

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC REPORT

Report to: Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership
Report of: Corporate Director - Place and Leader of the City Council

Date of Decision: 23 November 2017
SUBJECT: LOCAL INNOVATION FUND – WARD INNOVATION PROPOSALS

Key Decision: No
If not in the Forward Plan: Chief Executive approved ☐
(please "X" box) O&S Chair approved ☐
Relevant Cabinet Member(s) Leader Cllr. Ian Ward,
Relevant O&S Chair: Cllr. Aikhlaq – Chair of Corporate Resources and Governance O & S Committee
Wards affected: ALL

1. Purpose of report:

- 1.1 To present the submitted Ward Innovation Proposals for approval
- 1.2 To update Committee of the financial position on LIF at Month 7 (October) 2017/18
- 1.3 To update Committee on the progress of LIF and the external evaluation of the Programme

2. Decision(s) recommended:

That the Cabinet Committee Local Leadership

- 1. Approve the 5 Ward LIF Proposals as outlined in **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2** , totalling **£75,174**
- 2. Note the financial position on LIF as at the end of Month 7 (end of October) 2017/18. As detailed in **Appendix 3**
- 3 Note the progress of LIF and the details of the external evaluation of the Programme

Lead Contact Officer(s):

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Place Directorate

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3. Consultation

3.1 Internal

Senior Officers in the Place Directorate, Legal Services and Finance have been involved in the preparation of this report.

3.2 External

As part of the LIF Process Ward Members should be holding local ward meetings, to engage with key local community stakeholders and residents in order to discuss and agree priorities that fit the LIF criteria and then develop ward proposals

4. Compliance Issues:

4.1 Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council's policies, plans and strategies?

The recommendations are fully consistent with the Council's policies, plans and policies. The Business Plan and Budget adopted by Full Council in March 2016 committed the Council to "to develop a new approach to devolution within the city, with a focus on empowering people and giving them influence over local services".

4.2 Financial Implications

The Business Plan and Budget 2016+ that was agreed on 1 March 2016 approved an annual budget of £2M from 2016/17 to fund the Local Innovation Fund. It has subsequently been proposed that the £2m allocation is spread over 2016/17 and 2017/18 and will cease thereafter.

The Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership at the inaugural meeting in September 2016 approved the process for LIF and that each Ward would have £48K per annum with £80K towards the NDSU support costs

To date 83 (78 previously plus 5 presented today) finalised Ward Proposals have been submitted for

Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership approval totalling **£1,314,629**

At the end of Month 7 2017/18 (October), the total expenditure spend (as opposed to allocated) that has been incurred against the LIF budget for Ward Proposals totals **£437,955** (as shown on Voyager) . This includes £124,000 for financial year 2016/17 and £313,955 for this financial year 2017/18.

4.3 Legal Implications

Section 151 of the 1972 Local Government Act requires the Strategic Director of Finance and Legal (as the responsible officer) to ensure proper administration of the City Council's financial affairs. Budgetary control, which includes the regular monitoring of and reporting on budgets, is an essential requirement placed on directorates and members of Corporate Management Team by the City Council in discharging the statutory responsibility. This report meets the City Council's requirements on budgetary control for the specified area of the City Council's Directorate activities.

4.4 Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no additional specific Equality Duty or Equality Analysis issues beyond any already assessed and detailed in the budget setting process and monitoring issues that have arisen in the year to date. Any specific assessments will be made by the Directorates in the management of their services.

5. Relevant background/chronology of key events:

- 5.1 The Business Plan and Budget 2016+ that was agreed on 1 March 2016 approved an annual budget of £2M from 2016/17 to fund the Local Innovation Fund. It has subsequently been proposed that the £2m allocation is spread over 2016/17 and 2017/18 and will cease thereafter.
- 5.2 On 20th September 2016, Cabinet Committee Local Leadership, received and approved the report entitled "Establishment of the Local Innovation Fund" which set out the criteria and governance arrangements for L.I.F. an overall budget of £2m.
- 5.3 The Neighbourhood Development and Support Unit within Place Directorate developed, support and administer the L.I.F. process, for which a contribution of £0.080m was approved at Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership in September 2016.
- 5.4 The budget of £1.92m is to finance ward innovative initiatives. The Unit will support all Wards across the city at their stakeholder meetings discussing priorities for spend and developing ward proposals. The Unit have developed a series of supporting information for all Councillors and Wards including a regular update on "Investing in Neighbourhoods Funding Opportunities" and a Sample Example of a Ward Proposal (distributed at the Cabinet Committee- Local Leadership in December 2016)
- 5.5 Ward Proposals for innovation are continuing to be developed across the City at ward meetings with a wide range of community stakeholders. Proposals meeting LIF criteria, supported and signed off by Ward Members will be submitted to Cabinet Committee - Local Leadership for approval. There are 5 new Proposals being submitted this month as outlined in Appendices 1 and 2.

- 5.6 Cabinet Committee Local Leadership has received regular financial monitoring reports now spend has started. As of the end of Period 7 (October) there is a total allocation of **£1,239,555** for both financial years 2016/17 and 2017/18. If all proposals are approved today by Committee there will be an additional **£75,174** allocated.

Total £1,314,629

- 5.7 As approved at Cabinet Committee Local Leadership – June 28th 2017 there is now a multi – ward proposal process in operation. Individual ward proposals still need to be agreed and signed off by the appropriate ward(s) councillors but once the project has been agreed in principle at Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership then subsequent ward proposals for the same project may be approved by a delegated decision rather than having to be re-presented at a later Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership meetings.
- 5.8 Also approved at Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership – June 28th 2017 was that all Ward Proposals need to have gone through the full process and submitted to Cabinet Committee –Local Leadership **by the December meeting on 20/12/17.**
- 5.9 The NDSU have commissioned Linxs Consultancy to undertake an external evaluation of the LIF Programme, November 2017 –January 2018 and will be interviewing a wide range of stakeholders including LIF funded projects, Officers and Councillors. Introductory correspondence and a short electronic survey have already been sent to all city councillors.

6. Evaluation of alternative option(s):

- 6.1 During the year the financial position on the Local Innovation Fund will continue to be closely monitored.

Other options for taking forward LIF were discussed but it was finally decided that it was most important that it was given a Ward focus with the emphasis on a :Better Deal for Neighbourhoods” and “Every Place Matters

7. Reasons for Decision(s):

- 7.1 To action the spend of Ward LIF proposals as part of a clear strategic approach to investing at neighbourhood level, to assist in the development of strong and sustainable social capital and to act as a catalyst to encourage and stimulate local innovative asset based approaches
- 7.2 The report also informs Cabinet Committee Local Leadership of the L.I.F. financial monitoring position at the end of October 2017.

Signatures

Date

Cabinet Member

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Cllr Ian Ward – Council Leader

Chief Officer


Jacquie Kennedy, Corporate Director - Place

14/11/17.....

List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:

Report to Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership on 20 September 2016 –“Establishment of the Local Innovation Fund”

(All background documents and discussion papers are readily available on request)

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):

1. Ward LIF Proposals x 5 for approval
2. Ward LIF Proposals and amounts for approval
3. Financial Information

Report Version 3

**Dated
13/11/17**