

Report to:	YARDLEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE
Report of:	YARDLEY DISTRICT LEAD
Date of Decision:	28TH January 2016
SUBJECT:	FOX HOLLIES NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM GRANT 2015/16
Key Decision: Yes / No	Relevant Forward Plan Ref:
If not in the Forward Plan: (please "X" box)	Chief Executive approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	O&S Chairman approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Type Of Decision:	Local Executive
Relevant Cabinet Member(s):	Councillor Ian Ward – Deputy Leader
Relevant O&S Chairman:	Councillor Zafar A Iqbal
Wards Affected:	Acocks Green Ward

1. Purpose of report:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to receive the annual reports of the Fox Hollies Neighbourhood Forum and to authorise the award of the annual grant of £1200 towards the forum administrative costs.
- 1.2 The City Council has supported the establishment of Neighbourhood Forums as a mechanism for ensuring local people can influence the way local decisions are made. The role of the District Committee is to consider whether a local Neighbourhood Forum should be recognised for partnership purposes & to approve, if appropriate, a small grant.
- 1.3 This matter was not included in the Forward Plan because it is a local decision.

2. Decision(s) recommended:

- 2.1 That the District Committee recognises Fox Hollies Neighbourhood Forum and notes their annual report and accounts and request the Neighbourhood Forum to continue to provide representation to Acocks Green Ward Committee and partnerships as appropriate.
- 2.2 That the District Committee authorise the award of a grant of £1200 to be paid from the 2015/16 Neighbourhood Forum Grant budget to Fox Hollies Neighbourhood Forum to help with running costs for the forth coming Neighbourhood Forum financial year. The award of grant is subject to Fox Hollies Neighbourhood Forum meeting the Council's Condition of Grant Aid terms and conditions. This grant comes from the Neighbourhood Forum Mainstream Grants allocation and not Ward Committee allocations.
- 2.3 That the District Committee requests that the Neighbourhood Forum provides advance notification of its next Annual General Meeting to the Neighbourhood Forums' Link Officer so that assistance can be given in advertising the meeting to all residents
- 2.4 That the District Committee authorise the Neighbourhood Forum Link Officer to process the grant in accordance with Conditions of Grant Aid procedures and the City Council's Financial Regulations, as appropriate.

Lead Contact Officer(s):	Mohammed Irfan: Yardley Neighbourhood Forum Support Officer
Telephone No & Email Address:	0121 464 9095 / Mohammed.Irfan@birmingham.gov.uk

3.	Consultation
	Consultation should include those that have an interest in the decisions recommended
3.1	<u>Internal</u> Acocks Green Ward Elected Members have been properly and meaningfully consulted on this report, together with relevant officers.
3.2	<u>External</u> Fox Hollies Neighbourhood Forum held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 5 th August 2015. Residents from the neighbourhood forum catchment area were invited and the minutes of the AGM are attached. Attendance sheets show that 25 members of the public were in attendance at the AGM.
4.	Compliance Issues:
4.1	<u>Are the recommended decisions consistent with the Council's policies, plans and strategies?</u> This report is in line with Birmingham's Sustainable Community Strategy and the Council Business Plan and Budget 2014 plus
4.2	<u>Financial Implications (Will decisions be carried out within existing finances and Resources?)</u> Yes. The grant that is payable to the Fox Hollies Neighbourhood Forum and will not come from any ward budget but from a central budget allocation specifically for funding Neighbourhood Forum grant applications. The total grant allocation is £1200 which is based on households in the defined forum area.
4.3	<u>Legal Implications</u> Section 1 Localism Act 2011 gives the City Council a general power of competence where the function is not otherwise prohibited. District Committee has the delegated decision-making powers concerning Neighbourhood Forum funding within the District under the constitution
4.4	<u>Public Sector Equality Duty</u> Elected Members are required to have due regard to the Equality Act and to its public sector equality duty. Neighbourhood forums were established in order to engage with all sections of the local community, each neighbourhood forum is required to have an equal opportunities statement contain within their constitution.

5.	Relevant background/chronology of key events:
5.1	Since 1991, when District Committees were first established, the City Council has supported the establishment of Neighbourhood Forums as an important mechanism for ensuring that local people can influence the way in which decisions are made for their neighbourhoods. This approach was endorsed by the Local and Neighbourhood Advisory Team (April 2000).
5.2	The role of the District Committee is to consider whether the Neighbourhood Forum should be recognised for partnership bodies, and if appropriate confirms an annual grant.
5.3	The Council continue to provide developmental support to Birmingham Neighbourhood Forums and in September 2012 launched "The Know-How Guide for Neighbourhood Forums" which aims to bring together useful information and advice about running a successful Neighbourhood Forum. The guide covers topics such as developing a constitution, keeping in touch with members, running meetings and events, and leading projects and campaigns. The guide is complemented by the website - www.theneighbourhood.info - which provides additional resources for forums, such as template documents for policies and procedures, and information about how to claim a support grant from Birmingham City Council.
5.4	The process for a Neighbourhood Forum to claim a grant has been refreshed in line with the Council's Grant Funding Framework and Toolkit for third sector organisations- mandatory policies & process for awarding grants (April 2011).
5.5	To qualify for a grant Neighbourhood Forums must complete the Neighbourhood Forum's Grant application Form and submit along with requested supporting documents e.g. copy of forum's constitution, forum's independently examined accounts, most recent bank statement, approved AGM minutes, equal opportunities policy & safeguarding policy.

6.	Evaluation of alternative option(s):
6.1	The establishment and continuing support of Neighbourhood Forums is consistent with the Council Plan priorities.

7.	Reasons for Decision(s):
7.1	The operation of the Neighbourhood Forum has followed the existing protocol and it is necessary for the District committee to consider whether it wishes to endorse continued membership bodies and to award a further grant to the Fox Hollies Neighbourhood Forum.

Signatures	<u>Date</u>
Cabinet Member or Executive Member for Local Services or Ward Committee Chairman
Chief Officer :

List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:

- The Establishment of Neighbourhood Forums April 2000
- Neighbourhood Forum Grant Application Form.

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):

- Minutes Of Annual General Meeting
- Annual Accounts Year
- Fox Hollies Neighbourhood Forum Grant Application Form

Report Version	1	Dated	24 th January 2016
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