

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION OF:	CABINET
DATE:	18th October 2017
SUBJECT:	Implementation of 'Neighbourhood Engagement Framework', including new Grant Investment Framework
REPORT FROM:	Cabinet Member for Communities and Safer Neighbourhoods
CONTACT OFFICER:	David Thomas – Neighbourhood Engagement Manager Heather Crozier, Head of Social Engagement, Department for Communities and Wellbeing
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	<p>This report provides details of key aspects of the implementation of a new 'Neighbourhood Engagement Framework' in Bury.</p> <p>The new framework offers a flexible approach to community engagement across Team Bury partners and supports and facilitates the new relationship between public services and citizens, communities and businesses that is required to support wider Neighbourhood Working. It offers an asset based approach that recognises and builds on the strengths of our communities and a place based approach that places individuals, families and communities at the heart of what we do.</p> <p>This report also sets out how we are implementing the new grant investment framework that is replacing the Community Grants budget of £56k and previous allocation process with a combination of: Participatory Budgets (PB) Elected Member Discretionary Budgets</p> <p>The new implementation of the new framework will be</p>

	<p>supported by the Neighbourhood Engagement Team, in particular Neighbourhood Engagement Co-ordinators for each locality. It will be championed through the six System Leaders and through a number of Elected Member Engagement Leads (one per area or two where there is cross party representation).</p> <p>The new framework will build on the many strengths and assets that exist within our communities, including the extensive community networks and local businesses, whilst embracing the new Social Value Policy for Bury Council. All events as part of the new framework would be held in a free of charge community or business venue and delivered making best use of any sponsorship, grant funding or resources available.</p>
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	Funding for the new grant framework comprises existing budgets of £56,000 (ongoing), plus a further £450,000 from Public Health Reserves to be allocated over a three year period.
Health and Safety	Health & Safety assessments will be prepared for meeting venues / neighbourhood activity.
Statement by Executive Director of Resources:	There are no wider resource implications
Equality/Diversity implications:	No
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	<p>Yes JH</p> <p>Co-production is a new vision for public services based on recognising the resources that citizens already have in local areas. The ethos of neighbourhood working means the Council and other public agencies working alongside residents, as equal partners, to shape their own areas and neighbourhoods by developing local solutions for the things that matter most to them. In addition to the devolution of powers from central to local government, there has, for some time, been planned devolution of power and action to a local level (under legislation such as the Localism Act 2011). Any delegated decision making exercised under this new framework must be lawful, proportionate and constitutional.</p>
	All

Wards Affected:	
Scrutiny Interest:	

TRACKING/PROCESS
Communities & Wellbeing

DIRECTOR: Julie Gonda, Acting Executive Director

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
	<p>Portfolio Meeting- 3rd August Cllr Tariq, Cabinet Member for Communities and Safer Neighbourhood</p> <p>Meeting with Leader of Conservative Party – 8th August 2017 Cllr Daly</p> <p>Additional Portfolio Meeting - 9th August Cllr Shori, Leader Bury Council Cllr Tariq, Cabinet Member for Communities and Safer Neighbourhoods</p> <p>Meeting with Leader of Liberal Democrats – 11th August 2017 Cllr Pickstone</p>	<p>On agendas for Elected Member Engagement Leads Workshops: 10th July 2017 31st July 2017 15th August</p>	<p>Police/Six Town housing at monthly engagement meetings and regular mtgs with System Leaders</p>
Scrutiny Committee	Committee	Council	
Overview & Scrutiny 7 th September 2017	<p>CWB Management Board on 21st August 2017</p> <p>SLT</p>		

	<p>on 21st August 2017</p> <p>Joint Cabinet/SLT (Informal Cabinet) On 4th September 2017</p> <p>Labour Group on 4th September 2017</p> <p>Cabinet 18th October 2017</p>		
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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)

Through these new approaches the Neighbourhood Engagement Framework will work with communities to tackle issues that adversely impact on people's quality of life, their health and wellbeing and aspirations.

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 1st November
- Bury East: Thursday 2nd November
- Radcliffe: Thursday 9th November
- Bury West: Monday 13th November
- Prestwich: Thursday 16th November
- RTNM: Monday 20th 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 participatory budgeting 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 at Township Level, if agreed by Elected Members for that area.

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 the additional monies is spent to 'top up' both PB events and EMDB for the next three years. Projects accessing these funding streams will be required to demonstrate how they positively impact the health & wellbeing of residents in their respective area.

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

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

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

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

Following agreement with the Elected Member Engagement Leads Township level 'The Pitch' Events will take place across the month of November. The dates scheduled in for the November Pitch events are as follows:

Saturday 4th November – Bury East
Sunday 5th November – Whitefield & Unsworth
Saturday 11th November – Radcliffe
Saturday 18th November – Bury West
Sunday 19th November – Prestwich
Saturday 25th November – Ramsbottom, Tottington & North Manor

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.