

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC REPORT

Report to:	Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership
Report of:	STRATEGIC DIRECTOR PLACE AND LEADER
Date of Decision:	20 September 2016
SUBJECT:	ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LOCAL INNOVATION FUND
Key Decision: No	Relevant Forward Plan Ref: N/A
If not in the Forward Plan: (please "X" box)	Chief Executive approved <input type="checkbox"/> O&S Chairman approved <input type="checkbox"/>
Relevant Cabinet Member(s) or Relevant District Committee Chair:	ALL ALL
Relevant O&S Chairman:	Cllr Aikhlaq, Chair of Corporate Resources and Governance O&S Committee
Wards affected:	ALL

1. Purpose of report:
<p>1.1. To outline the methodology and criteria for the use of the Local Innovation Fund as outlined in Appendices 1 and 2.</p> <p>1.2. To outline the governance and decision making arrangements for the programme linked to the emerging model for local leadership.as outlined in Appendices 2 and 3.</p> <p>1.3. That the budget available for spend on LIF projects will be £2m per annum.</p>

2. Decisions recommended:
<p>That the Cabinet Committee:</p> <p>2.1 Approve the methodology and criteria for the Local Innovation Fund.</p> <p>2.2 Approve the governance and decision making process for the programme.</p> <p>2.3 Approve the budget allocation of £2M per annum with the caveat that there may be a review on all spending in 2018.</p>

Lead Contact Officer(s):	<p>Karen Cheney Lead Officer – Community Governance and Support Neighbourhood and Communities Division Tel 0121 675 8519</p> <p>Chris Jordan Head of Service Integration Neighbourhoods & Communities Division Tel: 0121 303 6674</p>
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3. Consultation

3.1 Internal

The proposals set out in this report have been presented to the Leader, Assistant Leaders and all 3 Political Party Groups.

3.2 External

The original ideas about a Local Innovation Fund were discussed at a Future Council joint internal and external stakeholders meeting in October 2015.

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.

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". The work of the Cabinet Committee will take forward the next stage of an evolutionary process which began in 2015/16 with initial changes to the role of districts and the creation of Sutton Coldfield Town Council. This stage will conclude in 2018 with the switch to all out elections and new ward boundaries.

4.2 Financial Implications

The Business Plan and Budget 2016+ that was agreed by City Council on 1 March 2016 approved an annual budget of £2M on an ongoing basis from 2016/7 to fund the Local Innovation Fund. The Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership will be presented with regular financial performance reports on the progress of expenditure. The Report has been agreed by Finance.

4.3 Legal Implications

The Cabinet Committee will operate within the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, which gives the Executive the power to appoint committees for the exercise of defined responsibilities and functions and in accordance with Article 5(d) of the City Council's Constitution. The role of the Committee and of the Assistant Leaders is also outlined in Part B of the City Council's Constitution. The constitutional changes referred to in Part B of the Constitution have been approved by Full Council. Report cleared by Legal Services.

4.4 Public Sector Equality Duty

Policies developed by the Committee will be subject to the public sector Equality Duty and impact assessments will be carried out as appropriate. A screening assessment has indicated no issues.

5. Relevant background/chronology of key events:

5.1

- Use of the Local Innovation Fund (LIF) seeks to invest in transformative local innovation by introducing a radical new approach of investing in neighbourhoods using an asset based approach and supporting and strengthening local social capital that enables different people to do different things in different ways to make better places to live rather than the continuation of a one – off grants based approach.
- The emphasis is on local rather than service prioritising “Every Place Matters” and a “Better Deal for Neighbourhoods”.
- LIF will link into the City’s overriding priorities but will also have the emphasis on strengthening communities and supporting active citizenship i.e. communities stepping up to the challenge.
- It is also the intention to keep the process as simple as possible with as little red tape and bureaucracy as possible.
- It is a ward based locally led initiative through collaborative community partnerships at the ward meeting level with local councillors facilitating the process as part of their local leadership role (Guidance has been produced to assist local councillors – Appendix 4).

- The proposal for a Local Innovation Fund was originally referenced in the new arrangements to the Constitution – District and Ward Responsibilities in May 2015 and linked with the Evolution of Devolution Discussion papers –as part of the Future Council Local Leadership Board 2015-16.
- A very early preliminary Joint internal and external stakeholders LIF workshop was held in October 2015 to help shape the Framework for the new fund.
- A Draft Options Paper for the use of LIF was written and presented at the Future Council Local Leadership Board in March 2016 following discussions with key stakeholders including Members, Officers and Community Groups.
- Discussions also took place at the inaugural Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership and with the newly appointed Assistant Leaders – July 2016.
- Presentations have been made to all 3 Political Party Groups outlining LIF and the core criteria and guidance by Assistant Leaders –Aug 2016.
- Final Core Criteria and Guidance, Diagram and Application Form have been produced (as per appendices 1-4).
- The Community Governance and Support Team will support and administer the process and its future development and income maximisation. A small amount of LIF money, (£80K per annum) has been set aside for this purpose.
- It is intended that once proposals are developed and proposal forms completed they will be brought back to the Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership on a monthly basis for approval.
- Several Member Development sessions on LIF are currently being organised for October 2016 to assist with any queries and support the development of innovative proposals.

6. Evaluation of alternative option(s):

- 6.1 Other options for taking forward LIF have been discussed but it was finally politically 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 put into effect the Local Innovation Fund as
- part of a clear strategic approach to investing at a neighbourhood level
 - To assist in the development of strong and sustainable social capital
 - Act as a catalyst to encourage and stimulate local innovative asset based approaches
 - Agree arrangements for supporting the process

Signatures

Date

John Clancy
Council Leader

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Jacqui Kennedy
Acting Strategic Director - Place

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List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:

- From Civic to Civil Discussion Paper – Highbury Conference 2015
- Social Innovation Zones Discussion Paper – SU4B Summer 2015
- Notes from Stakeholder Workshop October 2015
- Options for the Use of the Local Innovation Fund 2016/17 Discussion Paper –March 2016 – (written as part of the Future Council – Local Leadership Board)

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

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Diagram to show Local Innovation Background and Resource allocation
- Appendix 2 – Core Criteria and Guidance
- Appendix 3 –Proposal Form
- Appendix 4 - Guidance on Good Practice Ideas

Report Version

Dated