



Derby City Council

COUNCIL CABINET 17 April 2013

ITEM 11

Report of the Cabinet Member for Streetpride
and Partnerships

Re-distribution of Community Budgets

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Devolved community budgets have played a crucial role in how Derby City Council engages, supports and strengthens communities. Budgets are devolved to Neighbourhood Boards to allocate resources to neighbourhood priorities and funds are spent on a wide range of projects that benefit the community and community groups.
- 1.2 Over a number of years, previous administrations have made decisions resulting in the increasing value of devolved budgets being allocated equitably across all 17 neighbourhoods. These increases, from core Council budgets, have moved resources away from previously identified 'priority neighbourhoods'. This has resulted in a situation where precious and important resources are not targeted or allocated on the basis of needs, but spread equally across the city. Meaning that for example the most affluent neighbourhood, Allestree, receives the same level of devolved budget as the most deprived, Arboretum.
- 1.3 Community budgets consist of three funding streams:
 - Streetpride devolved budget: £340k
 - Highways devolved budget: £170k
 - Youth, Community Safety and Highways: £102k
- 1.4 Funds are allocated on the basis of neighbourhood priorities identified by the neighbourhood board and local councillors. With final decisions on the allocations of funds made by the 3 ward councillors in the form of a ward committee. This is a constitutional requirement when allocating grants on behalf of the council.
- 1.5 The current administration views the equal distribution of budgets across 17 neighbourhoods as not reflecting the different needs, pressures and problems faced by our distinct neighbourhoods. To allocate delegated budgets more equitably, based upon the needs and requirements of the community enables problems and issues to be tackled more effectively

RECOMMENDATION

2.1	To re-distribute community budgets, based on deprivation scores as outlined in appendix 1
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REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1	To ensure targeted and intelligence led allocation of resources.
3.2	To re-distribute delegated budgets as outlined in appendix 1 represents a fairer and more equitable way of distributing important resources to local communities in the context of reducing mainstream budgets and unprecedented central Government cuts.
3.3	The proposal ensures that the neighbourhoods with the oldest infrastructure and socio-economic risks receive greater levels of funding

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1	<p>The rationale which forms the basis of the re-distribution is based upon the recognised Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). This is a national statistical framework that takes a range of indicators in neighbourhoods, scores and then ranks them. These indicators include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household income • Crime and anti-social behaviour • Health inequalities • Environmental issues • Housing standards • Child poverty <p>Neighbourhoods are ranked nationally (appendix 1). This illustrates in rank order the level of deprivation in all Derby's neighbourhoods. For example Arboretum is the 184th most deprived ward in England and Wales and Allestree ranked 7347th. This ranking forms the rationale to re-distribute funding.</p>
4.3	<p>The Neighbourhoods Board - 11 December 2012 - Resolved to recommend that the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Streetpride review the system by which the Neighbourhood Boards' devolved budgets are proposed to decrease by £42,000 in 2015/16. The Neighbourhoods Board recognised applying reductions equally between all boards would not account for the differing deprivation levels particular to each ward. The board requested that the cabinet member consider the implementation of a fairer system when applying the budget reduction.</p> <p>Although the Neighbourhoods Board recommendation relates to proposed budget reductions, it is felt that the principles of the recommendation should be applied in 2013/14</p>

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1	<p>To maintain the current level of allocation does not achieve the outcomes outlined in the report to more fairly distribute community budgets.</p>
5.2	<p>Council cabinet considered both reductions and the ending of devolved community budgets in the most recent budget setting process.</p>

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Janie Berry Martyn Marples Karen Jewell Tim Clegg
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Andy Thomas 01332 643020 andy.thomas@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – IMD neighbourhood ranking and allocations

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 There are no financial implications. There is no proposal to reduce the budget for 2013/14. Value for money will be achieved through directing resources at those neighbourhoods identified as 'priority' for the purposes of social and economic regeneration.

Legal

- 2.1 None.

Personnel

- 3.1 None.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None directly arising that would impact upon identified equality groups. Any potential for discrimination or negative impact on communities and all opportunities to promote equality will be continuously reviewed.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 Realignment of devolved budgets to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation will allow the development and implementation of localised neighbourhood projects. Based on resident needs and priorities.

Property and Asset Management

- 7.1 None directly.

Risk Management

- 8.1 There are no risks associated with the recommendation. However, on going monitoring and reporting of devolved budgets will be undertaken to review risks to corporate objectives and departmental operational and quality requirements.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 The identified purpose of devolved budgets will be maintained, contributing to all Corporate objectives.