

**Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Neighbourhood Partnership**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> 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:** Richard Fletcher, Neighbourhood Engagement Manager

**Contact Telephone Number:** 0117 922 3896

**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](mailto: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

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#### 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](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Neighbourhood.Engagement@bristol.gov.uk) or Tel 0117 922 1947.



**Bishopston, Cotham and Redland  
Neighbourhood Partnership**

**18<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

**Neighbourhood Partnership Update**

May Gurney is proud to have been the successful bidder for Bristol City Council's Waste Collection, Recycling and Street Cleansing Contract. The new contract brings new challenges and changes to the waste, recycling and street cleansing services.

We aim to reduce the volume of waste going to landfill by increasing the quantity of recyclate we collect. We will do this by increasing the range of materials you can recycle. We will collect all your materials for recycling from your property and sort it at the kerbside into our fleet of purposefully designed vehicles. All the materials we collect will then be sent onto our partner reprocessor companies based in the UK.

We are committed to providing a service and providing information at a Neighbourhood Partnership level; supporting the Council's principle of local communities influencing or deciding on how services are delivered.

To enable this, we will implement a number of initiatives including the following:

**1. Community Stewards**

Each Neighbourhood Partnership will soon have the support of a named Community Steward, an operational expert who will work with the Council's Area Environment Officers to:

- Provide information about how we are performing against key targets.
- Discuss issues of local priority and help design solutions to problems.
- Interpret for Neighbourhoods the scope for making changes to services.
- Support community-based activities.

All Community Stewards should be in place by the end of June 2012.

Community Stewards and Area Environment Officers will hold local service surgeries because we believe that the best way for you to get your message across is face-to-face. Local people will be able to drop in to talk to us, without the need for an appointment.

## **2. Neighbourhood Plan**

We are currently developing individual Neighbourhood Partnership Plans to cover the key issues as they are experienced in local communities.

The Neighbourhood Plan sets out our approach to working with Neighbourhood Partnerships, local residents and community-based organisations to ensure that service delivery is aligned, within the constraints of the Contract, to local issues and priorities.

We have started putting together information regarding the services delivered in each Partnership, a programme of events aimed at getting people involved in caring for their local environment, and details of how we are performing in your area against some of our key targets.

Each Neighbourhood Partnership Plan will be able to identify up to three specific targets which we will monitor and provide updates for.

Starting in August, the Council's Area Environment Officer's will schedule in opportunities to inform the first Neighbourhood Plan and to determine how local service surgeries will work.

The Council will ask each Neighbourhood Committee to agree and adopt its Neighbourhood Plan from November this year.

## **3. Neighbourhood Performance Dashboard**

To provide each Partnership with regular information about how we are performing, we will prepare on a quarterly basis a Neighbourhood Performance Dashboard. Each dashboard will include information on the following:

- **Tier 1 Targets** that will report our performance against Contract Targets at the City-wide level.
- **Tier 2 Targets** that will report our performance against the same performance criteria in each neighbourhood separately
- **Tier 3 Targets** that report our performance on a selected number of local targets that are specific to each Neighbourhood Partnership only.
- **Hot Spot Maps** that will show the number of incidents relating to acts of environmental vandalism in each Neighbourhood.

## **4. Satisfaction surveys**

Your Neighbourhood Partnership will be asked each year to tell us and the Council how happy you are with May Gurney's services.



## **5. CleanBristolStreets**

We know our job is to collect your waste, clean your streets, remove fly-tips and graffiti and help make your local community a more welcoming place for you to live. However, we also know we need your help. That is why we are introducing our CleanBristolStreets campaign.

The main focus of the campaign is to remind everyone that we all have a duty to act responsibly by not: dropping litter, discarding cigarette litter on pavements, putting out rubbish on days when no collections are due, fly-tipping and damaging buildings and street furniture with graffiti.

## **6. Clean up your Neighbourhood**

To complement initiatives such as CleanBristolStreets we will work with Neighbourhood Partnerships to support a range of activities under the broad umbrella of Community Clean Ups. Typically, these involve local organisations and community-based groups taking direct action to maintain important community spaces and to tackle local 'eyesores'.

The Council's Area Environment Officer's will both initiate and facilitate requests for community clean-ups.

## **7. Through the Keyhole**

We will be introducing our innovative Through the Keyhole programme to help representatives from the Neighbourhood Partnerships develop a deeper understanding of how we organise our services and to build a stronger relationship between Partnerships and May Gurney.

### **Next steps**

Your Area Environment Officer will be able to provide updates on the progress of May Gurney's initiatives to work at a Neighbourhood level and will provide a more detailed report at the next Partnership meeting in September.

If you have any questions on the information provided here contact your Area Environment Officer at [Neighbourhood.Engagement@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:Neighbourhood.Engagement@bristol.gov.uk) or call 0117 922 1947.

You can contact May Gurney directly on [mgbristol@maygurney.co.uk](mailto:mgbristol@maygurney.co.uk) or alternatively you can write to us at May Gurney, Albert Road, St Phillips, Bristol. BS2 0XS.

**Why is a subgroup needed?**

1. The issues to be covered by this **subgroup** include: - flyposting, graffiti, litter and road sweeping, noise, trade and domestic waste, recycling, over grown vegetation including epicormic growth, dog fouling, and pavement trip hazards. It would not cover parks.
2. This **subgroup** is not to be about individual street scene problems which should be reported directly to the responsible agency, but more about when the responsible agency is not doing a timely or adequate job and to communicate to our residents how to report things.
3. The sub group, with assistance from the C&E group, needs to recruit **area representatives** whose role would be to:
  - to understand their areas street scene issues, report problems to the relevant agencies and recommend the need for additional / changes in service / resources.
  - to contribute to BCR decision making about the allocation of the BCR clean and green budget.
  - to encourage other residents to report issues quickly to the relevant body.
  - to participate in planned street visits to identify issues that need attention
  - to become full members of the subgroup if they wish.
4. The **subgroup's remit** would include:-
  - ☑ to improve the street scene across all three wards, and to report back to the NP.
  - ☑ to co-ordinate and prioritise any bids to the BCC community payback allocation (via the NP and Councillors) and to maximise the results of any successful bids.
  - ☑ to apply to BCC for public liability insurance for street scene volunteers
  - ☑ to assist the AEO in keeping up to date the environmental ( street scene ) volunteer guide which could possibly incorporate information regarding parks.
  - ☑ to work with the AEO and with C&E subgroup to publicise how residents and businesses can best report problems to the BCC and other agencies.

**It is recommended that the NP agrees :-**

1. that there is a need for a permanent street scene subgroup.
2. that an interim subgroup be formed.
  - ☑ from some of the Glos Road street scene group's core members e.g. temporary AEO/ Waste contracts Officer/ Enforcement officer / NDO / existing resident members
  - ☑ that the Cotham NDO joins this interim group to represent Cotham Ward pro temp
3. that area representatives be recruited from existing groups such as RCAS, Bishopston street scene volunteer group (ex anti-graffiti group), Bishopston Society, resident associations, neighbourhood watches, PTAs and the pubic etc.
4. that the interim group work towards forming a permanent sub group, whose terms of reference and membership, be ratified at the September 14<sup>th</sup> NP meeting.