



# Report to The Wexham and Ivers Local Area Forum

**Title:** Delegated Budget - Local Priorities

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## **Electoral Divisions**

**Affected:** Alderbourne and Iver

### **1. Purpose of report**

1.1 This report provides information in relation to

- a) The delegated Local Priority budget for Local Area Forums
- b) Expenditure of the Local Priority budget for 2009/2010 approved prior to the formation of the Wexham and Ivers LAF

1.3 Members are asked to **note**

- a) Details of expenditure of the £8,000 Local Priorities delegated budget for 2009/2010 approved by the Head of Service;
- b) As part of the process of developing a Local Area Plan for the Wexham and Ivers LAF area, members will have the opportunity to influence the expenditure of delegated local priority funding for 2010/11 and commission projects to address local priorities.

### **2. Summary**

2.1 In the absence of a Local Area Forum for the Wexham and Iver Local Area, four proposals were approved by the Head of Service for funding from the local priorities budget for 2009/10

- £249 for the Wexham and Stoke Poges NAG burglary awareness leaflet
- £4,000 for the establishment of a Good Neighbour Scheme in the Wexham and Iver Local Area
- £2,861 for the delivery of a programme of youth activities for young people in Iver Heath as part of a community safety initiative
- £890 towards Wexham Football Club running costs and new equipment

### **3. Introduction**

- 3.1 The Local Priorities budget (funded from the area based grant) can be used for any purpose which supports local community priorities and the well-being of the area identified by the relevant LAF through its local area planning process.
- 3.2 Some Buckinghamshire LAFs already have this prioritisation process well underway to support the expenditure of this budget. Other LAFs will have to rely upon common priorities in parish plans and other forms of consultation until they have established their own clear priorities for the local area. The accountable Officer is the Locality Services Manager.

As the Wexham and Iver LAF has not yet undergone the Local Area planning process, proposals for 2009/10 can be assessed against local priorities taken from parish or town plans, the Service Excellence event and or any other appropriate local form of priority determination.

### **4. What Local Priority funding can support**

- 4.1 Activities, events, equipment, feasibility studies, pump-priming or running costs – in fact anything that is legal for a County Council to fund. The budget can also be used in combination with Local Councillors' Community Leadership fund and any other funding devolved to the LAF, or can be partnership funding with any other body.
- 4.2 The proposal must fit with clearly identified priorities within the local area. For example, there must be a clear link to the Local Area Plan, a common theme arising across a number of parish plans, a distinct need in one particular neighbourhood, NAG priorities etc.
- 4.3 The expenditure must also be one-off in nature. It must not commit the LAF or any of its members to ongoing funding unless that has been explicitly agreed and budgeted for.

### **5. Process for allocation**

- 5.1 The time scale and detailed process may vary in detail from LAF to LAF but will initially follow these guidelines: -
- A report to the first LAF with guidelines for the expenditure of the funding
  - That the LAF membership put forward proposals to the Area Co-ordinator at least 8 weeks prior to each LAF meeting
  - The Area Co-ordinator also invites partners and council services to put forward proposals based on known priorities for the local area
  - The Area Co-ordinator and Lead Area Officer with the guidance of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and relevant BCC/partner services, evaluate the feasibility of proposals and their match with local priorities (Local Area Plan, parish plans, etc) and make recommendations to the next LAF meeting.

- Should an unforeseen opportunity arise outside of the LAF meeting cycle, the Locality Service Manager (guided by the Lead Area Officer, LAF Chairman and Vice Chairman) to authorise the expenditure.
- If a proposal has missed the agenda deadline and is so urgent that it cannot wait until the next scheduled LAF meeting, it may be preferable to deal with it as Head of Service decision acting under the guidance of the chair and vice chair outside of the LAF meeting and report back to the LAF in due course.
- If it is a Head of Service decision, the Area Co-ordinator will ensure that any scheme evaluation documentation and a synopsis supporting decisions are maintained on file and readily available.

5.2 In subsequent years, the allocation process will be tied in into Local Area planning of the LAF, enabling a longer lead-in time for the development of proposals and closer linkage with Local Area Plan priorities.

## **6. Local Priorities Funding Conditions**

6.1 Any recommendations for funding of proposals are made subject to the following conditions:

- That the funding can only be used for the purposes described in this report
- Evidence of expenditure and completion of the project must be provided
- The support of the Wexham and Iver Local Area Forum must be acknowledged by the recipient in all relevant publicity
- That the organisation makes itself available for monitoring purposes
- The funding must be spent on activities that will be completed during the current financial year
- If another organisation is going to be funded to do something (grant funding), then the recipient must satisfy standard grant eligibility criteria e.g. a properly constituted organisation with a bank account, equal opportunities policy, CRB checked as appropriate etc.

## **7. Approved Local Priority Funding 2009/2010**

7.1 Four proposals were received for the use of the delegated budget. In order to meet the deadlines for actioning and processing proposals before the 31st March 2010 deadline and in the absence of an appropriate Local Area Forum the proposals have been approved as a Head of Service decision as follows

7.2 The first proposal was received by the local area coordinator in September 2009 from the Wexham and Stoke Poges NAG for funding to support the production, printing and distribution of a Burglary Awareness leaflet as part of its initiative to help reduce burglary in the local area, informing and educating residents on measures they can take to deter burglars. The NAG membership would be responsible for design and distribution of the leaflet. Costs were obtained by the NAG for the production and printing of 3,500 full colour folded leaflets which were submitted to the Area Coordinator.

7.3 The proposal was discussed with the local area County Councillor Ruth Vigor-Hedderley as a member of the NAG and the Locality Services Manager Rebecca Carley who supported the initiative. Funding of £249 was subsequently approved

7.4 Two further proposals were received in November of 2009, which were due to be presented for consideration at the first meeting of the Wexham and Ivers LAF on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009. As this meeting was postponed a decision was required which would enable them if approved to be actioned in January 2010. The proposals were;

7.5 **To support the establishment of a Good Neighbour Scheme in the Wexham and Iver LAF area;**

Age Concern & Adult Social Care are seeking to develop Good Neighbour Schemes across Buckinghamshire. All LAFs are being approached to consider providing funding towards the development of this initiative through funding from the local priorities budget.

Good Neighbour Schemes are local voluntary groups which offer a service in their community to those in need of help & support. Those people who may need the support of good neighbour schemes are likely to be older people, people with disabilities, those in temporarily need through illness or anyone isolated in the community.

The project would encourage, identify, recruit, train and coordinate volunteers in the local community to deliver the service.

Help that this service may include

- Transport to shops, GP, hospital, appointments
- Errands such as shopping, prescriptions
- Household tasks, minor repairs
- Looking after pets, walking pets
- Visiting / Befriending
- Letter writing, form filling
- Reading to partially sighted / blind people
- Signposting to services
- Community activity such as coffee mornings, lunch clubs, trips out and social events.

Each scheme will be set up in a geographical area and managed day to day by one main co-ordinator (with 2 deputies) who recruits a team of volunteers to deliver the help requested by residents, and allocates the tasks and support as required.

Outcomes

- The intention behind these schemes is to reduce isolation/ exclusion/ loneliness / anxiety
- Provide a link / social bond between younger & older community members
- Allow individuals to remain independent

Funding of £4,000 for this scheme to be implemented in the Wexham and Iver Local Area has been approved

- 7.6 **To support a targeted programme of youth activity in Iver Heath;** Bucks County Council, South Bucks District Council community safety teams and Thames Valley Police have been seeking to address issues of community safety in Iver Heath by targeting offenders and supporting vulnerable young people. Supported by the Neighbourhood Police and Community Safety Teams a proposal was received from the SBDC Arts Officer and Iver Youth Worker for funding to provide an interim programme of youth activities aimed at tackling some of the underlying problems within the area as a 'first response' designed to reduce the current wave of anti-social behaviour and provide a 'breathing space' for the community.

The programme will run from January 2010 and provide positive activities targeted at key times when anti-social behaviour may be initiated. The programme of activity includes the following;

#### **Youth Football Sessions**

Friday evening youth football sessions from 18:30 to 19:30 at the all weather pitch at the Evreham Centre,

#### **Boxing Club**

Saturday evening boxing sessions from 7pm – 8pm with a professional ABA coach at a local venue and then monthly visits to an ABA registered Boxing Gym.

#### **Design a Hoodie 2**

A Design a Hoodie session was run in the autumn half term and proved to be a popular success with young people. This second project will consist mainly of female participants where as the first session was mostly males. Supported by South Bucks District Council and relevant coaches, these activities will be controlled by the Iver Youth worker

Relevant County and District Councillors were informed through the District Council and given the opportunity to comment on the proposals which were then submitted to the local area coordinator for consideration. Funding of £2,861 has been approved to enable the projects to be actioned.

- 7.7 A further proposal was received from County Councillor Ruth Vigor Hedderley in December of 2009 for consideration to be given for allocating to Wexham Football Club a contribution towards its running costs including pitch hire and the upgrade of equipment. This would enable the club to continue to develop youth football provision in the area. Run on a voluntary basis, the club provides an important activity in an area where opportunities of this nature are few. A discussion was held by the area coordinator with the club manager and a written proposal was provided. Funding of £890 has subsequently been approved.