

BARNESLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council:
15th March 2021

Agenda Item: 8

Report of the
North Area Council Manager

Devolved Ward Budget and Ward Alliance Funds

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report updates the North Area Council on financial position the Ward Alliance budget for each ward for the 2020/21 period.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That Ward Alliances pay particular attention to the Ward Alliance Covid-19 Recovery Plan document when developing project during the remainder of 2020/21, appendix 1.**

- 2.2 **That each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2020/21, in line with the guidance on spend.**

3.0 Introduction

- 3.1 As part of the decisions made by the Council's Cabinet in 2013 each Ward was allocated an annual Ward Alliance Fund of £10,000. In addition, the Area Council has devolved £10,000 to the Ward Alliances between 2014/15 and 2029/20.

- 3.2 All funding decisions must meet with Ward Alliance approval and be allocated with in accordance with the ward Alliance Funding 2016/17 – Briefing Note. This requires half of the fund to be allocated to projects where there is match funding.

- 3.3 In considering projects for the use of the Devolved Ward Budget, Members will need to be satisfied that:

- it meets a recognised need for the Ward,
- it is in the wider public interest (i.e. the whole community can potentially benefit),
- it represents value for money.

4.0 2020/21 Financial Position

- 4.1 The carry-forward of remaining balances of the 2019/20 Ward Alliance Fund was added to the 2020/21 allocation, to be managed as a single budget with the conditions of the ward alliance budget allocation.

4.2 Budget allocations for 2020/21

Ward	Base Allocation	Carried forward from 2019/20	Additional DWB (Announced 10/2019)	Total available
Darton East	£10,000	£7,704.70	£0	£17,704.70
Darton West	£10,000	£11,276.69	£0	£21,276.69
Old Town	£10,000	£16,533.52	£0	£26,533.52
St Helen's	£10,000	£14,254.73	£0	£24,254.73

- 4.3 Please note that the additional £10,000 per ward that was due to be awarded following a briefing in October 2019 has been retracted to help address COVID-19 impact from a centralised position.
- 4.4 Please note that WAF which was allocated to community resilience projects in the first wave of COVID lockdown restrictions has been reimbursed and the budget papers from November 2020 reflect this.
- 4.5 All decisions on the use of this funding need to be approved through the Ward Alliance.
- 4.6 Please refer to Appendix 2 for a full breakdown.

5.0 Challenges and Opportunities

- 5.1 All wards should take an opportunity to consult on their ward plan early during the financial year 2020/21. This will help the Ward Alliances to review the existing plans, reaffirm their ward priorities and plan projects and initiatives that will address the ward centric priorities. Due to COVID-19 many of these meetings will need to be held virtually.
- 5.2 Any projects requiring a long lead in time will require the involvement of the Area Team as early as possible.
- 5.3 Proactive promotion of the Ward Alliance Fund to local not for profit groups and organisations is highly recommended to ensure efficient expenditure over the financial year.
- 5.4 All Ward Alliance Funding forms for the year 2020/21 must be signed off by the Ward Alliance by early March (for 2021 this is 12th March 2021) to allow for timely processing.

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Date:
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Appendix 1:

COVID19 WARD ALLIANCE RECOVERY PLAN

There is a desire for Ward Alliances to continue to conduct business in support of their community and residents. This recovery plan is intended to show the steps we will take to allow business to continue.

Whilst this plan is being issued to illustrate and inform our direction of travel, it is necessary to keep this fluid and under review. Progression through each step will only occur when the government guidance and local data tells us that it is safe to do so.

PHASE	MEETINGS	PROJECT DECISIONS
1 (current position)	No meetings held – projects agreed via email.	<p>Decisions taken on any projects via email objection (consensus assumed unless objection raised).</p> <p>Projects should be relevant to helping communities to recover. Initiatives involving public gatherings (including outdoor) should not be progressed.</p> <p>50% volunteer match is relaxed.</p>
2 (explore this now for individual WAs)	<p>Where possible, Ward Alliance meetings to be held virtually using IT.</p> <p>Guidance and support can be provided to facilitate this.</p>	<p>Applications discussed and decided via virtual meetings. Ward Alliance members unable to join the virtual meeting are given chance to comment in advance.</p> <p>Projects should be relevant to helping communities to recover. Initiatives involving public gatherings (including outdoor) should not be progressed.</p> <p>50% volunteer match is relaxed.</p>
3 (not currently possible)	<p>Ward Alliance meetings to be held observing social distancing.</p> <p>Larger venues may be necessary to facilitate this.</p> <p>Refreshments should be avoided.</p> <p>Where possible, WA Members should have the option to 'dial in' via IT.</p>	<p>Applications discussed and decided via the meetings. Ward Alliance members unable to join the meeting are given chance to comment via the 'dial in' option.</p> <p>Projects should be relevant to helping communities to recover. Initiatives involving public gatherings (including outdoor) should not be progressed.</p> <p>50% volunteer match is relaxed.</p>
4 (not currently possible)	Ward Alliances begin to meet as pre-Covid arrangements.	<p>Applications are discussed and decided at the meetings.</p> <p>Projects begin to broaden out. Public events begin to be planned. The volunteer match element is reviewed.</p>
5 (not currently possible)	<p>Ward Alliances return to a standard way of operating.</p> <p>As part of our 'new normal' the option for members of the Ward Alliances to 'dial in' may wish to be retained.</p>	<p>Ward Alliance applications can be considered as pre-Covid arrangements including indoor and outdoor public events.</p> <p>Volunteer match element is reintroduced to ensure we facilitate volunteering and social action.</p>

Appendix 2:
2020/21 WARD FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

For 2020/21 each Ward will have an allocation of £10,000 Ward Alliance Fund.

50% of the funding requires 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). This reflects the fact that the fund is intended to support volunteering and social action in our communities.

50% can be used for initiatives that have no volunteer element – such as the purchase and installation of benches, hanging baskets or other street furniture.

Area Councils have the option to allocate up to £20,000 from the Area Council budget to each of their Ward Alliances. This is discretionary to each Area Council.

The carry-forward of remaining balances of the 2019/20 Ward Alliance Fund will be combined and added to the 2020/21 Allocation, to be managed as a single budget with the above conditions.

All decisions on the use of this funding need to be approved through the Ward Alliance.

Due to the extraordinary times as a result of COVID –19 pandemic, the non-match funding element of allocation has been suspended.

DARTON EAST WARD ALLIANCE

For the 2020/21 financial year the Ward Alliance have the following available budget.

£10,000 base allocation

£6,124.70 carried forward from 2019/20

£1,000.00 DE Community Garden unspent

£388.00 DE Family Fun Sessions

£880.00 Hanging Basket Income

£18,392.70 Total available funding

Project	Allocation	Match funding element of allocation	Non-Match funding allocation remaining £9,196.35	Allocation Remaining £18,392.70
Hanging Baskets 2020	£1705	£0 COVID Exemption	£9,196.35	£16,687.70
Healthy Holidays 2020	£2000	£0 COVID Exemption	£9,196.35	£14,687.70
Mapplewell Bowling Club	£240	£243.18	£9,196.35	£14,447.70
Autumn Planting	£1,000	£540.40	£9,196.35	£13,447.70
Community Notice Board	£1280	£0 COVID Exemption	£9,196.35	£12,167.70
Shop Local project	£600	£0 COVID Exemption	£9,196.35	£11,567.70
Christmas 2020	£1,000	£0 COVID Exemption	£9,196.35	£10,567.70
Secretary Payment Q2	£41.70	£0	£9,196.35	£10,526.00
Christmas Lights for Mapplewell	£2,250.00	£270.20 COVID Exemption	£9,196.35	£8,276.00
Mapplewell and wider website	£2,700.00	£0 COVID Exemption	£9,196.35	£5,576.00
Secretary Payment Q3	£125.00	£0	£9,196.35	£5,451.00
Sponsored Hanging Baskets	£1,500	£0 COVID Exemption	£9,196.35	£3,951.00
Woolley Colliery Child Safety	£295	£0 COVID Exemption	£9,196.35	£3,656.00

DARTON WEST WARD ALLIANCE

For the 2020/21 financial year the Ward Alliance have the following available budget.

£10,000 Base allocation

£9,081.14 Carried forward from 2019/20

£1,240.32 TDY unspent

£155.23 DW Remembrance unspent

£800.00 Hanging Basket income

£21,276.69 Total Available Funding

Project	Allocation	Match funding element of allocation	Non-Match funding allocation remaining £10,638.35	Allocation Remaining £21,276.69
Kexborough Notice Board	£824	£0 COVID Exemption	£10,638.35	£20,452.69
Litter Bins	£1,000	£0 COVID Exemption	£10,638.35	£19,452.69
Poppy Project	£732.45	£0 COVID Exemption	£10,638.35	£18,720.24
Dearne Hall Road	£3655.40	£0 COVID Exemption	£10,638.35	£15,064.84
Christmas Tree Lighting	£1500	£0 COVID Exemption	£10,638.35	£13,564.84
Christmas in DW	£3800	£0 COVID Exemption	£10,638.35	£9,764.84
Q 2 secretary payment	£84.00	£0	£10,638.35	£9,680.84
Christmas Activity Packs	£2,000.00	£0 COVID Exemption	£10,638.35	£7,680.84
Xmas hamper appeal	£300.00	£0 COVID Exemption	£10,638.35	£7,380.84
Sponsored Hanging Baskets	£1,500.00	£0 COVID Exemption	£10,638.35	£5,880.84
Kexborough Tree Planting	£1,750.00	£810.60 COVID Exemption	£10,638.35	£4,130.84
Darton Welfare Bowling Club	£1,000.00	£3,309.95	£10,638.35	£3,130.84

OLD TOWN WARD ALLIANCE

For the 2020/21 financial year the Ward Alliance have the following available budget.

£10,000 Base allocation

£12,0777.52 Carried forward from 2019/20

£4,456.00 Old Town Christmas Tree Unspent

£26,533.52 Total Available Funding

Project	Allocation	Match funding element of allocation	Non-Match funding allocation remaining £13,266.76	Allocation Remaining £26,533.52
Fresh ground volunteer group	£280	£405.30	£13,266.76	26,253.52
Blackburn Lane Play Area	£3,000	£0 COVID Exemption	£13,266.76	23,253.52
Community Planter	£1,000	£702.52	£13,266.76	22,253.52
Christmas Activity Packs	£2,000	£0 COVID Exemption	£13,266.76	20,253.52
Spring Blubs 2020	£346.47	£0 COVID Exemption	£13,266.76	19,907.05
Connections Project - Christmas Gifts for the Elderly	£1,000.00	£1,134.84	£13,266.76	18,907.05
Good Food Barnsley Christmas Packs	£585.00	£0 COVID Exemption	£13,266.76	18,322.05
Community Planter - Pleasant View Croft	£977.75	£0 COVID Exemption	£13,266.76	£17,344.30
Community Recovery Cycling	£3,600.00	£16,860.48 per year of project	£13,266.76	£13,744.30
Sugdens Crown Green Bowling Club - Repair Shelter	£844.40	£918.68	£13,266.76	£12,899.90

ST HELENS WARD ALLIANCE

For the 2020/21 financial year the Ward Alliance have the following available budget.

£10,000 base allocation

£9,820.48 Carried forward from 2019/20

£148.40 St Helen Hanging Baskets 18 unspent

£145.00 St Helens Clean and Climb 18 unspent

£355.00 St Helens Christmas Events 18 unspent

£1,000.00 St Helens Christmas Trees unspent

£308.25 St Helens Spring Clean unspent

£449.00 St Helens Gala unspent

£2,028.60 St Helens Christmas Event 19

£500 Ad Astra – Free school Meals – Covid 19

£1,687 Covid income

£26,441.73 Total Available Funding

Project	Allocation	Match funding element of allocation	Non-Match funding allocation remaining £13,220.87	Allocation Remaining £26,441.73
Athersley Carers – Blooming Men	£707	£200	£13,220.87	£25,734.73
Ad Astra – Free school Meals – Covid 19 Project wasn't delivered.	£500	£0 COVID Exemption	£13,220.87	£25,234.73
Hanging Baskets 2020	£2035	£0 COVID Exemption	£13,220.87	£23,199.73
Secretary Payment Q1	£125	£0	£13,220.87	£23,074.73
St Helens Church Covid Recovery	£1187	£6755	£13,220.87	£21,887.73
Athersley Community Association and Football Club	£3,000	£1013	£13,220.87	£18,887.73
Ad Astra After School Club	£2,000	£2296	£13,220.87	£16,887.73
Spring Blubs	£1185	£0 COVID Exemption	£13,220.87	£15,702.73
Maintenance Work	£700.00	£0 COVID Exemption	£13,220.87	£15,002.73
St Helens Community Christmas Trees	£2,254.00	£0 COVID Exemption	£13,220.87	£12,748.73
Q3 Secretary Payment	£125.00	£0	£13,220.87	£12,623.73
Care leavers Christmas Dinner	£200.00	£0 COVID Exemption	£13,220.87	£12,423.73
Hanging Baskets 2021	£1,993.60	£0 COVID Exemption	£13,220.87	£10,430.13
Feb Half Term Food Packs	£2,000.00	£810.60	£13,220.87	£8,430.13
Athersley Cares - Covid Support	£802.00	£810.60	£13,220.87	£7,628.13