

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE: Finance, Policy and Resources

DATE: 15 September 2015

DIRECTOR: Pete Leonard

TITLE OF REPORT: Participatory Budgeting

REPORT NUMBER:

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report recommends a Participatory Budgeting Process for the disbursement funding recently identified by Aberdeen City Council for supporting under 12s clubs and youth work in Aberdeen. The process will align with the Council's developing neighbourhood/ locality based community planning approach.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a. Agree that the funding will be disbursed using a locality community planning participatory budgeting approach.
- b. Endorse the proposed financial allocation for each locality as set out in the report.
- c. For the communities falling under the remit of Northfield Total Place, remit to the Northfield Total Place Board the responsibility for progressing an appropriate participatory budgeting process in respect of that locality cluster.
- d. Instruct officers, in conjunction with appropriate key local partners, to progress appropriate participatory budgeting processes for Tillydrone, Torry, Woodside and Seaton.
- e. Request a future report on the effectiveness and impacts of the process used.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

An additional £100,000* was allocated by the Council' Finance, Policy and Resources Committee in June 2015, to support under 12s clubs and youth work in the city's regeneration areas. This report recommends a methodology for the disbursement of these funds.

*Note – this funding was identified from the 2014/15 underspend and is non-recurring.

It is anticipated that around £2,000 will be required to support the delivery of the participatory budgeting process. This will include hire of venues (where required); provision for video/ streaming of “pitches” to support wider engagement; licencing for voting requirements; and other associated costs. These support costs will be sourced from existing community planning budgets.

Support for delivering the participatory budgeting process will come from existing resource through Communities and Community Planning staff. Support for community organisations wishing to “pitch” their proposals will be provided by local Capacity Building Staff not involved in the delivery of the participatory budgeting process (to ensure there is no potential or perceived conflict of interest).

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Following the Public Pound

The requirements of the Council’s Following the Public Pound policy will be met. It is anticipated that due to the funding amounts involved, a written funding letter would be used to confirm the amount of funding to the successful service provider. Potential providers would require to provide financial statements in advance of delivering their “pitch”.

4.2 Community Empowerment Bill

The recommendations in this report are in line with what is anticipated to be required in relation to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill that was passed on 17 June 2015, and received Royal Assent on 24 July 2015.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 Background

At its Finance, Policy and Resources Committee on 9 June 2015, Aberdeen City Council agreed to allocate £100,000 of its 2014/15 underspend towards under 12s clubs and youth work in the city’s regeneration areas.

Those areas are:

- Middlefield
- Northfield
- Cummings Park
- Mastrick
- Tillydrone
- Woodside
- Seaton
- Torry

It is proposed that a participatory budgeting process is used for distributing this funding.

5.2 Participatory Budgeting

Participatory budgeting involves supporting and empowering citizens in local communities to make decisions about how, and on what, budgets are spent.

5.2 Definition of Youth Work and Under 12s Clubs

Youth work can be described as activities for 12 – 25 year olds, and would include accredited and non-accredited activities for young people including youth democracy, youth action, sports, arts, and learning activities etc. For the purposes of this funding stream, it is recommended that engagement takes place with secondary school age pupils in terms of taking decisions about what activities they would like funded. This would not preclude young people older than school age participating in the chosen activities.

Under 12s clubs support primary school age children to develop through a range of activities including arts and crafts, educational trips, games, sports, etc. Under 12s clubs are predominantly planned and delivered by volunteers.

There are a range of third sector organisations and Council services that deliver youth work and under 12s activities. Council service providers will be able to bid for funding through the process, but the same services will not be involved in delivering the participatory budgeting process. This is to ensure that there is no actual or perceived conflict of interest in the process. It is anticipated that community stakeholders will also be involved in delivering the participatory budgeting process, but again, to ensure no actual or perceived conflict of interest, any organisation seeking to bid for funding will not be involved in the organisation or delivery of the participatory budgeting process.

5.5 Proposed Financial Allocation by Neighbourhood

Consideration has been given to how the funding allocation can be divided across neighbourhoods.

Appendix A sets out the number of young people in each of the regeneration neighbourhoods. For the purposes of this exercise, it is considered appropriate to consider the number of 5 – 19 year olds in each neighbourhood when determining the funding allocation.

Given the Northfield Total Place community planning structure that is already in place covering the Middlefield, Northfield, Cummings Park,

Heathryfold, and Mastrick cluster of communities, it is recommended that the funding allocation for these communities is amalgamated.

Taking into the consideration the larger number of children/ young people falling within the 10 – 19 year old bracket against the 5 – 9 year old age bracket, it is recommended that the funding is allocated 60% to youth work and 40% to work with under 12s.

Using the above suggested methodology, the following funding allocations are recommended:

Community/ Community Grouping	% allocation of funding available	Total budget allocation	Budget for Youth Work	Budget for Under 12s work
Northfield Total Place	50%	£50,000	£30,000	£20,000
Seaton	10%	£10,000	£6,000	£4,000
Tillydrone	10%	£10,000	£6,000	£4,000
Woodside	10%	£10,000	£6,000	£4,000
Torry	20%	£20,000	£12,000	£8,000

5.6 Proposed Process for Allocation – “Dragon’s Den” approach

Youth work providers (including existing and potential youth work providers), will be invited to develop and present a “pitch” of what they would deliver in relation to youth work and/or under 12s work in one or more of the identified communities. The pitch may be for all or some of the funding available. (Similar to a Dragon’s Den approach.)

Some of the regeneration areas have recently undertaken a community engagement exercise. These are: Northfield Total Place neighbourhoods, Tillydrone and Torry. Analysis of feedback from the community engagement can be broken down by age group and this can be made available to youth work providers.

A process will be developed whereby young people within each identified community will be invited to vote for their preferred “pitch”.

For the areas with an established locality planning network in place such as Northfield Total Place, the process will be managed through Northfield Total Place and may involve young people participating, whilst in their local primary and secondary schools, by viewing the “pitches” via

“streaming” and voting via mobile devices. Such a process could allow for as many as possible of the 3,500 young people in the local area to simultaneously select their preferred activities. (Challenges and limitations to this approach would include: restrictions on schools ICT in relation to viewing of video footage; the inclusion of children and young people of Heathryfold within the process; and the fact that some local children do not attend their local schools.)

For other localities such as Tillydrone, Seaton, Woodside and Torry where the existing locality networks are less developed, the community participation process could form part of a community event where local young people are invited to come along to a local community facility, hear the pitches and vote in person.

The processes involved will also provide good opportunities to further develop locality based community relationships.

All processes used will be evaluated to ensure that lessons learned can be built into future participatory budget processes.

6. IMPACT

Corporate – This report relates to ‘Aberdeen – the Smarter City’

- We will work with our partners to seek to reduce the levels of inequality in the city.
- We will enhance the physical and emotional wellbeing of all our citizens by offering support and activities which promote independence, resilience, confidence and self-esteem.
- Working with our third, public and private sector partners, we will provide opportunities for lifelong learning which will develop knowledge, skills and attributes of our citizens to enable them to meet the changing demands of the 21st century.
- We will embrace the distinctive pride the people of Aberdeen take in their city and work with them to enhance the sense of well-being here, building strong communities which look out for, and look after one another.

This report also relates to the Single Outcome Agreement as follows:

- People feel safe throughout Aberdeen’s communities
- Reduced levels of unemployment
- Universal literacy
- Employees in Aberdeen receive a “living wage”
- Effective lifelong learning through vocational and academic education training from secondary school
- The city is recognised as a good place to invest, live, work, visit and export from

- Reduced inequalities in healthy life expectancy and improved physical and mental health through increased physical activity
- Improved mental and physical health and social inclusion of long term unemployed by equal access to employability opportunities
- Carers are effectively supported
- Every child and young person in Aberdeen enjoys being young and at the same time feels safe, nurtured, healthy, active, included, respected and responsible
- Communities demonstrate independence, resilience, confidence, self-esteem and aspiration.
- Preventative approaches reduce the number of families experiencing multiple and complex negative outcomes
- Aberdeen is digitally connected ensuring equal opportunity of access to services for all people and support for business development.

The project will align with the following Principles of the Single Outcome Agreement:

- Target those most in need
- Reduce isolation of minority communities
- Support the capacity of Aberdeen's citizens and communities to increase their self-sufficiency
- A presumption for community based access to services
- Environmental sustainability
- Promote pride in Aberdeen

Public –The development will be of interest to the public, particularly those living in the neighbourhoods identified in this report.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

This funding provides an opportunity for a community participatory budgeting approach to be used in Aberdeen and for local partnership relationships to be developed and enhanced.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Finance, Policy and Resources Committee Minute, 9 June 2015

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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