

Avonmouth and Kingsweston Neighbourhood Partnership

Date: 12th June 2012

Title: Adjustments to Clean and Green Project Funding Criteria and Process; and Confirmation of decision-making process for Clean and Green funds.

Officer Presenting Report: Gary Brentnall, Area Environment Officer

Contact Telephone Number: 0117 922 1947

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to note the changes that apply to the Clean and Green fund from the date of the Partnership meeting to the end of the 2012/13 financial year.

The Committee is further asked to approve how it makes decisions on its devolved Clean and Green funding this year. The Committee must decide on one of the following two options:

Option A: To make all decisions at a Neighbourhood Partnership meeting;

Option B: To delegate the legal authority to make decision to officers in Environment and Leisure Services with an understanding that officers will subsequently seek Councillors agreement by email prior to spending funds.

Summary

The Clean and Green Project Fund has proved a popular and successful council initiative for a number of years.

There is a need to make some adjustments to the way the Council manages the fund to reflect changes in how it is administered and to make delivering environmental improvements more responsive to local need.

The significant issues in the report are:

- The level of funding devolved to Partnerships remains the same at £1500.
- The criteria have been relaxed to reflect Neighbourhoods' previous decisions.
- The Council is allocating £10K of the £29K non-devolved Clean and Green funds to supporting Community Payback. £19K remains to be applied for by Neighbourhoods.

Context

- i. The Clean and Green Project Fund has previously been managed by a dedicated project officer. This role is now carried out by Area Environment Officers in Environment Leisure Services.
- ii. The original criteria set for Clean and Green do not reflect the imaginative ways in which neighbourhoods wish to utilise the fund.
- iii. Proposals from neighbourhoods for Clean and Green funded environmental improvements have tended to be concentrated towards the end of the the financial year, causing bottlenecks.
- iv. The Probation Service has asked if the Council can provide a more consistent work stream throughout the year for the Community Payback scheme. This will bring more consistency and responsiveness to the services Community Payback offers.
- v. Area Environment Officers would like confirmation as to how the Committee wishes to make decisions on the Clean and Green funds devolved to it.

Changes made to Clean and Green fund:

- i. The Clean and Green scheme will be administered on behalf of each Partnership by its Area Environment Officer.
- ii. The criteria for the devolved element of Clean and Green have been relaxed - please see Appendix A:
 - a) The need to support 'gateways' in to the city has been removed.
 - b) The need to ensure that Clean and Green money is only spent on work not covered by the Council's contracted services has been removed. This will be down to the Councillors' discretion. The Area Environment Officer will advise. In some cases this will enable the Council to respond more quickly to communities' wishes.
- iii. The criteria for the £29K non-devolved element of Clean and Green have been amended:
 - a) The amount able to be applied for by Neighbourhood Partnerships has been reduced to £19K - please see Appendix B:
 - The need for Partnerships to have spent the devolved element of Clean and Green funding before being able to make an application to the fund has been removed.
 - As before, applications received for environmental improvements that take place in one of the five priority wards for cleanliness projects will take preference.
 - b) The remaining £10K is now set aside to support the Probation Service's Community Payback Scheme.

- This will pay for 100 Payback sessions in our communities.
- The Payback sessions will be administered by Area Environment Officers.
- Area Environment Officers will be proactive in ensuring that the work delivered by Payback responds to requests come from the local community and Neighbourhoods. However, prioritising a consistent work stream will mean officers will propose and instruct work on some occasions.
- Area Environment Officers will be mindful that this funding previously supported environmental improvements that took place in one of the five priority wards for cleanliness projects. The majority of this funding will continue to be spent in these wards.

Consultation

Internal

Pam Jones - Service Manager, Environment & Leisure Operations

Cllr Hopkins - Executive Member for Environment and Community Safety

Appendices: Appendix A - Clean and Green Project description and criteria.

Appendix B - Criteria for £19K non-devolved Clean and Green funding



The Clean and Green Project

Clean and Green is a Council project designed to help communities enhance their local environment by cleaning up or making changes to streets and open spaces. It enables decisions on enhancements to be made locally by Neighbourhood Committees.

Any proposal can be put forward providing the following criteria are followed:

- The public environment is enhanced in some way.
- The improvements are suggested by the community and supported by the local Neighbourhood Committee.
- The money should ideally deliver work that is over and above that provided by the Council's contracted services. This is up to the discretion of the Neighbourhood Committee.

To achieve this the Council has devolved a Clean and Green budget of £1500 to each Neighbourhood Partnership, which equates to £500 or £750 per ward.

Proposals for environmental projects can be submitted through Neighbourhood Forums, Neighbourhood Partnership meetings, local environmental sub groups and community walkabouts. They can also be submitted direct to the Council and local Councillors.

All proposals will be collated by your Area Environment Officer, and ward Councillors will make decisions on what proposals get funded.

Your Area Environment Officer can advise on the cost, practicality and eligibility of your proposal. They can be contacted by email at Neighbourhood.Engagement@bristol.gov.uk and by phone on 0117 922 1947.

Examples of works/projects which have been funded previously are:

- Planting schemes – trees, bulbs or shrubs;
- Replacement of street or park litter bins or benches;
- Restoration work – painting of railings for example;
- Clearance of fly tip and litter;
- Graffiti removal
- Cutting back of overgrown vegetation;
- Hanging baskets in streets and public places;
- Community clean-up events and campaigns.
- Purchase of tools and equipment for communities to use such as litter pickers and graffiti removal kits.



Process for Neighbourhood Partnerships for allocation of Clean and Green citywide budget of £19,000

2012

General rules

- Neighbourhood Partnerships can apply for additional Clean and Green funding from a £19,000 funding pot to deliver environmental improvements in Neighbourhood Partnership areas. This is in addition to the £1,500 of Clean and Green funding already devolved to Neighbourhood Partnerships.
- All Partnerships are eligible to apply; however preference will be given to applications from areas of the city that are priorities for cleanliness projects.
- Local people or communities should have identified the need for the environmental project.
- The money should ideally deliver work that is over and above that provided by the Council's contracted services.
- Ideas for environmental works / projects can be submitted through Neighbourhood Forums, Neighbourhood Partnership meetings, local environmental sub groups and community walkabouts. They can also be submitted direct to the Council and local Councillors.
- The Clean and Green Board will make the final decision on what gets funded having taken into account the funding criteria.

Specific criteria

- The Clean and Green Board would like to fund as many proposals as possible. This means that bids for smaller amounts of money are preferable as are proposals that are already part-funded. However this is not an absolute requirement.
- Preference will be given to applications for projects that take place in one of the five priority wards for cleanliness projects as determined by the Council's annual Quality of Life survey. These are Lawrence Hill, Easton, Avonmouth, Filwood, Hillfields and Lockleaze.

Process for applying for additional Clean and Green funding

1. Your Area Environment Officer can provide advice on costs, the practicalities and the eligibility of proposals. Contact by email at Neighbourhood.Engagement@bristol.gov.uk or Tel 0117 922 1947.
2. The decision to apply for funding will be made by the Neighbourhood Committee. The Area Environment Officer will refer all proposals or ideas received from the community to the Neighbourhood Committee.

3. The Committee might choose to delegate its authority to a sub-group or similar.
4. An application form needs to be completed. Refer to following page.
5. Applications need to be received by 4 pm on 17th August 2012.
6. Applications for funding will be considered by the Clean and Green Board in September 2012. At the Board meeting the funding available will be £19,000.
7. All applicants will be informed immediately following the Board's decision.

For further information contact the Neighbourhood Engagement Team at Neighbourhood.Engagement@bristol.gov.uk or Tel 0117 922 1947.