

Community Board Funding Streams

Introduction

In 2020/21 it is proposed that there are three funding streams allocated to community boards:

- Community Area Priorities Fund
- Health & Wellbeing Fund (one year only)
- Local Infrastructure Fund

This paper sets out an overview how these funding streams will work.

Applications will be considered separately in relation to each funding stream, owing to the differences in criteria & rules. However, staff supporting the community boards will work with external organisations to help advice on possibilities for match funding from different sources to maximise impact. This includes considering flexibility pan-community board projects that may be supported by neighbouring board areas.

Funding Criteria

Community Area Priorities Fund

The Community Area Priorities Fund is to be used to support local projects which will help improve outcomes for residents that address the area priorities determined by each community board, as well as support the delivery of Buckinghamshire Council's Corporate Plan.

Health & Wellbeing Fund

The Health & Wellbeing Fund is to be used to support local projects will help improve the health & wellbeing of residents.

This is a ring-fenced one-off additional fund provided to community boards, as the funding source is from a public health grant provided by central government (the Department of Health and Social Care).

The same criteria and application process will apply for applications to this fund as per the Community Area Priorities Fund.

However, in addition, applicants must specify how their project will support the health & wellbeing of residents in the respective area in relation to at least one of the following objectives:

- Promoting healthy lifestyles (helping people be more physically active, eat more healthily, reduce their alcohol consumption, reduce levels of smoking).
- Connecting and bringing people together from different parts of the community.
- Improving mental wellbeing including promoting neighbourliness.
- Improving community engagement with disadvantaged and hard to reach groups with a wellbeing focus.
- Helping to create a greener and more sustainable environment for the purpose of improving health and wellbeing.

Local Infrastructure Fund

This fund is to support community infrastructure needs. It can be used to support the upgrading of existing and/or new physical and/or social infrastructure. The funding source is from central government's New Homes Bonus Scheme. There is uncertainty on the continuation of this funding stream from central government beyond 2020/21 and therefore this funding stream cannot be guaranteed indefinitely. Allocations will be made in annual cycles to mitigate this risk.

Budget allocations per community board

Each year the Buckinghamshire Council will confirm the funding amounts allocated to each community board, as the exact amounts may vary.

Each funding stream has a different purpose and therefore there are different formulas for the basis for determining allocations to each community board. An overview of the formulas is provided below:

- *Community Area Priorities Fund*—a minimum base level (2/3rds of the overall budget), plus a top-up based upon population (1/3rds of the overall budget). 2017 mid-year estimates at Local Super Output Area (LSOA) are used as the latest available data
- *Health & Wellbeing Fund*—a minimum base level (2/3rds of the overall budget), plus a top-up based upon deprivation (1/3rds of the overall budget). This approach is proposed as communities with greater social and economic challenges have shorter life expectancy, spend less time in good health, develop multiple long term conditions early and are more likely to be admitted to hospital. The Health and Wellbeing Funding includes a health and wellbeing weighting to help those community boards with greater health challenges in their community to address these. Data is based upon the percentage of the population in a community board area (2017 mid-year estimates) within the 30% most deprived LSOAs in Buckinghamshire (Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 data).
- *Local Infrastructure Fund*—allocations to each community board area based upon the number of new homes in that area. Data is based on the existing adopted or draft published Local Plans.

The funding allocations in 2020/21 are set out in Annex C.

In the first year of operation 2020/21 it is anticipated that funding decisions are likely to be taken later than normal in the financial year, and therefore not all funding will be able to be spent in the same year. Where funding commitments have been agreed these may be carried over for completion in the next financial year, subject to agreement on a case-by-case basis.

Implementation

Key elements of the implementation plan for the grant funding process will include:

- Process—developing detailed forms, timelines, guidance and online information for applicants.
- Staffing—ensuring that staff are recruited with the skills to pro-actively engage with communities to identify and encourage local project applications that will support the community board to address area priorities, including identifying match-funding opportunities.
- Area Priorities—supporting the community boards to set area priorities to inform funding applications.
- Communications—ensuring that all groups are aware of the funding opportunities, with clarity on the area priorities confirmed.

Annex A: Funding Criteria

The criteria below will apply in relation to the area priorities fund and health & wellbeing fund.

All applications must:

- a) Be from an external not-for-profit organisation with a valid bank account (e.g. applications from internal Buckinghamshire Council officers or members will not be considered).
- b) Be for specific time limited and one-off projects.
- c) Show how the funding will be used to support addressing one or more of the area priorities set by the respective community board.
- d) Set out the intended outcomes from the funding.
- e) Demonstrate value for money.
- f) Show how the funding will support one or more of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities.
- g) Set out the intended outcomes from the funding.
- h) Where 'seed' funding is provided, set out a plan for achieving sustainability without being reliant upon further grant funding from this fund.
- i) Provide additional evidence such as audited financial accounts if required upon request.
- j) Show that other sources of funding have been sought and are not available, or that the community board's contribution is an essential part of a multiple funding package. Proposals with match-funding will be prioritised *unless* a proposal can demonstrate that alternative funding is not available.
- k) Complete evaluation form on the outcomes of the project.
- l) Show how the project will benefit communities within the respective community board area.

Applications must not:

- Be used to fund the statutory responsibilities of Buckinghamshire Council.
- Be repeat applications where funding has been provided for the same project.
- Be for political purposes.
- Be for the benefit of a single individual.
- Seek to fund activity which has already taken place.
- Seek to fund activity or facilities which are the primary funding responsibility of another body (e.g. it should not be used for activities normally funded by parish precepts) unless it can be evidenced that the applying organisation is unable to provide the funding itself and has been unable to secure additional funding for the project.
- Seek to fund core staffing or ongoing, updating or maintenance costs of organisations.
- Seek to fund activity aimed at the promotion of political or religious beliefs.
- Be for projects already receiving funding from Buckinghamshire Council.
- Come from a commercial organisation when the purpose is to increase profit making activities.

Other rules and conditions:

- Where match-funding is detailed in an application contributions-in-kind will be considered.
- Additional evidence may be required in line with Buckinghamshire Council's financial regulations e.g. quotations.
- All quotes from suppliers must be on headed paper, from brochures or websites and must be made available on request.

- If your project requires Planning Permission, Building Regulations or any other form of licence approval, this must be sought *before* submitting your application. Any grant will be conditional on approvals being received.
- Applicants must acknowledge Buckinghamshire Council's financial support in any publicity, printed or website material and use the council's approved logo.
- If your application is successful and your project receives a grant, a condition is that you must be able to provide copies of all receipts and invoices associated with your grant upon request as your project may be audited after completion. It is the applicant's responsibility to keep these receipts for three years following completion of the project.
- If your application is successful, funds awarded may only be used for the purpose specified in the application; it is the applicant's responsibility to contact the officers if there are any changes to a project awarded a grant by a community board.
- Community boards will make a significant investment each year into local communities. To ensure investment continues to target the correct projects, we require applicants to complete the agreed project evaluation process. Failure to do so will prevent you from being eligible to apply for a further grant in the future.
- Grant funding must be drawn down within 12 months of the date of the award.
- Each community board can allocate a maximum of 50% of its overall funding from the Community Area Priorities Fund towards transportation projects.

Annex B: Funding Application Process

Pre – Application

- Community board sets Area Priorities & agrees if any breakdown on funding allocations within its budget (e.g. dedicated funding for small grants up to £5,000 as well as larger projects etc...).
- Funding opportunities promoted centrally and locally to the not-for-profit sector.



Submission

- Online applications received only.
- Officer reviews application and conducts eligibility check.
- Officer liaises with applicant.
- Officer secures any internal service assessments needed e.g. all applications requesting transportation works will be assessed by Transport for Bucks (TfB) Network Improvement Team (NIT) for assessment and budget estimate (PID).
- For transport specific schemes the applicant will be sent the PID to review & confirm desire to go ahead with application.



Decision

- Officer report to community board on all applications received, with recommendation on prioritisation.
- Applicants invited to attend the meeting.
- Community board agrees priorities and recommendation (potential for sub-group to consider first).
- Recommendations sent to relevant senior officer for ratification.



Implementation

- Applicants notified & award letters issued.
- Promotions as required.
- Recipients complete evaluation form at end of project.

Note: A detailed timeline for the application process will be developed centrally to enable the effective promotions of grant funding opportunities to local community organisations.

Annex C: Illustration of Funding Allocations 2020/21

The table below sets out allocations for 2020/21 based on the recommended community board geography of 16 community boards. It includes allocations for 2 funding streams – the community area priorities fund and the health & wellbeing fund.

Community Board	Community Area Priorities Fund			Health & Wellbeing Fund			Overall CBTotals
	Base amount	Population top-up	Total	Base amount	Wellbeing top-up	Total	
Amersham	£62,500	£22,204	£84,704	£20,833	£1,860	£22,693	£107,397
Aylesbury	£62,500	£64,939	£127,439	£20,833	£40,748	£61,581	£189,020
Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye	£62,500	£38,456	£100,956	£20,833	£3,382	£24,216	£125,172
Beeches	£62,500	£24,013	£86,513	£20,833	£6,672	£27,506	£114,019
Buckingham & Villages	£62,500	£24,465	£86,965	£20,833	£8,706	£29,540	£116,504
Chesham & Villages	£62,500	£27,514	£90,014	£20,833	£11,979	£32,812	£122,825
Denham, Gerrards Cross and Chalfonts	£62,500	£36,760	£99,260	£20,833	£6,207	£27,040	£126,300
Haddenham and Waddesdon	£62,500	£29,147	£91,647	£20,833	£5,477	£26,310	£117,957
High Wycombe	£62,500	£70,259	£132,759	£20,833	£51,670	£72,503	£205,262
Missendens	£62,500	£13,984	£76,484	£20,833	£0	£20,833	£97,318
North West Chilterns	£62,500	£35,894	£98,394	£20,833	£4,221	£25,055	£123,449
South West Chilterns	£62,500	£34,630	£97,130	£20,833	£11,170	£32,003	£129,134
Wendover	£62,500	£23,515	£86,015	£20,833	£0	£20,833	£106,848
Wexham and Ivers	£62,500	£13,402	£75,902	£20,833	£8,530	£29,363	£105,266
Wing and Minghoe	£62,500	£22,063	£84,563	£20,833	£6,045	£26,879	£111,442
Winslow & Villages	£62,500	£18,754	£81,254	£20,833	£0	£20,833	£102,087
Totals	£1,000,000	£500,000	£1,500,000	£333,333	£166,667	£500,000	£2,000,000

Local Infrastructure Fund Allocations 2020/21

In 2020/21 this overall funding stream is £1.9 million. The amounts below are based upon the number of new houses identified in the existing Local Plans (Wycombe Local Plan; Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan; Aylesbury Vale Local Plan).

Community Board	Proposed Houses	Allocations per Board
Amersham	790	£38,512
Aylesbury	16398	£799,389
Beaconsfield and Chepping Wye	1600	£77,999
Beeches	0	£0
Buckingham & Villages	2859	£139,374
Chesham and Villages	500	£24,375
Denham, Gerrards Cross and Chalfonts	560	£27,300
Haddenham and Waddesdon	1614	£78,681
High Wycombe	2987	£145,614
Missendens	300	£14,625
North West Chilterns	2469	£120,362
South West Chilterns	888	£43,289
Wendover	1942	£94,671
Wexham and Ivers	1450	£70,686
Wing and Ivinghoe	812	£39,584
Winslow and Villages	3806	£185,539
Totals	38975	£1,900,000