

Report to Beaconsfield Forum

Title:	LOCAL AREA FORUM BUDGETS
Date:	13 th April 2011
Author:	Rebecca Carley, Acting Head of Localities and Safer Communities Tel: 01296 383287
Contact officer:	Stephen Young Locality Manager Tel: 01296 387543
Electoral divisions affected:	Beaconsfield

Summary

1. This paper describes the arrangements for the allocation of the funding devolved to Local Area Forums (LAFs) in 2011/12.
2. The amount of funding awarded to each proposal by the Local Area Forum in 2010/11 is outlined - from para 13 onwards

Recommendation

- 3. Beaconsfield Forum is recommended to note the arrangements in 2011/12 for its devolved budgets as described in the report and also note the expenditure of the allocated funding in 2010/11.**

Background

4. A key element of the locality strategy is “genuine and increased influence by residents over local decisions and budgets”. LAFs are central to achieving this (although this is not the only mechanism for working at a more local level).
5. This vision has led to an increased range of decisions, services and budgets that can be influenced within the framework of the 19 local areas and via the LAFs. In line with the



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County Council's aim to increase local decision making, the LAFs' Transportation delegated budget has been increased from £500,000 in 2010/11 to £1,000,000 in 2011/12.

Budgets Devolved to LAFs in 2011/12

6. The devolved budgets for 2011/12 are set out in the table below. In total, this amounts to a 27.8% increase over the devolved budgets available in 2010-11.

Service area	County-wide total	Beaconsfield Forum
Transportation delegated budget	£1,000,000	£50,283.38
Local Priorities budget	£380,000	£20,000
Total	£1,380,000	£70,283.38

General Principles for the Management and Decision-Making of Devolved Budgets

1. All funding must be spent in line with the specific criteria associated with the budget (see below).
2. The funding must be spent within the financial year for which it is allocated.
 - For 2011/12, in consultation with the LAF Chairman, each Head of Service concerned will take a view in November 2011 on the likelihood of unspent monies being used that year. If there is budget that is unlikely to be spent that year, it will revert back to the service concerned for allocation to activities that will benefit the area during 2011/12.
3. As in 2010/11, in terms of formal decision-making, the LAFs will be advising the relevant Head of Service on how to spend the devolved budget who will then implement that advice.
4. To allow for the occasional unforeseen opportunity that requires a swift decision, funding may be agreed in-between LAF meetings in consultation with the Local Area Forum Chairman and the Head of Service.

Local Priorities budget

5. The Local Priorities budget is to be used to commission activities to meet the Local Priorities identified in the Beaconsfield local area plan to support community needs and the well-being of the area in line with the criteria below:
 - Proposals meeting more than one of the Forums priorities or addressing a community need will be prioritised for funding.
 - Proposals enabling capacity-building or those with match-funding – financial or in kind e.g. with community volunteer input – will be given priority over proposals with no additional funding or those with little community support.
 - Priority will also be given to proposals which cannot be undertaken by an individual Parish Council, either because an activity is not within its remit or funding capability.
 - The Local Priorities budget is not the catch-all to support proposals rejected for funding by the Transportation LAF budget (although that is not precluded where there is a compelling case) or to fill service budget cuts or short-falls. Similarly, it should not be used for activities normally funded by Parish precepts.

- The Locality Manager will also assess potential proposals to see whether there are other funding opportunities or if 'quick wins' can be identified to enable specific proposals/issues to be resolved quickly through other means.
6. The Locality Manager will evaluate potential proposals to be commissioned and make recommendations in due course to the LAF. LAF members who have particular ideas should raise these directly with the Lead Area Officer or Locality Manager.
 7. The Accountable Officer is the Locality Services Manager.

Transportation delegated budget

This budget is to fund minor transportation improvement schemes. More detailed information on this budget will be presented as a separate report at this 13th April meeting of the Beaconsfield Forum.

8. The Accountable Officer is the Head of Transportation.

Monitoring and future planning arrangements

9. New or changing policies/functions, where relevant, require that an equality impact assessment (EIA) be carried out to understand how people will be affected. To this end, a process by which local priorities are identified and the solutions for addressing them will be subject to an EIA. As LAFs have always placed an emphasis on meeting local needs, this should only provide reassurance that the process has been rigorous and well informed. In the main, this process will be proportionate and largely invisible to LAF members but should provide some reassurance that any decision that seems to go against the grain will be flagged up. As LAFs review their priorities and as more up to date information becomes available about local community profiles, we will endeavour to ensure that this information is brought to the attention of LAF members to assist their decision-making.
10. At the end of the year, officers will prepare a review of the work for Beaconsfield Forum and put forward proposals for the allocation of the next year's budgets. Schemes which have benefited from Beaconsfield Forum support will be invited to report on progress to the Forum, either as part of the annual review or at some time during the course of the year.
11. Schemes benefiting from this funding in 2010-11 are outlined below.

SCHEMES AWARDED FUNDING DURING 2010-11

12. Schemes awarded funding during 2010-11 through the Beaconsfield Forum include the following projects.

13. Local Priorities budget

14. The following schemes were funded during 2010-11 through the Forums Local Priorities budget.

Scheme	Value
Beaconsfield Town Council All Age Fitness Trail	£10,000
Transport for Buckinghamshire Waiting Restriction Review	£10,000
Total	£20,000

PAYP funding

15. The following schemes were funded during 2010-11 through the Forum PAYP funding. This funding stream ended in March 2011.

Scheme	Value
Sound Studio; Youth Voice' Radio & DJ Project	£2,298
Holtspur Youth Club Equipment	£2700
Total	£4,998

Transportation delegated budget

16. The following schemes were funded during 2009-10 through the LAF's Transportation delegated budget.

Scheme	Value
Vas Signs and Dropped Kerbs	25,000
Total	£25,000
