

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET - 23 JULY 2015

COUNCILLORS' PRIDE FUND

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR SHAUN DAVIES

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update Members on the delivery of the 'Ward Cooperative Fund' and seek agreement for the delivery and renaming of the fund as a 'Councillors' Pride Fund' for 2015/2016.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Cabinet agree that the 'Ward Cooperative Fund' is renamed 'Councillors' Pride Fund' for 2015/2016
- 2.2 That Cabinet delegate authority to the Community Participation Manager in consultation with the relevant ward member in whose area the application is made to assess and approve if appropriate applications for funding in accordance with the principles set out in paragraph 4.2.4 of this report.
- 2.3 That the Cabinet agree for any funding that has not been allocated to eligible projects under the Councillors' Pride Fund by 31 January 2016 is allocated to community based projects that support the delivery of the Council's priorities.
- 2.4 That the Cabinet delegate authority to allocate funding in accordance with recommendation 2.3 above to the Managing Director in consultation with the Deputy Leader – Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Protection and the Cabinet Member for Business, Neighbourhood and Customer Services.

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	There is potential to contribute to all Council priorities through the delivery of the 'Councillors' Pride Fund'.
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	There is potential to positively impact on a wide range of specific groups of people across all communities and wards.
TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE	Commencement of the 'Councillors' Pride Fund' in July 2015.	
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	Yes	Funding allocated to community based projects as part of the Councillors Pride Fund must be managed within the £108k budget available.

LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	<p>The legal powers to allow the Council to carry out the scheme were identified in the original report to Cabinet dated 23 February 2012.</p> <p>Any decision made by the Authority can be subject to challenge in respect of its reasonableness or lawfulness. It will therefore be necessary to publish and thereafter follow the principles set out at paragraph 4.2.4 of this report to ensure that a robust and transparent assessment process so as to avoid challenge of either the process itself or decisions made.</p> <p>Ongoing legal advice will be provided as necessary in respect of the operation of the scheme and advice can also be provided in respect of individual projects if required.</p>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	The 'Councillors' Pride Fund' will benefit all wards.

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

4.1 Background

4.1.1 The revised arrangements for the delivery of the Ward Cooperative Fund for 2012/2013 were agreed by Cabinet on 23 February 2012. The report provides an update on the delivery of the 'Ward Cooperative Fund' for the last 3 years and outlines proposals for a renaming to 'Councillors' Pride Fund' for 2015/2016.

4.2 Further developing the Ward Cooperative Fund

4.2.1 The 'community fund' for the last 3 years has been delivered through the 'Ward Cooperative Fund'. For 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 this involved the funding being allocated to each ward on the basis of £1,000 per ward member.

4.2.2 Following positive feedback from ward members, town and parish councils and the community the fund was enhanced in 2014/2015 with each ward member being allocated £2,000, funded by Public Health. The additional £1,000 per year was to be spent on environmental themed projects that support the delivery of the aims of the 'Pride in Your Community' programme. All funding was required to demonstrate how it contributes to the 5 Ways to Wellbeing; connect, be active, take notice, keep learning and give.

4.2.3 Over the past 3 years 380 projects, events and groups have received funding. Often by allocating a small amount of funding Members have been able to bring a great deal of additional value to their wards, either through supporting community groups to deliver activities and events, or by investing in small physical improvements that have had a big impact for the community. Many projects have also been match funded by Town and Parish Councils leading to even greater value being achieved. **Appendix 1** details Members spend in 2014/2015 and highlights were match funded was made available.

4.2.4 £108,000 has been set aside within the Council's 2015/2016 budget to delivery the scheme. The principles of the scheme would be as follows;

- Funding be allocated to each ward on the basis of £2,000 per ward member
- At least £1,000 of the allocation to be spent on environmental themed projects
- Proposed projects put forward for funding to demonstrate that they contribute to the 5 Ways of Wellbeing; connect, be active, take notice, keep learning and give
- Ward members would work with their communities to identify local priorities or issues to receive funding
- Delegated authority for allocating funding would be given to the Community Participation Manager in consultation with the relevant ward member
- Funding could be allocated for 2015/2016 up to 31 January 2016
- Funding that is not allocated by 31 January 2016 can be re-allocated to community projects that support the delivery of Council priorities, all funding will need to be allocated by 31 March 2016

4.2.5 It is proposed that the Engagement and Equalities Manager launch the scheme in early August 2015 in consultation with the Deputy Leader - Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Health and Public Protection and the Cabinet Member for Business, Neighbourhoods and Customer Services based on the principles outlined above. Additional support will be offered, if needed, to newly elected ward members to help them understand and allocate the fund.

4.2.6 In previous years some ward members have not utilised their full allocation of Ward Cooperative Funding. It is proposed that any funding that has not been committed by the 31 January 2016 will be reallocated to support community based projects that support the delivery of Council priorities. The decision regarding this funding will be made by the Managing Director in consultation with the Deputy Leader – Cabinet Member for Housing, Public Protection and the Cabinet Member for Business, Neighbourhood and Customer Services. All funding will need to be allocated by 31 March 2016.

4.2.7 Information on which projects/groups are funded by ward members will be published on individual Member's pages which will demonstrate our Council values of openness and honesty.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None

6 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cabinet – 9 January 2014 – Report – 'Everyday Telford Pride in Your Community Programme' – investing in our infrastructure and communities

Cabinet – 23 February 2012 – Report – A cooperative approach to working with the Community

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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