

# SCRUTINY REPORT



**MEETING:** Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**DATE:** 7<sup>th</sup> September

**SUBJECT:**

'Implementation of Neighbourhood Engagement Framework, including new Grant Investment Framework'

**REPORT FROM:** David Thomas – Neighbourhood Engagement Manager

**CONTACT OFFICER:** As Above

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## **Background**

As part of the process of whole systems transformation, phase two of the Community Engagement work stream has a specific focus on the communication and engagement required to realise the outcomes of whole scale system transformation. A new Neighbourhood Engagement Framework has been developed to enable behaviour change and build independence, shared decision making, democratic accountability and voice, genuine co-production and joint delivery of services.

The new framework offers a '3,2,1' approach to working with and investing in neighbourhoods at various levels across Bury through the following structures:

### **3-Borough Wide Engagement:**

Borough wide engagement will be available in the form of a digital engagement platform that will be aligned to Team Bury's existing digital offer.

### **2-Township Level Engagement:**

At Township level, the framework will build upon the borough wide digital engagement offer through an Annual Neighbourhood Network meeting and Neighbourhood Celebration Awards ceremony in each of the six Township areas.

### **1-Ward Level Engagement:**

At Ward level, the framework will build upon the borough wide digital engagement offer, Annual Neighbourhood Network meeting and Neighbourhood Celebration Awards ceremony in each of the six Township areas. It offers an annual or bi-annual Ward-level Neighbourhood Engagement Forum meeting which is linked to two ward level Participatory Budgeting events. Priorities for each ward will be decided and actioned via a series of Project/Action groups led and determined by people living in the local area but supported where required by the Neighbourhood Engagement Co-ordinator.

## **New framework for investing Neighbourhood Grant Funding**

The new approach offers an alternative model which replaces the old Community Grants budget of £56k and previous allocation process with a combination of:

- Participatory Budgets (PB) to be invested at either Township or Ward level events
- Elected Member Discretionary Budgets
- Strengthened by an additional £450k of Transformation monies over three years (£50k year one, £200k year two, £200k year three)

### **Implementation of Neighbourhood Engagement Framework**

The new Neighbourhood Engagement Framework and Grant Investment Model were approved at CWB Wider Management Board, SLT, Labour Group, Cabinet, Scrutiny and Full Council in April. As such the mechanism for engaging our communities is now removed from the Council Constitution, as we want all those who live, work and have an interest in our Neighbourhoods to feel they are an equal partner in the new framework that will ultimately help them to help themselves and others to live a good life

The draft operating principles for the new framework, which provide governance for the new structures and funding framework, have been developed by the Neighbourhood Engagement Team and co-produced by our newly appointed Elected Member Engagement Leads. The new digital engagement platform that will provide 24hr engagement at borough level, involving more people in conversations with their neighbours and empowering communities to work together to develop solutions to local issues, will be in place in October 2017.

The Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinators (NEC's) have worked closely with their respective System Leader in each locality to ensure that the direction of the new Neighbourhood Engagement Framework is aligned with the focus of the System Leader and the Service Re-design work stream.

The newly appointed Elected Member Engagement Leads for each locality have undertaken a series of development workshops with the NEC's to begin co-production of the Operating Principles and are now working with their respective System Leaders and Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinators to plan the next stages of implementation of the new framework.

Dates have been set for the first Annual Neighbourhood Engagement Events in November 2017; meetings will be facilitated with the System Leaders and Elected Member Engagement Leads in the coming weeks to plan the format and content of the events. The events will engage our communities in the development of the new engagement structures within their areas ready for full implementation. The dates for these meetings are as follows:

- |                          |                                    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Whitefield & Unsworth: | Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November |
| • Bury East:             | Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November  |
| • Radcliffe:             | Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November  |
| • Bury West:             | Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November   |
| • Prestwich:             | Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November |
| • RTNM:                  | Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November   |

Planning for Ward Level Engagement meetings in each of our 17 wards will take place at the November events, where Elected Members, residents, businesses and key stakeholders will come together to identify what assets exist in their areas and identify priorities, in terms of key issues, which they will work to address through a set of clearly identified outcomes for the year ahead.

Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinators have been engaging members of their communities and local stakeholders in the development of the new framework and communicating the important role our communities will play in its implementation and success. In some localities 'Sub Action Groups' have already been established to focus on cross cutting transformation themes such as recycling, behaviour change, community assets etc. Priorities and outcomes for the groups will be developed as part of the Annual Neighbourhood Engagement Events and Ward level meetings.

### **Implementing New Grant Funding Processes**

The new framework is putting communities at the heart of the decision making process when investing grant funding. Through an innovative new Participatory Budgeting model, we are ensuring that local people decide which projects will make the biggest difference in their local area.

As part of the implementation of the new model, £30k under spend from 2016/17 community grants has been invested via two Participatory Budgeting events in July 2017. 'The Pitch' events and resulted in the following outcomes:

- 17 groups received investment at the Bury North event
- 16 groups received investment at the Bury South

Following the events the Neighbourhood Engagement Team received a number of compliments about 'the Pitch' events, where both constituted and non constituted groups had the opportunity to complete a 3 minute 'pitch' to detail how their projects will contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of people within their communities. Those in attendance then voted for their top five projects via an allocated ballot slip. The votes were then counted and winners announced on the evening.

The next phase of implementing the new PB process will involve launching either 2 x Ward level PB events per year for wards with their own identity or 2x Township level PB events per year in areas that identify with the Township as a whole. Each Ward will receive £2,500 per year on an ongoing basis which can be pooled together to create an annual pot of £7,500.

Elected Members have access to a grant of £13,000 which will be invested as an Elected Member Discretionary Budget (EMDB) of £250 per Councillor.

Transformation monies have contributed to an additional one-off funding of £450k for three years in addition to the £56k annual funding. It is proposed that this is spent to 'top up' both PB events and EMDB for the next three years.

	Existing Grant	Additional Monies Year 1	<b>Total Year one</b>	Additional Monies Year 2	<b>Total Year two</b>	Additional Monies Year 3	<b>Total Year Three</b>
PB	£43,000	£37,000	<b>£80,000</b>	£162,000	<b>£205,000</b>	£162,000	<b>£205,000</b>
EMDB	£13,000	£13,000	<b>£26,000</b>	£38,000	<b>£51,000</b>	£38,000	<b>£51,000</b>
Total	£56,000	£50,000	<b>£106,000</b>	£200,000	<b>£256,000</b>	£200,000	<b>£256,000</b>

This would equate to the following allocation per Ward and per Elected Member:

	<b>Total Year one</b>	Allocation Year 1	<b>Total Year two</b>	Allocation Year 2	<b>Total Year Three</b>	Allocation Year 3
PB	<b>£80,000</b>	£4,700 per Ward	<b>£205,000</b>	£12,000 per Ward	<b>£205,000</b>	£12,000 per Ward
EMDB	<b>£26,000</b>	£500 per EM	<b>£51,000</b>	£1,000 per EM	<b>£51,000</b>	£1,000 per EM
Total	<b>£106,000</b>		<b>£256,000</b>		<b>£256,000</b>	

Pre-paid cards will be utilized for both PB and Elected Member discretionary budgets, with governance outlined within the Operating Principles.

### **Monitoring & Evaluating Outcomes**

The Neighbourhood Engagement Framework will now sit outside of the Council's Constitution but we will ensure that the monitoring of the outcomes achieved by the new framework is both robust and transparent.

The framework will be monitored via a set of clearly defined key performance indicators and outcomes that align with the Team Bury Single Framework. An annual performance review will be undertaken at the end of each municipal year and a report produced at Annual Council and to Team Bury.

#### **Contact Details:-**

David Thomas – Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator  
01612537455  
d.thomas@bury.gov.uk