

Title: Neighbourhood Action Funding	
Ward(s):	ALL
Author: Penny Germon	Job title: Neighbourhood and Communities Manager
Cabinet lead: Cllr Craig	Director lead: Alison Comley
Proposal origin: <i>Other</i>	
Decision maker: Mayor Decision forum: <i>Cabinet</i>	
Timescales: This Cabinet report will form part of the Full Council budget 2018-19	
Purpose of Report: To consider the proposed £257k saving against Neighbourhood Action Funding (formerly wellbeing fund) as part of the budget plans for 18/19 in the light of the consultation findings.	
Evidence Base:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 239 responses were received to the Neighbourhood Action survey. 213 responses (89%) were received from postcodes within the Bristol City Council area. 63% of the people who responded to the consultation strongly disagree with the withdrawal of the funding. Some respondents have emphasised the power of small grants to lever in additional funding and encourage social action. This is appreciated and understood. As a council we are acutely aware of the difference small amounts of funding can make to communities and as a city we need to increase social action. 2. However, the enormity of the financial challenge facing the council is such that we have to work as a whole city and make the best use of the many opportunities to raise small amounts of funding to get things done or to use the resources we have in a different way. There are many other funding opportunities and sources. Sustainable communities and organisations are those which can access and raise funds in a variety of ways including crowd funding, small grants schemes run by businesses, charitable trusts and in-kind support from within the local area. We need to involve a wider circle of people including businesses and social entrepreneurs to help tackle the challenge we all face. 3. It is understood that some communities are more able to access the resources they need and others are not. This in turn reinforces the inequality in the city which is a key focus for the corporate plan. In addition to a one off budget of £50,000 we will continue to work strategically with funders and partner organisations to make the best use of our collective resource to work alongside communities which face the biggest challenges of inequality. 4. We will continue to work with communities to access existing resources including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support for community and voluntary sector groups through our infrastructure grant to Voscur. b) Candobristol.co.uk is a web platform where people can connect, seek support and pledge resources to support social action in Bristol. e) Provide a forum for citywide networking and space to share good ideas b) Continue to focus the City Council's community development resource on those areas which most need and want support. 5. Bristol Impact Fund has an allocation of £156k for small grants. The first tranche of two year grants were allocated 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2019. When the purpose and priority of the fund is reviewed, we will take into account the impact of withdrawing the small grants scheme.” 	
Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Having given careful consideration to the consultation findings it is proposed to make a saving of £257k by withdrawing the small grants fund. 2. Make available one-off budget of up to £50,000 to help mitigate the impact on areas which face 	

greater challenges of inequality and deprivation and where there is limited access to community and voluntary organisations which can help. This funding will be used to increase social action and support communities to become more self-sufficient in identifying funding and accessing resources. How this budget will be allocated will be agreed with the Exec Member.

When the Bristol Impact Fund small grants process is reviewed in 18/19 consideration will be given to the impact of removing the neighbourhood action fund.

Revenue Cost: £0	Source of Revenue Funding: N/A
Capital Cost: £0	Source of Capital Funding: N/A
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>
Finance narrative: The proposals outlined in this report will deliver £257k on-going savings to the base budget. As a one-off mitigation to the impact of the proposals a one-off discretionary fund of £50k will be made available in the 2018/19 budget report. Delivery of these savings are assumed within the Medium Term Financial Plan.	
If the recommendations aren't agreed, alternative proposals would need to be found.	
Finance: Michael Pilcher	

Corporate Strategy alignment: This is part of the council's overarching budget which is underpinned by the Corporate Strategy.

Legal Advice:

The consultation responses must be taken into account conscientiously in finalising the decision.

There must be clear evidence that the decision maker has considered the consultation responses, or a summary of them, before taking its decision. The demands of fairness are likely to be higher when the consultation relates to a decision which is likely to deprive someone of an existing benefit.

This is discretionary funding. The discretion should be exercised reasonably and with clear, objective rational.

The decision maker must also comply with the Public Sector Equality duty to consider the need to promote equality for persons with "protected characteristics": age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and have due regard to the need to

- i) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation
- ii) advance equality of opportunity
- iii) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

In order to do this Cabinet will need to have sufficient information about the effects of the proposed changes/withdrawal of funding on the aims of the Equality Duty. The Equalities impact assessment is designed to assist with compliance with this duty and so consideration must be given to the assessment and the Public sector equality duty before taking the decision.

Legal: Jane Johnson, Team Leader, Legal Services

City Benefits: It is a statutory requirement to set a legal budget

Consultation Details: are set out above

DLT Sign-off	Gemma Dando	11 th January 18
SLT Sign-off	Gemma Dando	11 th January 18
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Asher Craig	14 th January 18
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off		15 th January 18