

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Central Area Council Meeting:
14th March 2016

Agenda Item: 6

Report of Central Area Council
Manager

Devolving Central Area Council Funds to Ward Alliances- 2016/17

1. Purpose of Report

Following the Council's decision to withdraw Devolved Ward Budget funding from 1st April 2016, the use of Ward Alliance Funding and the associated allocation of monies to Ward Alliances across the borough has also been reviewed and amended.

This report outlines the Borough wide changes that will be implemented from 1st April 2016 and proposes an approach for devolving Central Area Council funding to the Ward Alliances in the Central Council area.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

Members approve the approach outlined in Section 5 of this report.

Members delegate responsibility to the Executive Director, Communities, to implement the proposal as outlined in Section 5 of this report.

The amounts devolved to each of the 5 Ward Alliances be reported back to Central Area Council at the next meeting.

3. Devolved Ward Budget

As from 1st April 2016 the DWB will no longer be available and there will be NO carry forward of any unallocated DWB monies remaining as at 31st March 2016. This means that all DWB applications and associated paperwork must be completed, signed off and processed by the Community Events and Grants Officer, by that date.

4. Ward Alliance Fund

There will be a revised Ward Alliance Fund (WAF) from 1st April 2016 with the following allocations and changes:

WAF Allocations for 2016/17:

- Any unallocated Ward Alliance Funding from the current financial year will be carried forward into 2016/17 and will be part of the new WAF arrangements in 2016/17.
- All Ward Alliances will receive a new allocation for 2016/17 of £10,000 per Ward Alliance, from the Council's core budget.

- In addition to the above, there is an option for Area Council's to allocate up to £20,000 per Ward Alliance from the Area Council budget – This is discretionary to each Area Council and the amount to be allocated can be flexible up to this amount.

A proposal relating to this element for Central Area Council is outlined in more detail in Section 5 below.

WAF- Changes for 2016/17:

- The match funding/volunteer element of WAF will change from 1st April 2016.
- From 1st April 2016, 50% of the total Ward Alliance Fund “pot” will require a match-funding element of volunteer time that directly relates to the project in question, or other match funding resources (such as free room hire or donations of goods and equipment).
- From 1st April 2016, 50% of the total Ward Alliance Fund “pot” can be used for initiatives that have no volunteer element – such as the purchase and installation of benches, hanging baskets etc.
- From 1st April 2016, Ward Alliances will consider and approve **all** WAF applications
- The WAF application form and guidance will be amended to reflect the revised WAF approach and processes referred to above.
- A diagram outlining the changes referred to above can be found at Appendix 1 attached.

Members should note that in the spirit of the key principles behind the Area businesses and community), the use of match funding/volunteer time in the development of all WAF applications arrangements of encouraging greater contributions from other sources will be strongly encouraged.

5. Proposed Central Area Council Approach to devolving funds to Ward Alliances

The following guidance has been provided centrally for the potential devolution of Area Council funding to Ward Alliances:

“Discretionary Area Council payments will not be made to any Ward Alliance with more than £10k of remaining in-year budget. Area Councils have the option to allocate up to £20,000/ward from the Area Council budget to their Ward Alliance. This is discretionary to each Area Council and the amount to be allocated is flexible up to the maximum of £20,000/ward”.

As contextual information for how Central Area Council may want to proceed, the 2015/16 WAF funds unallocated as at 29th February 2016 for each of the Central Area Ward Alliances, is as follows:

Central	£ 13,982.47
Dodworth	£ 6,444.12
Kingstone	£ -38.32
Stairfoot	£ 9,168.11
Worsbrough	£ 3,341.54

Given the information above it is proposed that at this time a maximum amount of **up to £10,000** is devolved to each Ward Alliance from Central Area Council funds for 2016/17. The exact amount to be devolved to each ward would be based on the remaining WAF monies unallocated for each ward as at 31st March 2016.

It is therefore proposed that for each Ward Alliance any remaining unallocated WAF balance as at 31st March 2016 **be made up to £10,000** from Central Area Council devolved funds. A few examples of how this would work can be found below:

Example A:

Ward Alliance A has **£9,500 unallocated WAF funds** remaining as at 31st March 2016.

An amount of **£ 500** would therefore be devolved from Central Area Council to Ward Alliance A.

The total amount of Ward Alliance A funding available in 2016/17 would therefore be: £9,500 to be carried forward (from 15/16) + £ 500 devolved from Central Area Council + £10,000 new WAF allocation from the Council's core budget = **£20,000**

Example B:

Ward Alliance B has **£3,500 unallocated WAF funds** remaining as at 31st March 2016.

An amount of **£6,500** would therefore be devolved from Central Area Council to Ward Alliance B.

The total amount of Ward Alliance B funding available in 2016/17 would therefore be: £6,500 to be carried forward (from 15/16) + £3,500 devolved from Central Area Council + £10,000 new WAF allocation from the Council's core budget= **£20,000**

This approach would mean that from 1st April 2016, all 5 Central Area Ward Alliance would have a total allocation of £20,000.

A briefing paper about the new Ward Alliance Fund arrangements and the individual allocations for 2016/17 will be taken to Ward Alliance meetings in March/early April 2016.

Appendices

Appendix 1- Ward Alliance Fund 2016/17 diagram

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Date:
29th February 2016.