

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**PUBLIC REPORT**

Report to:	LADYWOOD DISTRICT COMMITTEE	
Report of: Date of Decision:	Head of Ladywood District – Lesley Poulton 10 NOVEMBER 2015	
SUBJECT:	CITY CENTRE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM GRANT	
Key Decision: No	Relevant Forward Plan Ref:	
If not in the Forward Plan: (please "X" box)	Chief Executive approved N/A O&S Chairman approved N/A	
Relevant Cabinet Member(s):	Local Executive Member for Local Services, Councillor Ziaul Islam	
Relevant O&S Chairman:	Chairman of Districts and Public Engagement, Councillor Waseem Zaffar	
Wards affected:	Ladywood Ward	

1. Purpose of report:
1.1 To receive the annual reports of the City Centre Neighbourhood Forum and to authorise the award of the annual grant of £900 towards the Forum's administrative costs.
1.2 The City Council has supported the establishment of Neighbourhood Forums as one of a number of mechanisms to allow local people to 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 and to approve, if appropriate, a small grant.

2. Decision(s) recommended:
2.1 That the Committee recognises the City Centre Neighbourhood Forum and notes its annual report and accounts (Attached)
2.2 That the Committee requests the Neighbourhood Forum to continue to provide representation to the Ladywood Ward Forum and other consultative group and partnership bodies, as appropriate.
2.3 That the Committee authorises the award of a grant of £900 to be paid to the City Centre Neighbourhood Forum to help with running costs for the 2015/16 financial year. The award of grant is subject to City Centre Neighbourhood Forum meeting the Council's Condition of Grant Aid terms and conditions.
2.4 That the Committee requests the Neighbourhood Forum to provide 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

- 2.5 That the District Committee authorise the Neighbourhood Forum Link Officer to process the grant in accordance with the Conditions of Grant Aid procedures and the City Council's Financial Regulations, as appropriate.

Lead Contact Officer(s):	Pat Whyte Neighbourhood Forum Link Officer
Telephone No: E-mail address:	0121 303 5674 Pat.Whyte @birmingham.gov.uk

3. Consultation

Consultation should include those that have an interest in the decisions recommended

3.1 Internal

Ladywood District Elected Members have been properly and meaningfully consulted on this report, together with relevant officers.

3.2 External

The City Centre Neighbourhood Forum held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 28 February 2015. Residents from the Neighbourhood Forum catchment area were invited and the minutes of the AGM record that 39 members of the public were in attendance.

4. Compliance Issues:

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

This report is in line with Birmingham's Sustainable Community Strategy 2026 and the Council Business Plan and Budget 2015.

4.2 Financial Implications (Will decisions be carried out within existing finances and resources?)

Yes. The grant that is payable to the City Centre Neighbourhood Forum is at the same level as in previous years, i.e. £900 based on number of households (4100) in the defined Forum area and this amount will come from a central budget allocation set aside for this specific purpose.

4.3 Legal Implications

Section 1 Localism Act 2011 gives the City Council a general power of competence where the function is not otherwise prohibited. The District Committee has the delegated decision-making powers concerning Neighbourhood Forum funding within the District, under the constitution

4.4 Public Sector Equality Duty

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, and each Forum is required to have an equal opportunities statement contained within their constitution.

5. Relevant background/chronology of key events:

- 5.1 Since 1991 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, and to confirm an annual grant.
- 5.3 The Council has provided developmental support to Birmingham Neighbourhood Forums and in September 2012 launched "The know-how guide for Neighbourhood Forums" 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 a 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.
- 5.3 The process through which a Neighbourhood Forum can 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).
- To qualify for a grant, Neighbourhood Forums must complete the application form and submit it along with supporting documents e.g. copy of the Forum's constitution, independently examined accounts, most recent bank statement, approved AGM minutes, equal opportunities policy, and safeguarding policy.

6. Evaluation of alternative option(s):

- 6.1 The establishment of and continuing support to Neighbourhood Forums is consistent with the Council Plan priorities.

7. Reasons for Decision(s):

- 7.1 The operation of the City Centre Neighbourhood Forum has followed the existing protocol and it is necessary for the Committee to consider whether it wishes to endorse it and award a further grant.

Signatures**Date**

Executive Member for Local Services
Ladywood District

Chief Officer:

List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:

The Establishment of Neighbourhood Forums April 2000

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):

1. City Centre Neighbourhood Forum - AGM 2015 Minutes
2. City Centre Neighbourhood Forum – Grant Expenditure Analysis to 30 December 2014

Report Version	1	Dated	29 October 2015
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