

Report to Buckingham Local Area Forum

Title:	LOCAL AREA FORUM BUDGETS
Date:	17 th March 2011
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Electoral divisions affected:	Buckingham North Buckingham South Winslow Grendon Underwood

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 below with more detailed information given on each of these schemes in Appendix A.

Recommendation

3. **Buckingham Local Area 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).



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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 County Council's aim to increase local decision making, the LAFs' Transportation delegated budget has been doubled 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 65% increase over the devolved budgets available in 2010-11.

Service area	County-wide total	Buckingham LAF
Transportation delegated budget	£1,000,000	£53,206.54
Local Priorities budget	£380,000	£20,000
Total	£1,380,000	£73,206.54

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 Buckingham 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 LAF's 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

8. This budget is to fund minor transportation improvement schemes. Schemes for 2011/12 to be considered by Buckingham LAF are listed below. More detailed information on this budget is given in the Transport for Buckinghamshire report distributed to LAFs in Spring 2011: '2011/12 delegated budget increase following full Council decision'.

Scheme
Buckingham - Extend the roadway around St Peter and St Paul Church on Castle Hill
Buckingham - Lay-by on Burleigh Piece next to Bourton Meadow School
Akeley - Work to be undertaken to clear gullies in Akeley
Stowe - Installation of footpath along main road to the High Street
East & Botolph Claydon - 2 salt bins – by phone box in Botolph & by grass verge in St Mary's Road
Botolph Claydon - Repairs to roadside
Radclive cum Chackmore - Salt Bin Maltings Lane Chackmore
Radclive cum Chackmore - Extension to footpath – Main Street Chackmore
Maids Moreton VAS – approach to Maids Moreton from Towcester (A413)
Twyford - Application for 11 dropped kerbs
Gawcott - 3 salt bins - Church St, Lenborough Rd, Radclive Rd
Hillesden - Passing bay/layby road widening at Hillesden Hamlet
Lillingstone Lovell - Salt bin at the top end of the village

Values for the schemes will be provided by transportation officers at a later date

9. The Accountable Officer is the Head of Transportation.

Monitoring and future planning arrangements

10. 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.
11. At the end of the year, officers will prepare a review of the work for the Buckingham Local Area Forum and put forward proposals for the allocation of the next year's budgets. Schemes which have benefited from LAF support will be invited to report on progress to the LAF, either as part of the annual review or at some time during the course of the year.
12. Schemes benefiting from this funding in 2010-11 are outlined below.

PROJECTS AWARDED FUNDING DURING 2010-11

13. Schemes awarded funding during 2010-11 through the Buckingham LAF include the following projects. More information is shown in Appendix A.

Local Priorities budget

14. The following schemes were funded during 2010-11 through the LAF's Local Priorities budget. See Appendix A for more information.

Scheme	Value
Community Car Scheme	£2,000
The AVYFC Sports Cage	£1,350
Additional Salt Bin Buckingham	£450
Community Interest Company (Broadband)	£5,000
Twyford Village Stores Promotion and Development	£4,930
Promoting Buckingham Project	£3,270
Steeple Claydon Skate Park Refurbishment	£3,000
Total	£20,000

PAYP funding

15. The following schemes were funded during 2010-11 through the LAF's PAYP funding. See Appendix A for more detailed information. This funding stream ends in March 2011.

Scheme	Value
Joint Project with the Waddesdon LAF; I-Van Activity for local youth	£5,000
Total	£5,000

Transportation delegated budget

16. The following schemes were funded during 2009-10 through the LAF's Transportation delegated budget. See Appendix A for more detailed information.

Scheme	Value
Buckingham, Salt bin in Glynswood Road	£450
Akeley, Vehicle Activated Sign on the A413 at both the southern and northern entrances to Akeley village	£10,000
Middle Claydon Installation of kerbing on the C37 Winslow to Claydon Road	£4,000
East Claydon, Remove 30mph signs at new estate Lacemakers Close and replace signs 100m from estate. Rumble strips also to be installed	£4,000
Nash, Two Salt Bins	£900
Beachampton, Two Salt Bins	£900
Westbury Vehicle Activated Sign on the A422 opposite the Walnuts	£6,697
Total	£26,947

Early Years grant

17. The following schemes were funded during 2010-11 through the LAF's Early Years funding.. This funding stream ended in March 2011.

Scheme	Value
Buckingham Puzzle Centre; Resources to Support Picture Exchange Communication System	£588.17
Page Hill Nursery; Speech and Language Training	£2,500
Total	£3,088.17

Report End