

# Culture and Communities Committee

10am, Tuesday, 19 June 2018

## Community Grants Fund Report

Item number	8.5
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	
Council Commitments	

### Executive Summary

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The remit for Locality Committees as agreed by Council at its meeting on 23 November 2017 includes responsibility for the Community Grants Fund.

Whilst the decision-making arrangements have changed, the current policy still provides for Neighbourhood Partnerships to have a key role in the operation of the Fund.

This report seeks to address this issue and sets out proposals to enable Locality Committees to determine the future operating model for the Fund.

## Community Grants Fund Report

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 To agree the proposals for the operation of the Community Grants Fund as set out in paragraphs 3.7 to 3.12 of this report; and
- 1.2 To refer the report to the Locality Committees for information.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 The Council agreed to the local determination of the Community Grants Fund in 2007 by providing Neighbourhood Partnerships with a key role in the allocation process. This decision enabled communities to work co-operatively with elected members, public and third sector partners to achieve better outcomes and to be engaged in decisions to improve their areas.
- 2.2 Under the arrangement, the decision-making function was delegated to officers, with applications to be considered by the Neighbourhood Partnership with the appropriate local manager acting on their advice. To ensure a consistency of approach, the Council agreed that all grants would be subject to the Council's standard terms and conditions of grant and based on core criteria. The city-wide budget was disaggregated proportionally according to the population of each Neighbourhood Partnership.
- 2.3 With the Council agreement in November 2017, responsibility for decision-making on the allocation of these funds now forms one of the delegated functions of the Locality Committees.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 In transferring the operating arrangements for the Community Grants Fund to Neighbourhood Partnerships in June 2007, the Council agreed the terms and conditions of grant, criteria and budget distribution. Subsequent changes to these arrangements have required approval by the Council with the most recent changes approved in November 2013.

#### Current arrangements

- 3.2 The Council agreed that grants delivered through the Neighbourhood Partnerships require to be subject to the Council's standard terms and conditions of grant.
- 3.3 In addition to this general requirement, the following criteria were applied:

- Applications must be for locally targeted one-off projects.
  - Grants must be used within six months of the date awarded.
  - Grants cannot be awarded retrospectively.
  - The maximum award is £5,000.
  - Grants are not provided for routine property maintenance, repairs or ongoing running costs.
  - Grants will not be awarded to supplement existing mainstream funded activities.
- 3.4 It was also agreed that the themes for the Fund should reflect the priorities identified within the Local Community Plan for each Neighbourhood Partnership.
- 3.5 The Council agreed that the city-wide budget should be split proportionally according to the population of each Neighbourhood Partnership.

#### Transfer to Locality Committees

- 3.6 With Locality Committees having operating responsibility for the Fund, new arrangements are proposed. These are designed to ensure a balance between the need for consistency across the localities whilst allowing for flexibility in the allocation process to reflect local circumstances and needs.
- 3.7 To ensure the Fund is managed effectively and in line with Council practice, it is proposed to retain the existing requirement in relation to the conditions of grant as set out in paragraph 3.2 above.
- 3.8 The Locality Committees will determine the allocation methodology of the Fund for the locality offering the potential to use the budget more flexibly and opportunities to target the spend differently. This includes a possible thematic or geographic approach based on levels of need, specific targeting to tackle poverty and inequality and/or a locality wide approach based on delivery of the priorities identified within the Locality Improvement Plan (LIP). Using the LIP as the basis of the allocation would ensure decisions were informed by the community needs and aspirations. It would also build on the Council agreed approach of using the funds to support the delivery of the Local Community Plans.
- 3.9 It is proposed to retain the principles set out in 3.3 but with the removal of the upper limit for awards and the 6-month time limit for the use of funds. Instead, it is proposed to set an upper time limit of 12 months. Each Locality Committee could determine lower time limits as deemed appropriate.
- 3.10 As part of the current process all Neighbourhood Partnerships use a standard application form and require funded groups to provide an end of project report. It is proposed that a similar approach is adopted by the Locality Committees with the necessary documentation to be reviewed and amended as appropriate by officers from the Locality Teams, Finance and supported by Strategy and Insight.

3.11 The current city-wide budget of £405,679 is disaggregated proportionally based on population estimates of Neighbourhood Partnerships, which comprise one or more wards. It is proposed to retain population as the allocation methodology but to update the disaggregation to reflect revisions made to the ward boundaries. The impact of this change to locality budgets is summarised below. A breakdown of population and budget allocation below locality level is provided in Appendix 1.

<b>Locality</b>	<b>Current allocation 2017/18 £</b>	<b>Revised allocation based on recalculation 2018-19 £</b>	<b>Difference £</b>	<b>Difference %</b>
<b>North West</b>	114,270	115,253	+ 983	0.86 increase
<b>South West</b>	93,832	89,453	- 4,379	4.66 decrease
<b>North East</b>	88,731	92,738	+ 4,007	4.52 increase
<b>South East</b>	108,846	108,235	-611	0.56 decrease
<b>Totals</b>	<b>405,679</b>	<b>405,679</b>		

**Table 1: Allocation of Community Grants Fund by Locality**

3.12 The proposals for the revision to the budget allocation were included in a report to Locality Committees in the last cycle. Issues were raised on population as the basis of the disaggregation. Given this is an annual fund and time would be needed to develop a new model with the engagement of the four Locality Committees, it is proposed to retain population as the basis for allocation as set out in the revised figures set out above. This will allow time for staff from the Localities supported by Strategy and Insight to work on developing a revised methodology for implementation in 2019/20 in conjunction with elected members. Whilst this will address the city-wide process for the longer term, there is discretion meantime for each Locality Committee to consider different distribution methods as noted in paragraph 3.8.

3.13 The development of a new model for the allocation of the Community Grants Fund presents each Locality Committee with an opportunity not just to build on the existing strengths but to contribute to the ambition of creating new ways to meaningfully support community empowerment and engagement within each locality.

#### **4. Measures of success**

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- 4.1 The Fund aims to support the delivery of locally identified priorities. On this basis, success can be measured through the Performance Framework being developed for the Locality Improvement Plans.

#### **5. Financial impact**

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- 5.1 The resourcing of the management of the Fund represents a potential significant pressure depending on the approach taken to their allocation. Taking different approaches across the locality, particularly in relation to participatory budgeting, has a potential impact on resources.

#### **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 The involvement of communities in the decision making of the Fund has been a significant feature and needs to be recognised in the development of the future approach by the Locality Committees.

#### **7. Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 Activity supported through the Fund contributes to the delivery of the Equality Act 2010 general duties of advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations.

#### **8. Sustainability impact**

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- 8.1 Activity supported through the Fund has the potential to positively impact on sustainability.

#### **9. Consultation and engagement**

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- 9.1 The Fund provides an important mechanism for strengthening local democracy and supporting community development.

#### **10. Background reading/external references**

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- 10.1 None

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## 11. Appendices

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Appendix 1 - Community Grants Scheme - Population and Neighbourhood Partnership Allocation Breakdown

## Community Grants Scheme - Population and Neighbourhood Partnership Allocation Breakdown

Locality	Ward	Current Population Estimate 2018	Population +/- Change	Allocation 2018/19 £	Neighbourhood Partnership	Allocation 2018-19 £
North West	Drumbrae/Gyle	23,512	-264	19,122	Western Edinburgh	37,565
	Corstorphine/Murrayfield	22,638	-383	18,443		
	Almond	33,938	+7,423	27,586	Almond	27,586
	Forth	30,886	-3,086	25,112	Forth	25,112
	Inverleith	30,744	-3,695	24,990	Inverleith	24,990
<b>North West Total</b>		<b>141 718</b>				
North East	Leith	23,243	-2,514	18,903	Leith	44,624
	Leith Walk	31,649	-957	25,721		
	Craigtinny/Duddingston	31,350	+4,861	25,477	Craigtinny/Duddingston	25,477
	Portobello/Craigmillar	27,819	+1,766	2,2637	Portobello/ Craigmillar	22,637
<b>North East Total</b>		<b>114 061</b>				
South East	City Centre	30,756	+8,229	25,030	City Centre	25,030
	Liberton/Gilmerton	32,546	-1,739	26,451	Liberton/Gilmerton	26,451
	Southside/Newington	36,169	+1,789	29,416	South Central	56,754
	Morningside	33,570	-1,213	27,338		
<b>South East Total</b>		<b>133 041</b>				
South West	Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	23,244	-295	18,904	South West	45,274
	Sighthill/Gorgie	32,438	-7,685	26,370		
	Pentland Hills	30,537	+5,989	24,836	Pentlands	44,179
	Colinton/Fairmilehead	23,771	-2,096	19,343		
<b>South West Total</b>		<b>109 990</b>				
<b>Citywide Total</b>		<b>498,810</b>	<b>+6,130</b>	<b>405,679</b>		<b>405,679</b>