

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	Cabinet 10 April 2019
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Report title	Wolverhampton for Everyone Partnership and Ward Funds	
Decision designation	AMBER	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Roger Lawrence Leader of the Council	
Key decision	Yes	
In forward plan	Yes	
Wards affected	All Wards	
Accountable Director	Tim Johnson, Managing Director	
Originating service	Managing Director	
Accountable employee	Mark Taylor Tel Email	Deputy Managing Director 01902 556609 mark.taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Executive Team Strategic Executive Board	12 February 2019 12 March 2019

Recommendations for decision:

The Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the establishment of a Ward Fund of £10,000 for each of the 20 wards, totalling £200,000 as a pilot for a period of one municipal year, running from May 2019 to May 2020.
2. Approve a contribution of £50,000 to be made to the Wolverhampton for Everyone Partnership to accelerate their programme and agenda.
3. Approve start-up costs to manage and administer the ward funds process at a cost of £25,000.
4. Approve that the total cost of £275,000 be funded from Public Health grant income.
5. Approve the proposed Governance structure for the ward funds and that the Constitution be amended accordingly.
6. Delegate authority to the Leader, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, to make any changes to the Ward Funds governance.

7. Delegate authority to the Leader, in consultation with the Deputy Managing Director, to make any changes to the Ward Funds processes and procedures.

Recommendations for noting:

The Cabinet is recommended to note that:

1. Wolverhampton for Everyone is an existing partnership between the City of Wolverhampton Council, Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council and other key partners.
2. The core values of Wolverhampton for Everyone have been included within the Council Plan 2019-2024 and the ward funds initiative will directly contribute towards the partnership by co-producing and co-designing local solutions to foster cultural change and future resilience within communities.
3. A full evaluation of the impact of the ward funds initiative will be undertaken in order to establish the outcomes delivered for the community, this will help to inform whether the ward funds will be available in future years, the outcome of this evaluation will be reported to Cabinet.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 Ward Funds is an initiative that will support and strengthen the Council's partnership contribution to Wolverhampton for Everyone and support the key issues identified by the Managing Director following his ward walks in 2018. It will further support how we address some of the key actions that were agreed following the Local Government Associations' recommendations from the Corporate Peer Review in 2017 to review the changing role of Councillors.
- 1.2 Approval is being sought for £200,000 (£10,000 to be split and spent in consultation between ward Councillors and Director Ward Champions for each of the 20 wards). It will give ward Councillors the opportunity to further develop their roles within the community by tackling smaller issues through co-production and co-design of solutions for a period of one year (May 2019 to May 2020). There will be regular robust reporting mechanisms with strong governance and all spend will be published on the Council's website.
- 1.3 Public Health grant income will be used to provide the £200,000 as well as a contribution of £50,000 to further support the work of Wolverhampton for Everyone and a further £25,000 to fund a management and administration post associated with the pilot.
- 1.4 Every application made will need to illustrate which of the following six strategic outcomes of the Council Plan 2019-2024 it will link to:
 - Children and young people get the best possible start in life;
 - Well skilled people working in an inclusive economy;
 - More good jobs and investment in our City;
 - Better homes for all;
 - Strong, resilient and healthy communities;
 - A vibrant, green City we can all be proud of.
- 1.5 Once spending is complete (1 March 2020) there will be a full impact assessment (March 2020) to identify the viability of the ward funds initiative and a full report submitted with recommendations for future years.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Following the appointment of a new Managing Director in 2018 there was a refreshed focus, which included 'Shaping a new community relationship.' To achieve this the Deputy Managing Director has been assigned to champion the voluntary and community sector and be the Council's strategic lead for the Council's contribution towards the community relationship of Wolverhampton for Everyone.

- 2.2 Since his appointment, the Managing Director has conducted ward walks in 19 wards, with the final one due to take place in the near future. The walks identified 232 actions and the top five issues and common trends were:
- Environmental Services (fly-tipping, condition of open spaces and parks and tree maintenance);
 - Planning (condition of private land and property);
 - Public Health (needle litter, anti-social behaviour and rough sleepers);
 - Corporate Landlord (condition of council owned buildings e.g. community centres, park conservatories);
 - Road Safety (speeding);
 - Parking (lack of space, inconsiderate parking).
- 2.3 The Managing Director's ward walks also identified the opportunity to develop a support mechanism to further enable ward Councillors to work with their communities to resolve local issues, with the support of Director Ward Champions.
- 2.4 The new Council Plan 2019-2024 has the community at the heart of its primary objective. The voluntary and community sector is key to delivering the Council Plan and the City Vision for 2030: 'A vibrant civic society which is focused on the future, empowers local communities and is supported by local businesses and institutions'. It follows on from the work already completed as part of the Corporate Plan 2016–2019 which included a focus on Stronger Communities as a priority to 'enable communities to support themselves'.
- 2.5 There was also a key recommendation from the LGA Corporate Peer Review in 2017 to strengthen the connection between City Leadership and Community Leadership at a neighbourhood level and to consider the changing role of Councillors.
- 2.6 The Community Governance Review in 2017 identified the desire for the community to become more involved in the co-production and delivery within their local community and it supported the challenge Lord Adebawale gave organisations within the City at the Residents at the Wheel Conference in March 2018, to consider their role in service redesign, 'can/should you: lead the change, follow the change or get out of the way.'
- 2.7 There is further evidence to support this initiative following the publication of "Neighbourhood Services – What matters to people on the doorstep!" by the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) in December 2018. Their findings showed that the public value neighbourhood services and they called upon councils to adopt a strategy in support of neighbourhood level services, this pilot supports this approach.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 During this time Wolverhampton for Everyone was established as a new way of working, developed in partnership with the Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council. The key partners include: Gatis Community Space; All Saints Action Network (ASAN); Bromford; University of Wolverhampton; Black Country Touring; Ashmore Park Hub; Creative Black Country and Hope Community. Wolverhampton for Everyone supports local people to unlock potential within their communities and create positive change within the City. Wolverhampton for Everyone believes that our City will be more vibrant and inclusive if it is powered by people, working together inclusively, who live and work here.
- 3.2 As an existing partner of Wolverhampton for Everyone the Council will aim to embrace the different ways of working and support an interconnected network to contribute to the social values of the partnership and put citizens at the heart of solutions.
- 3.3 Wolverhampton for Everyone is key to delivering Vision 2030 and will be embedded throughout the new Council Plan 2019–2024, to deliver the key outcome - 'Wulfrunians will live longer, healthier and more fulfilling lives'. This approach will provide opportunities to co-design and co-produce, developing the long-term resilience and capacity of our communities, as we continue to manage growing financial pressures.
- 3.4 One of the proposed initiatives to support Wolverhampton for Everyone is to introduce a Ward Fund of £10,000 available for each ward as part of a one-year initial pilot. The £200,000 allocation will be funded from the Public Health grant income. Funding will be available from May 2019 to May 2020 (the final application for spend will be made at the beginning of February 2020 and all activity will need to be completed by the beginning of March 2020). In order to evaluate the initiative, there will be a full impact assessment to establish the outcomes delivered for the community and to inform whether this fund is available in future years. The recommendations of which will be reported to Cabinet.
- 3.5 This will enable ward Councillors in partnership with their communities to prioritise and target local issues, many of which were identified during the Managing Director's ward walks. Consistent with our aspiration to co-design and co-produce, developing the long-term resilience and capacity of our communities.
- 3.6 Director Ward Champions (Appendix 1) have been identified within the current Senior Leadership structure of the Council to act as budget managers for the ward funds. They are:
- John Denley - Director of Public Health (Graiseley, Heath Town, Park and St Peter's);
 - Kate Martin - Director of City Housing (Bushbury South and Low Hill, East Park, Wednesfield North and Wednesfield South);
 - Meredith Teasdale - Director of Education (Merry Hill, Penn, Tettenhall Regis and Tettenhall Wightwick);

- Richard Lawrence - Director of Regeneration (Bilston East, Bilston North, Ettingshall and Spring Vale);
- Ross Cook - Director of City Environment (Blakenhall, Bushbury North, Fallings Park and Oxley).

- 3.7 The Director Ward Champions will work with ward Councillors to implement their preferred model for managing the 'ward funds'. This will be either via the ward Councillors or devolve the funding to a Community Partnership / appropriate organisation, for example a Community Partnership group / organisation, in consultation with the Director Ward Champion.
- 3.8 The Director Ward Campions will be responsible for agreeing arrangements to release the funding and these will be recorded/published and closely monitored. They will support links between agreeing priorities and delivering actions.
- 3.9 Full details of proposals, commitments and actual expenditure of all ward funds and how the funds have been utilised will be made available on the Council's website.
- 3.10 The funding will provide the opportunity to exploit other opportunities such as Crowdfund Wolves, Make Shift, pooling of funding across wards etc.
- 3.11 All ward funds used will be for a "one off" activity and will not include any ongoing maintenance, insurance or repair costs.

4.0 Governance

- 4.1 The proposed Governance structure (Appendix 2) takes into consideration the following points:
- What the fund can and cannot be used for;
 - Outlines the procedure for administration and logistics to include the option to devolve the funds to a community organisation;
 - Transparency measures;
 - Monitoring.
- 4.2 All governance arrangements once approved will be written into the constitution and a set of guidelines will be written for the role of the Director Ward Champion.
- 4.3 The following assumptions have been made:
- The procurement of any services, supplies or works shall be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Where the Council has an existing contract that is suitable to source the services, supplies or works required, this should be used.

- 4.4 An application form will be used to ensure the following are considered for each activity:
- Any requests made for ongoing maintenance, insurance and repair costs of the activity requested;
 - Successful groups/organisations must ensure that DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks carried out on all adults having direct supervisory contact with any children under the age of 18 through the project;
 - Successful groups/organisations must serve all appropriate licences and insurances;
 - The project will promote good equal opportunity practice;
 - All ward fund activity will need to bear the City of Wolverhampton / Wolverhampton for Everyone / Partner logo (s) in all publications;
 - The ward funds must be spent in accordance with the purposes for which it was approved. Any changes to the activity should be agreed with the ward Councillors and Director Ward Champions.

5.0 Reporting mechanisms

- 5.1 The evaluation of the pilot will require the establishment of a reporting mechanism to capture the outcomes and impact of the ward funds. This will include a Director Ward Champion update on a quarterly basis to Strategic Executive Board and an overall final report to Cabinet in April 2020 (deadline for applications will be beginning of February 2020, with all activity to be complete before the beginning of March 2020).
- 5.2 One outcome of the evaluation will be to determine whether the ward funds will be available in future years.

6.0 Evaluation of alternative options

- 6.1 Option 1 - no change to existing process and policy.
- 6.2 This would result in a missed opportunity to co-produce and co-design solutions at local level which will support the empowerment of communities.
- 6.3 Option 2 – Approve the Ward Funds on an ongoing basis
- 6.4 This is not preferred at this stage. This is a pilot and full review and assessment of impact must be made when the one-year period has lapsed. This will include a full review of the benefits it has achieved within the wards and possible savings to the Council as well as the internal logistics and governance arrangements.

7.0 Reasons for decisions

- 7.1 Wolverhampton for Everyone Partnership and Ward Funds will allow the ward Councillors to further establish their every changing role within the community. The benefit of this action will allow communities with support from their ward Councillors to

create a culture of change, to build resilience and find solutions to their issues on a local level.

- 7.2 This will help support the work of Wolverhampton for Everyone and contribute to the creation of a participatory City and further support the values of “people working together on practical ideas that make their neighbourhoods more exciting and enjoyable places to live.”
- 7.3 This will build resilience within the communities in all wards to provide solutions to small local issues at pace. This in time, will lead to a reduction in demand for services.

8.0 Financial implications

- 8.1 The £200,000 required for the twenty individual Ward Funds for the initial pilot scheme and the £25,000 to establish a post to provide management and administrative support will be met from Public Health grant income. The same funding source will also cover the proposed £50,000 contribution to the Wolverhampton for Everyone Partnership. Any financial implications arising from recommendations following a full impact assessment of the pilot scheme will be assessed at that point and incorporated in future reports to Councillors.

[GE/29032019/M]

9.0 Legal implications

- 9.1 If Ward Funds are used for the procurement of any goods or services, the procurement will need to be carried out in accordance with any relevant legislation and the Council's Constitution.

[TS/01042019/W]

10.0 Equalities implications

- 10.1 A full equality analysis has been carried out and ward funds are available for all within the community as long as there is a clear identification that it will benefit the wider community and reviewed in an equal and transparent way.

11.0 Environmental implications

- 11.1 City Environment was identified as one of the top five ward walk issues and common trends. Therefore, Environmental implications will need to be considered during the identification of projects/initiatives for the ward funds.

12.0 Human resources implications

- 12.1 It might be necessary during this pilot, to require the employment of temporary resources to manage and administer the Ward Funds. This will be managed through our normal recruitment processes and procedures.

[HR/AP/MT/078]

13.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 13.1 Corporate Landlord was identified as one of the top five ward walk issues and common trends. Therefore, corporation landlord implications will need to be considered during the identification of projects/initiatives for the ward funds, particularly relating to community assets.

14.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 14.1 By supporting local people to co-design and co-produce small scale activities to improve the conditions where they live the ward funds initiative, in partnership the Director Ward Champions model, has the potential to help communities address health inequalities related to their wider environment. As part of the Impact Assessment consideration will be given to how activities have improved health and wellbeing of local people and this learning used to inform the development of future activity

15.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – AZ Wards in Colour_Councillor 2019

Appendix 2 – Ward Funds Guidance