

Proposal regarding HSBWOT NP expenditure of funds

Item 6

Following the NP meeting on 16th June 2014, the NP Governance Working Group met again to discuss the development of a process for spending additional delegated funds. This meeting benefitted from numerous contributions from NP members (comments available on request).

As previously discussed, the NP already has successful and rigorous processes for spending devolved funding e.g. Well Being and S106, all of which have to be ratified by the Neighbourhood Committee. The NP is (or may soon be) able to spend money from the following additional sources:

- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- Un-ringfenced money (Highways, Clean and Green, Communications (unconfirmed) etc.)
- Green Capital

In order to maintain full transparency both within the NP and with the wider public, it is agreed that applications for the above funds should be open to both internal [working groups, NP] and external applicants (with agreed criteria for Green Capital).

Wherever possible, recommendations should be made by the relevant working groups. For example, Green Capital applications will usually be sent to the Environment Working Group for discussion and recommendation.

The proposals below recommend that one of the current roles of the Governance Working Group, to monitor the process for the expenditure of devolved funds, be expanded to occasionally prioritise, when necessary, between recommendations from different working groups seeking funding from the same funding in order to rank them against the NP priorities.

1. All applications to spend devolved funds will be assessed by the most appropriate working group. The Governance Working Group will only take a role in recommending the priority of projects where there is competition from competing working groups for limited funds that are insufficient to fund all the projects under review
2. **Confirmation of existing process where one working group is the appropriate group to consider and make recommendations for funding projects from devolved funds**
e.g. transport funds to be considered by the Transport Working Group. See appendix 1 for a schedule of current devolved funds and working groups.
 - a. This process has been shown to be robust and will not be changed
 - b. The allocated working group will advertise, scrutinise and evaluate the applications received. Applications can be sought from within the Neighbourhood Partnership or from within the Community
 - c. The working group will make recommendations for funding to the Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting for the Committee to consider and decide whether or not to allocate funds. (where funds have already been devolved to a another group e.g. "clean and green" the decision will be made at that level)
3. **Additional process where more than one working group is appropriate to consider and make recommendations for funding projects from devolved funds (e.g. CIL)**
 - a. Under these circumstances the Area Co-ordinator [on behalf of the Governance Working Group] will advise all the working groups of the availability of these new devolved funds together with any guidance notes and timescale limitations
 - b. The working groups will/may then undertake the existing process to reach any recommendation that they consider meets the criteria associated with the new funds

- c. The working groups will then pass any recommendations to the Governance Working Group for collation and submission to the NP
- d. If the total value of the qualifying recommendations **do not** exceed the funds available then all recommendations will be passed on to the Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting/Committee for consideration to decide whether or not to allocate funds. (where funds have already been devolved to a another group e.g. “Clean and Green” the decision will be made at that level)
- e. If the total value of the qualifying recommendations **does** exceed the funds available then the Governance Working Group will prioritise the applications in accordance with the priorities of the Neighbourhood Partnership. All the recommendations will then be passed to the Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting/Committee for consideration to decide where to allocate funds. (where funds have already been devolved to a another group e.g. “Clean and Green” the decision will be made at that level)

4. General admin

- a. The membership of the Governance Working Group will remain as one ward rep per ward plus the Area Coordinator. Members of the Governance Working Group can nominate a substitute [fellow] ward rep to attend in their place if they are unable to attend a meeting. The substitute will assume the same voting rights as the main member
- b. All members of the NP are free to attend Governance Working Group meetings
- c. Governance Working Group meetings will be called as required [as per the current process] and will be advertised to enable NP members to attend if they are able to do so
- d. The Area Coordinator will include an update as part of his report to the Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting on Devolved Funding status
- e. Neighbourhood priorities are currently identified and agreed, and form the basis of the current working groups

5. Appendix 1

The allocation of currently devolved budgets is:

	Devolved Funding	Working Group making recommendation
a	Well Being	Local Community Small Grants
b	Minor Traffic Schemes	Transport
c	Road Surfacing	Transport
d	Pavement Resurfacing	Transport
e	Clean and Green	Environment
f	Green Capital Fund	Environment
g	Communications budget	Communications
h	Section 106 agreements	Transport or Environment as appropriate. Also in accordance with any conditions attached to the S106 agreement
i	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	To be determined – see paragraph 3 above
j		