

ITEM No ...9.....

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 24 APRIL 2017
REPORT ON: ALLOCATION OF COMMUNITY REGENERATION FUNDING 2017/18
REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
REPORT NO: 137-2017

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report recommends community regeneration fund allocations for the year 2017/18.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the funding allocated to community regeneration forums and local community planning partnerships is increased to £1 million for the year 2017/18 with local allocations increased accordingly.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of the recommendations in this report will be met through an allocation of £1 million contained in the council's revenue budget for 2017/18.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 Since 2014/15, annual budgets of £847,000 have been allocated to Community Regeneration Forums and Local Community Planning Partnerships. The council's revenue budget for 2017/18 agreed on 23 February 2017 increased this to £1 million in recognition of significant and direct contributions community regeneration forums and local community planning partnerships (LCPPs) make to reducing inequalities and building stronger communities by supporting local groups and facilities to offer services and responses to community issues.

4.2 The Forums and LCPPs have long been recognised nationally as exemplars in giving communities greater influence and control over resources in their neighbourhoods. This important principle is the basis of the Scottish Government's desire to see councils committing to the principle of participatory budgeting. Increasing the funding available from 847,000 to 1 million for one year (2017/2018) will enable Forums and LCPPs to fund further action to reduce inequalities in their areas and support the implementation of the recommendations of the Fairness Commission. They will also be able to respond to issues identified through the Engage Dundee consultation process and the forthcoming new local community plans.

4.3 Table 1 below sets out the current distribution of 0-15% datazones across the wards in Dundee and the subsequent recommended levels of funding for 2017/18. All wards will receive an increase of no less than £10,000 with total allocations being shaped by the levels of deprivation in each ward. Deprivation across Scotland is measured and reported through the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. It is updated every few years and the most recent report was published in 2016. It measures a number of aspects of inequality including Income, Employment, Health, Education, Housing and Crime to produce an overall score for small areas called datazones. Datazones for the whole of Scotland are then ranked by score in 5% bands. The recognised measure of multiple deprivation is the most disadvantaged 15% of data zones in Scotland and these include neighbourhoods experiencing serious deprivation described by the Improvement Service in Scotland as "exhibiting consistent, interacting and mutually reinforcing negative outcomes across all aspects of life".

Table 1 – Share of Deprivation and Allocation by Ward

Ward	% of Datazones in worst 15%	Current Allocation	Proposed Allocation	Change
Coldside	16.7	125,000	158,400	33,400
East End	18.5	136,473	175,725	39,252
Lochee	22.2	190,462	210,375	19,913
Maryfield	13.0	125,000	135,000	10,000
North East	14.8	125,000	140,250	15,250
Strathmartine	14.8	125,000	140,250	15,250
The Ferry	0	10,000	20,000	10,000
West End	0	10,000	20,000	10,000

- 4.4 Projects supported through community regeneration funding touch every aspect of life in communities. They support many social and community activities to promote inclusion and community wellbeing and spirit alongside significant physical improvements that have been identified as priorities by local people. This breadth of activity is demonstrated in some of the examples from each ward below. Further detail on each project is given in appendix 1.

Coldside

- St. John's Dance Group – British Street Dance Champions for the past two years
- Craigowl – Hospitality Academy Project
- Coldside Church Hogmanay Event
- Maxwell Centre Garden Club – holiday provision with local young people

East End

- East Youth Team – range of youth work via three grants (£26,749)
- Under 12's Project – facility improvements and increased access to affordable sessions and visits
- Fun Days and Galas – five events with over 2,500 attendees

Lochee

- Community Family Support Project – Children's Laughter Clubs
- Charleston Tenants & Residents – Charleston Annual Gala Day
- Equally Well – Recovery Friendly Lochee

Maryfield

- Adult Learning and Partners – Picnics in the Park
- Stobswell Advice Café – weekly café with advice partners involved, including DCU
- Stobswell's Voice – newsletter with 5,000 copies circulated regularly
- Stobsfest – local festival started and set to become an annual event

North East

- Fintry Park development – culminating with a piece of commemorative artwork and a recent open day
- Link-Up – staff member funded to help coordinate volunteers who run a lunch club along with Signpost International
- Lifegate Church – Wonder Box Making group to help reduce fuel costs

Strathmartine

- St. Mary's Community Facility – maintained a children's work programme between funding from two other sources
- Growth Mindset – support to the programme to involve staff, volunteers and parents

- Employability & Life Skills Programme - at Baldragon Academy

The Ferry

- YMCA – funded staff time to enable partnership work to create the Y-Garden

West End

- Bridge Community Café – enhancement to environment and contribution to food costs increasing access
- Play park at the Friary – has been in regular use by local families
- Starter Packs – sewing machine to enable curtains to be made

4.5 Dundee continues to be at the forefront of community empowerment in Scotland. As well as the community regeneration fund, significant progress has been made in realising the ambitions of community asset transfer with Boomerang's ownership of the major facility in Kemback Street acting as a symbol of what can be achieved and an inspiration to others.

4.6 The new Community Infrastructure Fund will build on these foundations. The Executive Director of City Development and the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services will present to the June 2017 committee a report detailing proposals on a pilot Community Infrastructure Fund which will allocate further funding of £509,000 to be managed locally and directed towards locally agreed priorities of a revenue nature for roads, parking, footways and other local infrastructure. Together with the capital funding of £691,000, this will result in a total Community Infrastructure Fund of £1.2m and will allow a mix of revenue and capital works to be undertaken. This is further evidence of the Council's continued commitment to working with citizens across the city on participatory budgeting, and will complement and augment the £1m proposal for local regeneration funds described above

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality and Impact Assessment and Risk Management. Its recommendations will make a positive contribution to reducing social inequalities across the city.

6. CONSULTATIONS

The Council Management Team was consulted in the preparation of this report.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

David Martin
Chief Executive

.....

14/04/2017

Appendix 1 – Summaries of Projects supported through Dundee Community Regeneration Fund

COLDSIDE

St. John's Dance Group

This project has been funded for the past 2 years and the young people involved have won the British Street Dance Championships in both of these years. This group runs for the pupils of St Johns High School and, not only are the group dedicated to competition, the older participants have become volunteer dance tutors that go along to help with primary school dance groups. This has led to the formation of a 'Transition Dance Group' for P6/7 pupils to aid in their transitioning to high school.

Craigowl Hospitality Academy Project

This project has supported young people to learn the skills involved in hospitality and barista coffee making. It is a 2 week course to begin with where young adults are trained to use a professional coffee machine, learn customer service skills and gain some experience in the hospitality industry through a work placement. As a direct result of this project at least two young people have managed to gain employment. In addition some young people have chosen to go back to school, and some have made the decision to go on to HE / FE when they were struggling before.

Coldside Church Hogmanay Event

This event was a real celebration for the Hilltown area. Families met up at the 'Tap o' the Hill' for a poetry oration, followed by pipers marching the group down to the Coldside Church. Stovies, a ceilidh and entertainment were on offer there, with every family also receiving a steak pie dinner to take away with them for the following day. The whole event was free and over 70 people living in the local area were able to take part at a time of year when services such as the foodbank or children's clubs were not available. The outreach inviting families to the event was done through with local services and School & Family Development Workers to ensure that the people who most needed help were able to get a space to this event.

Maxwell Centre Garden Club

This project has been funded over the past three years and is an invaluable asset to the Coldside Community. The project offers places for local children during the school holidays for four days per week, 10am-3pm, free of charge. Children are given their lunch, learn about gardening, the environment, being active and healthy and some new arts and craft skills while meeting new friends. This project helps to take the financial strain off families in the area who are in low income employment, particularly in the summer where the schools are off for six weeks. More widely, the community garden is used by all the local schools as well as local community groups. It is a respected resource because of the sense of ownership the young people and community members have.

EAST END

East Youth Team

During 2016-17 three applications totalling £26,749 were given to the Youth Team. They were able to use the funds allocated to provide creative, flexible responses to the needs of young people within the East End. Following discussions with the local Community Regeneration Forum several years ago it was agreed that this funding would be allocated to enable Youth Workers to respond quickly to young people's needs. Instead of having to consult then source funding, workers are able to quickly set up activities and groups and events which helps to maintain engagement.

The diverse range of activities tailored to the areas needs include; Youth Choir, holiday programme activities, residential weekends, BMX repair, youth volunteer training, dance, fitness, youth drop ins, information projects, health & wellbeing awareness, accredited activities, peer support training, volunteering opportunities, drama and outdoor activities.

The East Youth Team also work in partnership with other recipients of DP Community Regeneration funding. They staff all under 10s term time and holiday activities within the Douglas area in partnership with the Douglas Community Centre LMG, as well as working with the Yusuf Youth Initiative providing youth integration activities in the Ward.

Under 12's Project

This project has gone from strength to strength over the past year and is now the main facility in the area for children's and family activities. Through accessing DP Community Regeneration funding, the management committee and staff have not only been able to increase their numbers participating, but have also made several crucial improvements to their facility including a new heating system and security system. The project continues to provide quality play sessions daily, a toddlers group, self-defence classes, fitness classes, holiday activities and support to children and families. The most important factor is that thanks to this funding they can offer all of these services at an affordable cost. Many families have been given the opportunity to experience places and participate in activities that they would otherwise not have been able to.

Fun Days and Galas

These do not refer to a single project but it is worth highlighting the various Fun Days and Gala events that are supported through this funding; The Factory Funday, Douglas Festival, Craigiebank Festival, the Under 12's Fun Day, and Brooksbank Gala Week. These events give local people a chance to come together to celebrate their area and also provide opportunities for local projects and services to highlight what they can offer and to attract new members, users and volunteers. These events are very well attended, with over 500 people being present at each event. They are local to the whole community and above all, due to funding subsidising the cost, they are affordable.

LOCHEE

Community Family Support Project – Children's Laughter & Family Clubs

These clubs have made a significant impact on the community, particularly in the Whorterbank Area. The clubs always run at capacity and are very popular with children and their families. The Laughter and Family Clubs provide a way for children to destress away from the pressures of family life, experience fun and laughter and feel good about themselves, make new friends, build resilience and prepare for a challenging future.

Families gain a dedicated space to do things together and parents learn how to support their children's wellbeing and build upon skills to engage in the wider community. Relationships within the community are stronger as a result of the welcoming staff and the fun, supportive programme. Feedback from group members recently highlighted that the group has helped to instil the pride that now exists in the community, and how it has helped support local children and families who are struggling. An example of their work is the highly acclaimed 'Tattie Patch', a community growing space that featured on STV news.

Charleston Residents and Tenants Association – Charleston Annual Gala Day

The annual Gala Day has been running for thirteen years and is organised entirely by the Charleston Residents and Tenants Group. The gala provides a day of inexpensive fun and entertainment in the summer and also hosts a range of information stalls from the Public and Third Sectors showing what's going on in the area and to encourage participation.

The event brings the community together and increases the feeling of community spirit in the area. Feedback from residents is always positive and the event is firmly on the community calendar. It must also be the luckiest gala day in Dundee as the sun always make an appearance. All consultation work carried out in the area highlights that the Charleston community appreciates this event and would like more community celebrations like this.

Equally Well – Recovery Friendly Lochee

Much work has taken place in the Lochee Ward over the last five years to support recovery (from substance misuse) in the community. This innovative project kick started a Recovery Friendly Lochee initiative by providing attractive and effective promotional material to increase awareness of the initiative. A successful launch event was held in the Lochee area to encourage participation by the wider community. The scheme aims to identify Recovery Friendly Ambassadors in the area, to actively promote recovery. Evidence suggests that strong social contacts and a supportive community is critical to the success of people's recovery. The impact that this work has had on Lochee is reflected in the development of the new community plan as people are now talking about recovery and support instead of negative, stigmatising language that was prevalent only five years ago.

South Road Playpark

The allocation to install a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on South Road helped to catalyse the creation of a much wider project that incorporates a skatepark and extensive playpark. This saw the investment of well over £200,000 additional funding on the site by DCC and external funders. The MUGA offers people of all ages a site that is structured for small scale team games, and is well used. Alongside this the playpark provides an excellent range of play equipment aimed at younger children and the skatepark is popular with teens and young people.

MARYFIELD

Picnics in the Park

This DP Community Regeneration funded activity takes place in Baxter Park on every Thursday of the school holidays - spring, summer and autumn. Parents and guardians bring along children to take part in a range of activities that focus on arts and crafts, storytelling and sport. The opportunity is also taken to share appropriate information with parents. Attendance is consistently high in spite of the sometimes inclement weather. Those attending come from a range of backgrounds and the Picnics have now become an established part of community life.

Stobswell Advice Café

The Advice Café takes place every Tuesday at Stobswell Parish Church. A number of agencies provide advice on a rota basis. With a group of regular volunteers setting up and ensuring people are made welcome, the Advice Café provides support for a group of 'regulars' alongside new people attending. Discovery Credit Union is now well established as part of the support on offer at the café. A music group has also been set up as an independent additional activity that takes place immediately after the café.

Stobswell's Voice Newsletter

The Voice is the newsletter produced by Stobswell Forum for the area. This updates people on local activity and events and as it is targeted on the Community Regeneration Area it also attempts to move forward issues that are of concern. Each quarter, 5,000 well produced newsletters are circulated to the people of Stobswell.

Stobfest

This local festival took place for the first time in May 2016. It brought together residents, traders, voluntary organisations and others to promote the positive aspects of the area (although the issues of the area were not ignored). Stobfest now seems set to become an annual event, complementing the Celebration in the Park that takes place in August, and plans are in place to build on last year's achievements.

NORTH EAST

Fintry Park

The regeneration of Fintry Park, better known by the locals as the 'Poorie Park', is now in the final stages. Local people in the Fintry Community Council have volunteered much time and energy in the development of the park, which has been a long and at times, frustrating process. Funding from the DP Community Regeneration Fund has contributed to the development of the park, an open day for the park, and a commemorative piece of artwork to recognise local input and enhance ownership of the park.

Link Up Lunch Club

The grant recently awarded to the lunch club to fund an additional member of staff is already showing an impact by helping to build the capacity of the lunch club and its volunteers. This is evident through a new collaboration with Signpost International to access the use of kitchen facilities, maximising production for the Lunch Club and opportunities for engagement with new volunteers.

Link Up volunteers provided food at a local fun day for 200 people in April which was an indication of the progression made by the organisation and its volunteers. Conversations with some participants have highlighted the impacts of participation on mental wellbeing, including a participant diagnosed with anxiety who has stated that volunteering is the best thing he has ever done.

Lifegate Church – Wonder Box Group

Participants are almost finished making their wonder box (designed for slow-cooking with minimal use of energy) which will not only allow participants to save up to £5 per week on energy bills but has also taught a number of new skills to those taking part. No-one could use a sewing machine prior to this course and this new found skill has increased the confidence of participants in not just using a sewing machine but also their ability to learn new things. The project has also given confidence to younger members in terms of teaching new cooking skills and providing budget cooking advice to other participants. The group activity not only helps tackle poverty but also enhances the confidence of the participants.

STRATHMARTINE

St. Mary's Community Facility

This community-run Centre has delivered a programme of work with children for several years, supported by Children in Need. Last year, however, there was a change to the way funding was provided and it looked like the groups would have to close due to a gap in funding. The Community Facility applied to the Strathmartine Community Regeneration Forum for funding to bridge the gap between funding applications and ensure continuation of the groups for the children who attend. The grant, though small, was enough to provide for staff wages and ensure there was seamless provision between funding applications. Thirty children attend weekly and continued access to these groups has made a huge difference to their lives. For many of the children attending the group it is one of the highlights of their week. Many of the children have chaotic lifestyles and some have behavioural problems, and coming to the group provides a safe, secure, fun and creative place for them on a weekly basis.

Growth Mindset

A DP Community Regeneration Fund grant has supported work on raising awareness of the Growth Mindset to a range of audiences across the community. Books purchased with it have allowed a range of staff, volunteers and parents to further enhance their understanding of Growth Mindset. It has also assisted staff in schools to get a sense of where the Growth Mindset initiative can fit within the curriculum, along with providing ideas on books they could use to engage with children around the key messages of what having a Growth Mindset means.

By way of an example, some of the books were loaned out to a Faith in Community Dundee group. This group consisted of parents with pre-school and school aged children, and after attending a four week awareness raising programme, the books were loaned to the group for parents to read more on the topic area, whilst using some of the stories to read to their children.

Employability & Life Skills Programme

Youth Work staff were enabled to work with two groups of young people at Baldrigon Academy (26 young people in total) through weekly meetings. The programme staff first worked to build up trust with the young people and then progressed to more in-depth work with individuals. The second phase included work on goal setting, CV preparation, mock interviews, healthy life skills, money matters, and importantly decision making with regard to further study at school or college. Feedback from participants has been incredibly positive, and it is hoped to expand the programme delivery in 2017.

THE FERRY

The Y-Garden

The Y-Garden has benefitted greatly from the Community Regeneration funding it has received over the last two years. YMCA Broughty Ferry have been able to fund a worker for five hours per week to develop youth and community work. The Community Regeneration funding has enabled these hours to be doubled. In practical terms this has given the Development Worker the time and opportunity to develop partnerships with Grove Academy and Balgillo Nurseries which have been targeted for the development of the Y-Garden.

In the last financial year the Development Worker has worked with three different groups of Grove Academy pupils: one in a creative arts programme that produced a large, bright and colourful mural; one in a community participation project that saw a group produce a much loved 'Lorraine Kelly' Scarecrow as part of the first Broughty Ferry Scarecrow trail; and the last in an empowerment project which has seen pupils get their hands dirty turning our space into a garden by spreading woodchips, building a pond, installing planters and laying flower beds.

While the sessions themselves only add up to handful of hours a week, it is the time to prepare for sessions, arrange resources, meet with partners and to monitor and evaluate the whole process to ensure the young people involved get the most from of their participation that really makes the project work and these couldn't happen without the funding of additional hours.

WEST END

The Bridge Community Café

People accessing the café have commented on the new tablecloths and how beautiful the place looks. This may seem a little thing but is huge for those accessing the café, and was made possible by DP Community Regeneration funding. The space has been greatly enhanced by the new tables, chairs and equipment that has been purchased. The Bridge also deeply appreciate the contribution towards food costs as this allows them to grow and develop the project with confidence. The pool of clients now volunteering to help and support the project has also expanded and they are now considering other potential new developments.

Pre-School Play Park at the Friary

The number of families, including those living nearby that have been able to access the pre-school play park has been amazing. Even through the winter, on the nicer days toddlers have stopped off for a climb on the frames and to play in the house. It has been in daily use throughout the summer and autumn. Families have brought picnics and have been able to meet each other whilst their children play. This would not have been possible without DP Community Regeneration funding.

Starter Packs Sewing Machine

The purchase of a sewing machine for Dundee Starter Packs has made a huge difference. They have one lady who comes in to volunteer every week just to make up the curtains and the group are thinking about getting someone else in to help her. They get a lot of short curtains handed in, but it is usually long curtains that are needed by their clients. While the Welfare Fund support the group to hand out Starter Packs to their clients, often they just need curtains and the group are now able to supply these thanks to the generosity of the Community Regeneration Fund.

