot and Small Grants budgets;

- (3) Authorises the Director of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services, to agree the terms on which all funding referred to in this report is made available and to enter into such funding agreements with recipients of the funding and any other related agreements or arrangements, and on such terms, that she considers appropriate.

Background Papers:

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by:
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Andrew Bullock
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES (Northern Community Plan EIA) Cleared by: Phil Reid
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
YES
Human rights Implications
NO
Environmental and Sustainability implications
YES
Economic impact
NO
Community safety implications
YES
Human resources implications
NO
Property implications
NO
Area(s) affected
Northern Community Assembly area of Sheffield
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in
Safer and Stronger Communities
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
NO

1. Summary

An initial round of allocations from the Northern Assembly Discretionary Budget 2012/13 was agreed at the Assembly Meeting on March 27th 2012. This report makes proposals to amend a decision taken at that meeting by reallocating £26,000 of the Ward Pot project funding towards the Small Grants Budget. The Assembly previously agreed £36,000 to continue a Ward Pot project and £20,000 to run Small Grants in 2012/2013.

This report is recommending that the Ward Pot budget is reduced to £10,000 and that £26,000 is reallocated to the Small Grants Budget.

The report provides a summary of the two funds and the reasons for recommending an amendment to the above allocations.

2. What does this mean for people within the Central Community Assembly Area?

The allocation of Northern Assembly Discretionary Funding ensures activity takes place to address the priorities in the Northern Community Assembly Plan, across all four wards in the area, including;

- Supporting Local Communities
- Activities for Children and Young People
- Better Parks and Open Spaces
- Safer Roads
- Improved Public Places and Spaces
- Supporting the needs of Rural Communities
- Safer Communities
- Reducing Negative Environmental Impact
- Supporting the local economy

3. Outcomes and Sustainability

The funding identified in this report will contribute to the delivery of the priorities in the Northern Community Assembly Plan, thus benefiting residents in the Northern Assembly Area.

The projects and activity within this report contribute to all five of the key ambitions as indicated in the Sheffield City Strategy 2010-2020 (Sheffield 2020 – Where People Shape the Future) –

- **Distinctive**; using the immense sense of pride local people have in the city and the Northern Assembly area to bring local projects forward for funding.
- **Successful**; working with partners at a local level with joint employment and community projects and strategically through our formal partnerships.
- **Inclusive**; support projects that enable all sections of our community to benefit and join in new activities.

- **Vibrant**; support the community and voluntary sector in working to achieve the priorities for the area.
- **Sustainable**; ensure that future generations can enjoy the open spaces in our area and that the Assembly plays a key role in protecting our environment.

The funding also supports the City Council's priorities, values and outcomes as set out in the Corporate Plan 'Standing Up For Sheffield'. In particular:

Priorities

- Supporting and protecting communities

Values

- Spend public money wisely
- Long term view
- Enable individuals and communities

Outcomes

- Better Health and Wellbeing
- Safe and Secure Communities
- An Environmentally Responsible City

4. Full Proposal

4.1 The Northern Assembly Discretionary Budget for 2012/13 is **£178,488**. This has been calculated on an aggregated ward basis, using a £1 per head of population allocation, and then an Index of Deprivation calculation.

Area	ID Allocation	Pop Allocation	Total Allocation
East Ecclesfield	29211	18,667	47878
Stannington	21698	18,536	40234
Stocksbridge and Upper Don	26192	19,435	45627
West Ecclesfield	26498	18,250	44748
Northern CA Total	103,600	74,888	£178,488

4.2 At the Northern Assembly Public Meeting on March 27th 2012, Members chose to allocate £156,500 as reflected in the Minutes. This leaves £21,988 to allocate. £36,000 was allocated to run a Ward Pot project and £20,000 to run a Small Grants Scheme.

4.3 The Ward Pot project has been run over the last two years. The aim of this pot is to fund small/ quick wins activities (for example repairing a broken fence in the park) resulting from suggestions, requests and/or complaints from the local community received by or reported to the Northern Community Assembly Members or the Northern Community Assembly Team.

4.4 At the time of the Community Assembly meeting in March 2012 it was unclear whether Assemblies would receive a Local Transport Plan (LTP) Highways Budget. In the absence of LTP funding, the Ward Pot budget was

set at £36,000 in order to allow small local highways schemes to be implemented alongside Ward pot requests under one process.

4.5 An LTP Highways budget has now been confirmed at Cabinet for each Community Assembly. The budget for 2012/2013 is £40,000 plus a carry forward from 2011/2012 of £12,309. Small local highways schemes are eligible under this funding.

4.6 At the Assembly Meeting in March 2012 the Community Assembly agreed £20,000 to run four small grants rounds throughout the year. This is funding to support Voluntary and Community Groups across the Northern Community Assembly area. The first round was launched on the 17th April 2012 and the closing dates for the four rounds are:

- Round 1: **11 May 2012, 3pm**
- Round 2: **20 June 2012, 3pm**
- Round 3: **20 September 2012, 3pm**
- Round 4: **7 November 2012, 3pm**

4.7 The first grants round in May was oversubscribed, with 40 applications totalling more than £33,000. £5348 of the funding has been allocated with a number of applications due to be reassessed at the next grants round alongside any new applications.

4.8 In 2011/ 2012 £25,000 was agreed from Discretionary funding to run the Ward Pot scheme. The funding last financial year was allocated accordingly:

- £11,782 to fund projects and groups which would now be eligible under the new Small Grants Funding
- £5463 contributed towards Small highways schemes
- £7755 to support services for quick win / repairs and issues work

4.9 £17,245 of the funding from last financial years Ward Pot would now be eligible through the Small Grants and Highways Budget. The recommendations within this report are being put forward on the basis of the Highways budget confirmation, the number of applications received in the first round of the small grants and the breakdown of spend on Ward Pot in 2011 / 2012.

5. Financial Implications

The Northern Assembly has a **£178,488** Discretionary Budget to allocate in 2012/13, to help fulfil the priorities identified in the Northern Assembly Plan. Funds are available from within this sum to support the proposals set out above.

6. Legal Implications

In implementing these proposals reliance will probably be placed on the new 'general power of competence' (the 'GPC') conferred on the Council by Section 1(1) of the Localism Act 2011. However, because the proposals relate to establishing two general funds from which a number of as yet undetermined grants will be paid, the Northern Assembly team will need to

take care that the making of each individual grant falls within the Council's legal powers, taking advice from Legal Services as necessary.

(Section 1(1) came into force on 18th February 2012 and provides that, "A local authority has power to do anything that individuals generally may do." This is clearly a very broad power, but it must be noted that it is subject to existing or future statutory limitations.)

The procurement of any goods, works or services must be undertaken in accordance with all relevant provisions of Sheffield City Council's Constitution including the Council's Contracts Standing Orders and all applicable procurement rules.

7. Equality of Opportunity Implications

The Northern Community Assembly Discretionary budget has been allocated to help address a range of needs in the area, as dictated by the Northern Community Assembly Plan (which is supported by an Equality Impact Assessment).

8. Human Resource Implications

There are no specific human resource implications for the Council as a result of the allocation of this funding.

9. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

These projects may have a marginal environmental benefit as a result of small grants and /or ward pot allocations being awarded.

10. Mitigation of Risk

The risks relating to this proposal have been considered by the Northern Community Assembly Team. These risks will be regularly reviewed and monitored.

Projects funded may not lead to noticeable improvement in the priority issue. The Assembly Team will monitor the impact of activity throughout the coming year, to assess whether projects have been effective.

The Assembly Team will administer the distribution of funding and ensure agreed targets and outcomes are being met. They will do this through the receipt of monitoring forms from providers and by visiting projects / activity on the ground.

The Assembly Manager will ensure payments are made and are released on time as per Council rules. Projects and Council Services need to be aware that all funding must be spent by 31st March 2013 and no carry forward or extension is likely.

11. Alternative Options

Alternative options to running a Small Grants fund and Ward Pot were considered alongside the report at the Assembly meeting in March 2012. An alternative option to the current proposal which has been considered is to adhere to the original Ward Pot and Small Grants allocation as agreed at the Assembly meeting on the 27th March 2012.

12. Reasons for Recommendations:

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13. Recommendations

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Lisa Lyon / Marika Puglisi
Northern Community Assembly Manager (Job Share)

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