

Appendix B: Details of Consultations

i) Report of Community Conversation held on 19th Nov 2016 in Lawrence Weston

Below is summarised the comments and recommendations to the PCRF Strategic Board meeting on 15th December 2016 from this community / stakeholder event.

1. Proposed Actions and Delivery of Thematic Priorities

Following the workshop discussions at the PCRF Community Conversation event on 19th November, a meeting of the NP Employment & Economy Group on 1st December and review by BCC Economic Development and Neighbourhoods officers, the following key points and recommendations for the scope of actions and mode of delivery of each PCRF Priority are made:

a) Jobs and Enterprise

i) Key Issues and Project Impacts

- Employment and enterprise support facilities are equally important within this Priority
- Integrated training / learning to improve people's employment or enterprise choices.
- Invest in facilities in new build Lawrence Weston Hub, but also upgrading other existing facilities and spaces – concept of building a wider network of facilities across the Ward.
- Further develop transport services to fully link communities to this network and the Enterprise Area (Severn Working project) but must make these viable and sustainable
- Adoption of high quality design and environmentally sustainable approaches.
- Childcare is a barrier to economic activity - needs to be considered alongside this fund
- use of local libraries (child-friendly and accessible centres) essential as base for the Work. Zone 'Navigators' (employment & training advice /guidance) and Enterprise Advisers.

ii) Actions and Projects (exemplifying resilience principles)

- Business start up and incubation centre (flexible space and co-located with employment support / training programmes), eg. at the Lawrence Weston Community Hub
- Convert existing under-used space or building, and equip as a Fab (Maker) Lab(s) on model of Knowle West 'The Factory' project, eg. at Avonmouth Road or Sea Mills.
- Improve / extend / reconfigure existing BCC Library space and facilities for Employment Support and Training hubs, including 1 to 1 counselling rooms, computers / IT training suite, events space (Job Fairs etc), eg. in Avonmouth and Shirehampton
- New vehicles for extension of SevernNet travel-to-work minibus services across the Avonmouth Severnside EA and/or more feeder routes from and between the 4 villages.

iii) Allocation of the Fund - Criteria

- use the community economic strategy for AS & Portbury area (produced with Coastal Communities Team funding in 2015) and target n'hoods of greater socio-economic need
- it should not be directed mainly in or for a single community within the Ward. At the same time, it should not simply be split equally between the four.

- projects to be innovative or inspiring, and clearly focussed on current / future needs
- demonstrating how tangible results will be achieved for the community and, as far as possible, services accessible to and benefits for all 4 villages
- PCRF capital funds to be matched and multiplied with capital and revenue /income.
- a Community Panel could be part of the BCC commissioning and appraisal processes.

b) Community Facilities / Social Impact

i) Key Issues and Project Impacts

Essential:

- Contributes to communities' health in widest sense
- Gets more people participating and active in their community and increases the sense of belonging and having a stake in their community
- Increases the organisations ability to generate income, reduces reliance on any one source of income/grant/support, such as the Public sector
- Have a strong, realistic business plan for both the project and the organisations future
- Be strongly supported by people in the local community
- Not duplicate existing provision (be linked on identified gaps in community provision)

Desirable:

- Builds people's confidence, skills, capacity to earn a decent living
- Becomes more energy efficient, cheaper to run and reduces negative impact on environment
- Makes effective partnerships with other groups/organisations to achieve its aims
- Reduce deprivation

Other impacts to consider:

- Really involves everyone, not just the usual suspects.
- Brings community together
- Cross generation impact, all ages
- Improved accessibility
- Increased public participation – especially young people
- Reduce crime and increased feeling of safety
- Local suppliers to be used if possible

ii) Actions / Projects (exemplifying resilience principles)

- Improvements to football club
- Old Avonmouth toilets
- Empty Units – take them on
- Hub – community environmental / LED Monitoring
- 4 villages working together – transport between these? e.g. SevernNet Working partnership
- Map of area, physical and digital, set out walking and cycle routes and sports facilities.
- Youth premises/space
- Food banks
- Info tec equipment
- Community buildings that would work better (using different parts differently)

iii) Allocation of Funding

Key Principles:

- Each village should have at least one project
- Fair not necessarily equal distribution.
- Some linking / band proportionate to population / demographic statistics.

Upper / Lower limits of grant ? No clear consensus.

£100,000 upper and £10,000 lower limit per project is recommended.

Types of added value that projects should contribute ?

- Money, capital and/or revenue
- In-kind contributions
- Donations
- Lottery and other funders
- Sponsorships
- Volunteer labour – currently valued at £11.09 per hour

Match funding (cash) required ?

- **30% to 40% up front** (cash) – **but expected to make up to at least 100%** (50% grant, 50% match or more) **over a 3 year period** (eg. volunteer time, re-invested profits, other revenue)

Method of Allocation ?

Recommendation: a process similar to the Bristol Impact Fund

Stage 1: simple eligibility and project pitch to be flited by the project team

Stage 2: either a small panel interviews the applicants **or** participatory budgeting (made clear that this was to inform the decision, not to agree it)

Stage 3: the best scoring projects – up to the limit of the funds (or may be slightly higher) asked to complete a more complicated application form, to include plans, planning permission (if needed) match funding, business plans etc. Some of the revenue funding to be allocated to each applicant (up to 5% of the grant request) to help with architects and other technical support.

A Technical Panel (planners, project team etc.) to appraise and advise the Project Board.
Stage three would need 3 - 6 months for applicants to fully prepare and find match funding.

iv) Questions to the Board from the Community Event

- 1. The boundary for the fund – is this the old NP boundary or the new, what if a project is on the wrong side but many of the beneficiaries live on the right side?**

Recommended answer: this fund is linked to the new NP boundary, investment in infrastructure outside of this boundary will not be considered.

- 2. Why was match funding for the whole fund not sought by BCC.**

Recommended answer: match funding was explored, and some funding has been identified to add value to the employment and enterprise element. However there was no suitable funding available to match all elements of the fund, as this would have added an extra layer of bureaucracy to the fund, which could have limited what it could be spent on. An outcome for the fund is to build resilient communities that can fend for themselves, encouraging applicants to find match funding will contribute towards the delivery of this outcome.

3. Why does the fund have to be divided into 3 categories with percentages allocated, why not have them as themes that any project can cover?

Recommended answer: we look at scope to fund projects cross-cutting 2+ thematic priorities.

4. Can other Council departments adequately manage the increased work load, e.g. planning applications ?

Answer: difficult to measure the exact impact at this stage but assumed manageable.

5. 10% of the spend is to fund ancillary costs, what is the breakdown of this? What if there is an under/over spend?

Answer: see separate board paper on Use of Fund Management 10%.

c) Thriving High Streets

i) Key Issues and Impacts

- New Supermarket may have negative impact on existing shops (Lawrence Weston)
- State of flats above shop units (Lawrence Weston)
- Waste/litter
- Crime/Anti-Social Behaviour
- Too many takeaways/fast food outlets
- Poor condition of railings by Post Office (Shirehampton)
- Not enough mix of shops (number of Charity/Takeaways)
- High rents
- Shop signage/store fronts
- General signposting/signage directing people to shops
- Signage on main shopping area (around Café @The Square) directing people to the shops on Westbury Road (Coombe Dingle/Sea Mills)
- Not enough actual retail shops (Avonmouth)

ii) Actions / Projects (proposed)

- **Improve signage on Portway/number of people cycle this route for pleasure/exercise** and maybe aware of local facilities/amenities
- **Improve signage within areas/directing people to local shopping areas/high streets/shops**
- **Shop signage- residents identify those that are in greatest need of improvement and business contributions sought.** But Businesses occupying shops in greatest need of improvement may not be willing to contribute as a) they are not the property owners b) where they are the owners may not be willing to invest/contribute to the costs. In this case **it was proposed that the fund could cover the whole cost of improving/updating/renewing the signage if it would improve the look of the whole area** (i.e. one shop letting area down)
- **Nicer/more litter bins**
- **CCTV** (issue of revenue for on-going monitoring an issue)
- **Seeing Eyes - posters/artwork with eyes and slogans 'we're watching you, 'you are being watched')** discussed as a cheaper option to CCTV. Newcastle University has conducted a

number of studies that suggest these posters have a greater impact in reducing/deterring crime than CCTV. A number of Police Forces are also using/trialling this approach.

Allocation of Fund

- as a relatively small allocation, to split equally across the four village centres, subject to a clear need being demonstrated in each.
- residents would like to get involved in an assessment of their shopping area and would identify what changes/improvements they would like to see.
- if enough interest a vote could take place (involve businesses and wider community)
- each area would then propose how it will spend its allocation
- Council to commission improvement schemes or jointly with property / land owners
- more survey/consultation on the Highstreets with shoppers and businesses needed

Other General Feedback / Next Steps Requests from the Community Event

- on-going communication on progress developing the Fund should happen
- track the journey – progress, invite comments using a social media tool and website
- generate ideas and sharing between potential applicants – create an Ideas Bank
- clarify how many rounds of funding (Community Facilities / High Streets) might be available so people know if they can take more time to apply to a future round or not

ii) Summary of Outcomes of Internal Consultation

Letter sent by Mayor Ferguson to the Councillors for Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Ward on 15th October 2015 (see next page)



BRISTOL

2015 EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL

Date

16 October 2015

Dear Councillors,

Re: Avonmouth Communities Resilience Fund

I am writing to you to confirm the establishment of a Resilience Fund for your area resulting from the sale of the residual freehold of the port land which was subject of a 'peppercorn' lease running until 2141.

At Cabinet in March 2015 I proposed and agreed that £1m of the £10m sale receipt would be available to stimulate local regeneration projects in your ward and thank you for your contribution towards this thinking.

My office has been working with the Place and Neighbourhood Directorates to see how this money can help to deliver the objectives of the local Neighbourhood Plan. This plan and research formed the basis of our conversation on the 7th October 2015. I am pleased that we agreed the following principles for the fund:

- The fund will contribute to the overall resilience of the communities in the Neighbourhood Partnership area, with a title of Avonmouth Communities Resilience Fund.
- The fund will be available for appropriate projects within the new ward of Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston that comes into effect in May 2016.
- The £1m is for capital investment not revenue funding.
- The £1m will be used to leverage match funding as far as is possible. It is agreed that an internal or external resource is required to help us secure extra investment funded from the capital.
- The Fund will support a wide range of outcomes with all communities within the Ward receiving some benefit. Account will be taken of those areas most affected by industrial activity and the areas of greatest deprivation.
- The fund will be used to support the local economy. Where possible delivery will be commissioned to local companies and organisations.
- Investments from the fund must have a long term benefit for the area and add to the social and/or physical resilience of the area to withstand stresses and shocks.
- The broad themes for the fund are:
 - Jobs and Enterprise
 - Thriving High Streets
 - Social Impact

Proportion of funding will be weighted towards the themes of Jobs & Enterprise and Thriving High Streets. There is a clear aspiration in the Neighbourhood Plan and from you to improve the employment prospects for your constituents. Thriving High Streets complements this work and provides an opportunity to explore bringing more work space to the area.

The Social Impact element I believe should be managed by the Neighbourhood Partnership and I hope you will agree to this and consider the use of participatory budgeting for wider community involvement.

I shall ask my Strategic Leadership Team to plan out the next steps in setting up this fund, including the role of the Neighbourhood Partnerships, how the community contributes to the shape of the Fund and what the key communication messages should be. This plan needs to include the recruitment of a project manager to start conversations with the community and source match funding. I envision that monies from this fund will start to be spent in the new financial year from April 2016.

In the meantime I would like us to agree a statement which we can share with key stakeholders in the area to let them know how the Fund is taking shape:

Avonmouth Communities Resilience Fund

*The Mayor has consulted with Ward Councillors to explore how £1 million of the port sale monies can be used to strengthen the **resilience** of the communities around the Port, defined by the area of the new Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston Ward. They are in agreement that this fund should grow and develop the area for the future, seeing a lasting impact, socially or economically - preferably both.*

Looking at the Neighbourhood Partnership Plan the Mayor has identified three key local priorities that this Fund should focus on which fit this theme of resilience:

- Jobs and Enterprise*
- Thriving High Streets*
- Social Impact (investing in community facilities)*

Given that this fund only provides capital funding, not revenue, the Mayor and Councillors want to see additional resources and funding raised to add to the £1 million to deliver the maximum possible benefits to these neighbourhoods.

The Mayor has asked Council officers to flesh out some options on how these broad objectives might be delivered and to explore how the community and Neighbourhood Partnership will help shape the design and delivery of the Resilience Fund.

Please would you confirm your support for this statement, or propose amendment, so that we can use it to let interested parties know how we are progressing this matter.

Yours,

George Ferguson, CBE



Mayor of Bristol