

# Item 5b

## Minute extract from Council Cabinet meeting, 17 April 2013

### 197/12     Redistribution of Community Budgets

The Council Cabinet considered a report on devolved community budgets, which had played a crucial role in how Derby City Council engaged with, supported and strengthened communities. Budgets were devolved to Neighbourhood Boards to allocate resources to neighbourhood priorities and funds were spent on a wide range of projects that benefited the community and community groups.

Over a number of years, previous administrations had made decisions resulting in the increasing value of devolved budgets being allocated equitably across all 17 neighbourhoods. These increases, from core Council budgets, had moved resources away from previously identified 'priority neighbourhoods'. This had resulted in a situation where precious and important resources were not targeted or allocated on the basis of needs, but spread equally across the city. Meaning that for example the most affluent neighbourhood, Allestree, received the same level of devolved budget as the most deprived, Arboretum.

Community budgets consist of three funding streams:

- Streetpride devolved budget: £340k
- Highways devolved budget: £170k
- Youth, Community Safety and Highways: £102k

Funds were 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 was a constitutional requirement when allocating grants on behalf of the council.

The current administration viewed 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 enabled problems and issues to be tackled more effectively.

#### Options Considered

1. To maintain the current level of allocation did not achieve the outcomes outlined in the report to more fairly distribute community budgets.
2. Council Cabinet considered both reductions and the ending of devolved community budgets in the most recent budget setting process.

#### Decision

To re-distribute community budgets, based on deprivations scores outlined in Appendix 1 of the report.

### **Reasons**

1. To ensure targeted and intelligence led allocation of resources.
2. To re-distribute delegated budgets as outlined in appendix 1 represented 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. The proposal ensured that the neighbourhoods with the oldest infrastructure and socio-economic risks received greater levels of funding