

Port Communities Resilience Fund - Community Conversation

Jobs and Enterprise Workshop

19th November 2016

Attending:

Roger Sabido, Lawrence Weston resident

Kim Tudor, Shirehampton resident

Joanne Clarkson, Ambition Lawrence Weston

Kate Royston, SevernNet Ltd

Andy Hollick, Work Zone Navigator

Paul Gaunt, Bristol City Council Employment & Skills Team

Robin McDowell, Bristol City Council Economic Development (facilitator / reporter)

1. What types of thing would you like to see the funding used for (in line with the principles of the Fund) ?

- **providing good quality space or a centre for supporting entrepreneurs before and after start up (ie. individuals or groups researching and planning a new business or social enterprise).** The Lawrence Weston Community Hub project does already include this vision and proposed use in its 'Phase 2', but some uncertainty about the priority placed on this, in relation to other needs / requirements for the space, such as job search support and training – ALW had the idea that a Housing Association could provide the business incubation space either integrated with the Community Hub or in a separate but linked development.
- **establishing and equipping a 'Fab Lab' (or Maker Lab), following successful projects developed elsewhere in Bristol (eg. by Knowle West Media Centre) and elsewhere.** It was felt this could make a real impact locally and motivate young people to develop new skills and enterprises. The Lab would need to incorporate skills training and technical and business support on site.
- there could/should be **more conventional business space developed in the area – eg. small office units or light industrial units.**
- **As a base for the Work Zone 'Navigators'** (employment & training advice /guidance), it was felt that **use of the local libraries would be essential**, as they provided a supportive and child-friendly environment, and linking the Work Zone Navigator service there to other employment and enterprise support facilities in the community to create a network. Examples where this could work well were

Avonmouth village and Sea Mills, where new Work Zone services in the library could be linked to new facilities / services in the community centres or adjacent buildings (e.g. the public toilet block on Avonmouth Road).

- Linked to Work Zone and employment support, another gap in the facilities across the area is **the absence or shortage of good quality 1 to 1 counselling space for clients**. This should be linked in to the citywide Citizens Advice and debt counselling network. Shirehampton was cited as example of a community lacking such facilities.
- **further investment in the SevernNet Flyer bus service** (launched by the SevernNet Working project this year to link Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston better to employment sites in the AS Enterprise Area). **Additional buses may be needed to extend the frequency and range of services** – in particular, over the South Gloucs boundary to connect to the major industrial estates off the A403 (Western Approach and Central Park etc) where a lot of the new jobs are being created. A current proposal from SevernNet is that there should be a core service along the A403 and Kingsweston Lane supplemented by ‘feeder’ routes with ‘on demand’ services.
- *after discussion, a possible unifying vision emerged of a single larger ‘anchor’ hub, which would have sufficient space to accommodate a broad spectrum of employment, training and enterprise support facilities / services, which would be linked to a network of smaller-scale facilities providing Fab Lab or business incubation space or office units, employment support, 1to1 counselling space, energy projects etc as best suited to existing buildings in each community and the scope to improve or re-purpose them.*

2. How should we prioritise what the money should be spent on ?

Make use of the **community economic development strategy for the Avonmouth Severnside & Portbury area produced with the Coastal Communities Team funding** in 2015, for which a wide consultation of community and agency stakeholders was undertaken. This identified two main priorities:

- establishing a network of employment and enterprise support hubs across the area
- providing workspace and ‘incubation’ support for new small businesses and social enterprises (as very little suitable workspace currently exists in the area)

Criteria for selection of projects should 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 the 4 villages
- capital funds from PCRF are multiplied

Use of a Community Panel to be part of the appraisal and decision-making process.

Inviting / calling for pilot projects to demonstrate that the overall model (eg. the network of employment & enterprise facilities) can or will work, before committing all of the funds – is this possible /desirable without a long delay to implement all of the PCRF ?

3. How the money should be allocated – by most need/opportunity to make biggest impact or split four ways between areas etc ?

- There was a general concern that the **PCRF allocation should not be directed mainly in or for a single community within the ward. At the same time, it was felt it should not simply be split equally between the four.**
- Instead, the group backed the concept of **building a network of facilities**, which would be linked up as far as possible by improved community transport services, and would operate together to help residents / businesses needing support by offering different facilities and services.

In support of this, there was a brief reference to the A3 wall poster which showed the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 for ALW ward and breakdown by neighbourhood areas within the ward. This highlights that probably the greatest level and extent of need is concentrated in Lawrence Weston, but that large parts of Seamills, Shirehampton and Avonmouth villages are disadvantaged too in comparison to the city and nationally.

4. If relevant what match funding/revenue funding/other resources could be aligned to the idea / proposal ?

For **enterprise support**, there are **two new programmes starting in 2017** across Bristol and the West of England which will include ALW ward in its target areas to provide outreach advice / support for start ups and early stage businesses (both private and social enterprises) – **Enterprising West of England (EWOE)** and **Social Enterprise & Innovation Programme (SEIP)**. These are funded by the EU and local authorities, and will run until Dec 2019.

In addition to its Navigator advisers, the Council's **Work Zone** project (which is still at the pilot stage) should be able to bring into the area some extra resources from partner initiatives, e.g. the special DWP employment support package for people with mental health problems. Another important initiative will be **support for people who have been unemployed for over 12 months to return to work, training or self-employment**, which is funded by **ESF** (European Social Fund) and **National Lottery BBO** (Building Better Opportunities) from 2017-20. In the West of England area, this is being delivered by

Weston College and some 30 other local partner organisations, many of whom already collaborate to join up services in Bristol through the **Ways to Work Network**.

Note: the Enterprise Support, Work Zone and ESF-BBO projects (above) will place new support resources into the area, but these advisers will be 'mobile' and so will not be based permanently in one (or more) centre or hub and paying rent monthly. However, they are expected to meet overheads for sessional use of centres, eg. 'surgeries' or group workshops.

For the extension of the **SevernNet flyer service**, an operating subsidy would be required from the major employers benefitting from better access for their workforce. The current support for the pilot service (via the SevernNet Working project) will end in April 2017.

Other sources of both additional capital funds and revenue support for new facilities or projects were identified as:

- the larger local employers, eg, in the Port / Avonmouth Severnside Enterprise Area, who have CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) budgets and should be asked to target and align contributions with key local projects such as those under this Priority, from which they will directly or indirectly benefit.
- Charitable trusts and foundations, such as those which support skills development and enterprise (eg. for Fab Labs) and/or areas with relatively high social deprivation.

5. Any thoughts or ideas that we need to take into account when moving forward ?

- the Council should give serious consideration to the case for making community asset transfers, where it has vacant or under-used buildings which be re-purposed to create a network of employment & enterprise facilities across the ward.

Port Communities Resilience Funding Community Event

Thriving Highstreets Workshop

19th November 2016

Principles

- As the Highstreets strand has a small allocation (£135K) split equally across the four areas
- 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 then take place (involving businesses and wider community)
- Each area would then decide how it will spend its allocation
- More survey/consultation on the Highstreets with shoppers and businesses needed

General Issues and Concerns about the High Streets

- 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 xxx Road (coombe Dingle/Sea Mills)
- Not enough actual retail shops (Avonmouth)

Ideas

- 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 will be sought. However it was felt that the businesses occupying the shops identified as 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. Should this be the 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 is dragging down the rest of them)
- 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.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2334577/Crime--answers-staring-face-The-striking-new-police-poster-slashed-thefts-40-cent.html>

<http://www.itv.com/news/anglia/update/2013-04-24/the-poster-thats-deterring-bike-thieves/>

1. Community Facilities/Social Impact part of the £1million ports resilience fund: delivering Resilience

- **Contributes to communities' health in widest sense**
3 dots
- **Builds people's confidence, skills, capacity to earn a decent living**
- **Is strongly supported by people in the local community**
- **Gets more people participating and active in their community and increases the sense of belonging and having a stake in their community**
3 dots
- **Increases its ability to generate income, reduces reliance on any one source of income/grant/support, such as the Public sector**
2 dots
- **Becomes more energy efficient, cheaper to run and reduces negative impact on environment**
- **Makes effective partnerships with other groups/organisations to achieve its aims**
- **It's well-run and is planning realistically for its future**
1 dot

1. Are there any other aspects of Resilience we should be looking for?

Promoting positive environmental impacts – Improving the wider environment both sustainability and as a place to live.

Income generation

Empty toilets

(e.g. depot / toilets)

Add value to existing community assets (people / organisations and property)

Aid economic sustainability, long term future use.

Identify gaps in community provision / raising profile of area, destinations.

Ability to reduce deprivation

VSC Sector

Enables community action / ownership

Ensuring your voice is heard.

2. Can you suggest any examples of what these ideas about resilience could look like in practice in Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston?

Improvements to football club

Old Avonmouth toilets

Empty Units – take them on

Hub – Community environmental / LED Monitoring

Green spaces for Health

x 4 villages working together – transport between these? E.g. Severnet working partnership

Map of area, physical and digital, set out walking and cycle routes and sports facilities.

Youth premises/space

Food banks sport

Info tec equipment

Nature / conservation

Community buildings that would better (using different parts differently)

3. What are the 3 most important resilience factors which applicants to the fund should demonstrate from the above list? (apply your 3 stickers to the list)

Social Impact: What sort of social impact do you want to see the Port Communities Resilience Fund delivering? Please suggest your examples

By our priorities we would seek to achieve all of the above.

Really involves everyone, not just the usual suspects.

Bringing community together, see above.

Cross generation impact, all ages

Improved accessibility

Arts Trail across all area

- Avonmouth
 - Community mapping with Legible City Officer at BCC City design unit – Nat Robertson and Pete Insole.
 - Help mould the outcomes...
- Shirehampton
 - Community mapping for revising the conservation area – Pete Insole e.g. Southmead App

Increased public participation – especially young people

Reduce crime and feeling of safety.

2. Community Facilities/ Social Impact part of the £1million ports resilience fund: Funding levels and added value/match

1. The Community Facilities element currently has £315,000 allocated to spend:

Why? What criteria was used to allocate?

a. How many projects/pieces of work would you like the Fund to support?

Each village should have at least a project

Fair not necessarily equal distribution.

Some linking / band proportionate to population / demographic statistics.

**Debate about minimum £ allocation.*

Better integration between the 3 different elements - Projects should ideally achieve more than one of the elements. Shouldn't be ring-fenced funds for separate streams.

Shouldn't be too thinly spread but shouldn't restrict anyone for apply for amount.

b. What should the upper limit be for a single grant?

300k

*No**

Depends £100k

c. What should the lower limit be for a single grant?

5k

*No**

5k (not unanimous)

Is amount growing interest? Can it grow?

2. What sort of additional value should the Fund require applicants to produce?

a. Money?

Revenue funding

Capital and/or revenue

b. In-kind contributions?

Donations

Is important - circulating money cross area support

Initial leverage on the whole fund - strategic approach - Quartet

Use ward data / profile to generate further funds (i.e. lottery)

c. volunteer labour?

£11.09 per hour to estimate value

Match -funding 30% to 40%

3. What should the minimum requirement be for additional money as a percentage of the total cost of a project?

At least 100% (50% grant, 50% match - or more) Over a 3 year period.

Match-funding should be prioritised.

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Other Issues

Social Impact – should it get more than 35% of the total fund?

How work across themes?

Rationale??

Match - ? Revenue over 3 year period.

Local Suppliers to benefit

Funding Allocations: Why

Themes don't always meet up where do the lines blur?

Outcomes:

Health

Participation

Income generation

Well run and planning

Funding

£5k lower

£300 – 100k State aid = 150k

Match = All
100% - as much as you can

Process: 3 Stage
Inc participation
Concern re parity

Other Things

- Boundaries
- What's the limit?
What if you're outside the ward but provide big benefit to people in the ward?
- Copy of slides!

Post it notes:

Why does the fund have to be divided into 3 categories with percentages allocated – why not have these as themes that we want to encourage applications to cover – and see how projects fall?

Are other council departments adequately resourced to deal with potentially increased work e.g. planning?

Is there ability to speed up / simplify various processes (touched on by Hayley) - Danger smaller groups may lose their appetite if processes take too long.

10% of fund to spent on ancillary costs. What if there's an over/ under spend?

Contact local schools and ask for ideas for improvements for the community and how the fund can be best used for children.

Will there be any work on interdependencies i.e. projects with links / benefits / split costs?

We need a break down of the proposed costs of the £100k admin.

Why are Quartet not managing the fund?

Why is the fund allocated 50% to jobs and enterprise when this seems to be the least 'capital' orientated of the 3 themes

Is the

15 High Street:

35 Social Impact:

50 Employment skills

ratio appropriate?

Existing data / research can be used to direct funds i.e. "Avonmouth and LW Health Profile"

Participatory budgeting
3 months is not long to develop project

Will / can we ensure growing the fund is the first priority? Then we could have revenue funds to allocate too.

Who, how, why was the funding divided up as it has been?

Next Steps

Track the journey

- Progress
- Comments
- Social media
- Website
- How many rounds
- Getting ideas
- collecting ideas?
- Ideas bank – generate

-
- Match funding the whole fund?
 - Did look at it – there isn't a single source for this.
 - Robin been looking to European Funding
 - BCC has bid for some
 - Revenue only
 - Starting 2017

Further community engagement

- Diverse exercise

Material to trigger conversations