

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

North Area Council:
24th May 2021

Agenda Item: 9

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 projects during the remainder of 2021/22, appendix 1.**

- 2.2 **That each Ward in the North Area Council area prioritises the efficient expenditure of the Ward Alliance Funds 2021/22, 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 2019/20; no additional funding was devolved in 2020/21 and a reduced amount of £5,000 was devolved in 2021/22.

- 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 2021/22 Financial Position

- 4.1 The carry-forward of remaining balances of the 2021/22 Ward Alliance Fund was added to the 2021/22 allocation, to be managed as a single budget with the conditions of the ward alliance budget allocation.

4.2 Budget allocations for 2021/22

| Ward | Base Allocation | Carried forward from 2020/21 | Additional DWB (Announced 09/2020) | Total available |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Darton East | £10,000 | £2,781.00 | £5,000 | £19,204.16 |
| Darton West | £10,000 | £1,289.04 | £5,000 | £19,567.49 |
| Old Town | £10,000 | £10,717.28 | £5,000 | £26,674.53 |
| St Helen's | £10,000 | £7,628.13 | £5,000 | £23,393.83 |

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

4.4 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 2021/22. 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 2021/22 must be signed off by the Ward Alliance by early March 2022, to allow for timely processing.

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Date:
26th April 2021

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: 2021/22 WARD FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

For 2021/22 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 2020/21 Ward Alliance Fund will be combined and added to the 2021/22 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 2021/22 financial year the Ward Alliance have the following available budget.

£10,000 base allocation

£2,781 carried forward from 2020/21

£5,000 North Area Council devolved allocation

£70 Keswick Rd Allotment Unspent

£1,123 Health Holidays 2020 Unspent

£230 Shop Local Project Unspent

£19,204 Total available funding

| Project | Allocation | Match funding element of allocation | Non-Match funding allocation remaining £9,602.00 | Allocation Remaining £19,204 |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Litter Bin 0393 Relocation | £125 | £0 COVID Exemption | £9,602.00 | £19,137.16 |
| Cold Calling Stickers | £860.00 | £0 COVID Exemption | £9,602.00 | £18,219.00 |
| Litter Picking Equipment | £343.30 | £0 COVID Exemption | £9,602.00 | £17,875.70 |

DARTON WEST WARD ALLIANCE

For the 2021/22 financial year the Ward Alliance have the following available budget.

£10,000 Base allocation

£5,000 North Area Council devolved allocation

£1,289.04 Carried forward from 2020/21

£165 Gawber History Group unspent

£300 DW Interpretation Board unspent

£1,500 Holiday Hunger unspent

£70.76 DW Remembrance 2019 unspent

£1,242.69 Activity Packs and Food Parcels unspent

£19,567.49 Total Available Funding

| Project | Allocation | Match funding element of allocation | Non-Match funding allocation remaining £9,783.75 | Allocation Remaining £19,567.49 |
|---------|------------|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
|---------|------------|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|

| | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Q4 Secretary Payment - Richard Haigh | £125 | £0 COVID Exemption | £9,783.75 | £19,442.49 |
| Butterflies Afternoon Tea Dance | £780.00 | £0 COVID Exemption | £9,783.75 | £18,662.49 |
| Replacement Bench - Wilthorpe Redbrook | £1,300.00 | £0 COVID Exemption | £9,783.75 | £17,362.49 |

OLD TOWN WARD ALLIANCE

For the 2022/22 financial year the Ward Alliance have the following available budget.

£10,000 Base allocation

£5,000 North Area Council devolved allocation

£10,717.28 Carried forward from 2020/21

£885 Spring Bulbs unspent

£40 Pleasant View Croft Planter unspent

£32.25 Cottesmore Close Community Planter unspent

£26,674.53 Total Available Funding

| Project | Allocation | Match funding element of allocation | Non-Match funding allocation remaining £13,337.27 | Allocation Remaining £26,674.53 |
|---|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Container for Pogmoor Recreation Ground | £4,668.00 | £0 COVID Exemption | £13,337.27 | £22,006.53 |
| St Pauls Afterschool Club | £700.00 | £0 COVID Exemption | £13,337.27 | £21,306.53 |

ST HELENS WARD ALLIANCE

For the 2021/22 financial year the Ward Alliance have the following available budget.

£10,000 base allocation

£7,628.13 Carried forward from 2021/22

£5,000 North Area Council devolved allocation

£192.70 Hanging Baskets unspent

£573 Feb Half Term Food Packs unspent

£23,393.83 Total Available Funding

| Project | Allocation | Match funding element of allocation | Non-Match funding allocation remaining £11,696.92 | Allocation Remaining £23,393.83 |
|----------------------|-------------------|--|--|--|
| Secretary Payment Q4 | £125 | £0 COVID Exemption | £11,696.92 | £23,268.83 |
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