BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL LOCAL INNOVATION FUND "Doing things differently in neighbourhoods to make better places to live" **PROPOSAL FORM** INNOVATION TITLE 'The Clean-up Club' WARD East Handsworth & Lozells Innovations have to meet the LIF priorities and add value to the City wide core priorities listed below. (Tick all those that apply) **LIF Priorities** City Core Priorities • Citizens' Independence & Children - a Great Well Being 🗸 City to Grow Up In • New approaches to investment Jobs & Skills Active citizens & communities Housing for stepping up 🗸 Birmingham Clean streets Health 🗸 Improving local centres What is your innovative idea and how does it show collaborative, partnership working and active citizenship? The title of the project is 'The Clean-Up Club'. Handsworth Helping Hands (HHH)* will test the practical idea of establishing children's 'clean-up clubs', building on trust developed with people of all ages starting in two small streets where HHH has had continuing commitments with residents since early 2016.** The streets chosen for the pilot phase of the project are 'unadopted', which means they do not qualify for local authority street sweeping services. Both are cul-de-sacs without through traffic. 'The Clean-Up Club' project will entail collaborating with residents and their children. We hope also to pilot the scheme in one local school, with a focus on keeping the school environment clean and tidy. Children will learn about recycling and correct use of BCC recycling bins. They will be provided with equipment necessary for dealing with litter in their street/school; recycling where appropriate. Children will be encouraged to deal with large items and fly-tipping by reporting it to HHH for removal. They will also learn about referring dumped waste problems to BCC, and will be encouraged to pass on their knowledge to parents and their neighbours. Another aspect that will be introduced, and, hopefully, passed on to parents and neighbours, is learning about reducing waste going to land-fill and incineration, with focus on up-cycling and re-use, and how unwanted, but still usable items can be passed on to others by referring to parents or to HHH for rehoming via social media and city charities, such as the Red Cross shop at Newtown.

Subject to satisfactory demonstration to ensure they meet our requirements, HHH will purchase two *Hako M600* walk-behind manually powered street-sweepers. Children taking part in the project will be trained in their correct use, and will use them, with adult supervision, on pavements, school playgrounds and other suitable areas.

Streets will be 'inspected' in stages, after one week, one month, three months and six months. Children will earn 'Clean Street' certificates and small rewards, depending on inspection results.

The pilot school and any school subsequently involved will be encouraged to participate in a class or whole-school Waste Education Programme, for which HHH will employ a suitably qualified/experienced person who will give talks in participating schools, HHH providing necessary materials such as posters, slideshow, etc. Schools will be encouraged to do a 'waste' project, involving as many curriculum areas as possible. Children will be given leaflets/booklets to take home to parents, and will be asked to talk about the project with their parents. HHH will include a recycling questionnaire, children can do with parents for homework, and HHH will organize a 'waste and recycling' quiz and poster design with slogan, video, song and poem competitions with prizes. Schools will be provided with a number of children's books on waste management and sustainability.

On completion of the pilot, the project will be extended to incorporate further streets and schools. Lessons learned during the pilot may require adjustments to be made to the way the extended project is delivered.

*Handsworth Helping Hands (HHH), formed in 2010, is a voluntary group committed to improving the quality of life in Handsworth by carrying out environmental work such as street clean-ups and clearing and planting public spaces, by helping residents with jobs they can't or don't have the means to do for themselves, and by legally disposing of waste and recycling materials and items such as furniture and toys we find on the street or which are donated. We support charities such as Red Cross and SIFA Fireside

**To try to learn why areas that HHH and some residents had cleaned and tidled kept returning to their original messy state within weeks, HHH won a small grant (£2160) from *Birmingham Community Safety Partnership, Mobilising Communities Small Grants Fund 2015-16*, to focus, through research and longer term engagement, on the challenge of working with smaller groups of residents over a year in four streets with fewer than 20 addresses in each.

Time Frame - is it:-

One off event/programme N/A

Implement and complete within 6 months (2016) N/A

Implement and complete within 12 months (2017) A 12 month pilot and project extension, starting June 2017, with the hope that the enthusiasm engendered, and benefits seen, will sustain this innovation into the future, and make it more possible to pioneer 'The Clean-Up Club' approach in other local streets and schools.

How will the innovation be implemented?

- The project will be implemented and managed by members of *Handsworth Helping Hands* (HHH) charitable voluntary group*.
- Initial meetings will be held to explain the project and identify children and parents who wish to be involved.
- HHH will supply basic kit, demonstrate its correct use, and explain to participants the correct use of recycling bins.
- The project will begin with an initial street clean-up overseen by HHH volunteers.
- HHH volunteers will make frequent spot checks on progress, with 'inspections' at the designated intervals.
- HHH resources, including van, will be available for handling problems the children cannot (e.g. heavy objects, toxic waste).
- Photos and news about each 'Clean-up Club' will, with permissions, be posted on Handsworth Helping Hands' facebook page.
- *Our work with children and vulnerable people is regulated via DBS checks on those holding HHH committee posts and our 'Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy' which can be viewed under 'files' on the toolbar of our *Facebook* page https://www.facebook.com/groups/334430036631024/files/

What outcomes will the proposal achieve? What will success look like and how will its impact be measured? How will you ensure legacy/continuation and what learning will the project provide?.

Success will look like clean and tidy streets and frontages on an enduring basis.

Members of each 'Clean-up Club' - children, parents and neighbours - will have helped one another continue the idea, treating the area outside their homes as *their* neighbourhood. Legacy cannot be assured, but learning will include identifying what works and what doesn't in helping evolve, strengthen and maintain communities of *place*.

HHH experience with both success and failure will be applied in the pilot streets and elsewhere. The environment of any school involved will be clean and tidy. Children will be aware of how to deal with waste and recycling, and will have passed this knowledge to parents.

More BCC household waste bins and recycling bins will be used correctly.

Children and parents will have a greater awareness of the state of the local environment, and will know the channels to pursue should they have concerns regarding flytipping and littering. Children and parents will learn more about the work of local council staff who strive, in difficult circumstances, to keep our streets clean and our waste collected.

Children and parents will know more about re-use as an alternative to sending items to landfill and how to dispose of and acquire reusable items.

Have you considered other sources of funding and whether the project can be used to leverage further funding from elsewhere (please specify funding sources)?

No. We have obtained funding from the *Handsworth Charity* for maintaining our van, including fuel, RFL and MOT and from other sources such as our local Tasking group and the Ward for skips, needs which are not covered by Local Innovation Fund criteria. Small donations from residents in the local area make a continuing contribution to the running of the HHH van.

'The Clean-Up Club' has the potential to grow and to leave an educational legacy that can

spread beyond its initial focus. HHH will be contributing substantially 'in kind', via 'volunteer hours'. HHH has a track record of delivering what it sets out to do. We learn from our failures as well as our successes and as a trustworthy 'pair of hands' we are confident that getting 'Clean-Up Clubs' off the ground will place us in a good position to gain further funding.

What resources will be required? For the initial two small streets and at least one school:

40 litter pickers	(20 x 54cm,	20 x 60cm) £100
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Children's incentive - staged rewards	£90
30 hi-viz waistcoats	£60
30 pairs children's work gloves	£75
30 litter collection bins	£30
30 brooms	£30
30 dustpans and brushes	£30
Half tank of fuel for project van	£35

Amount required from LIF £450

2 x Hako M600 Street-sweepers at £350 each £700

Composition and printing of booklets £300

Waste Education Programme £1050

Remuneration for talks in schools Books, posters, photographs Competition prizes

Total £2,500

Have you got any match funding – in cash or in kind? Volunteer time, use of HHH van (running costs £2000 approx. per annum), use of HHH tools as necessary

Contact person for proposal

Name Linda Baddeley (Hon Treasurer, HHH)

Telephone 0121 554 9794 & 07471 194404

E-mail lindabaddeley1@yahoo.co.uk>

Which residents or community groups was the proposal discussed with and when (please give details of any meetings and which councillors attended)?

Councillors are aware of the project and the general nature of our activities and the results achieved, alone and in partnership with residents. We have briefed managers at BCC Fleet & Waste, with whom HHH is a regular partner. Midland Heart, who have withdrawn most of their neighbourhood liaison staff in the recent years, but who own a significant proportion of properties in 'The Clean-Up Club' streets, have been informed of our bid.

The parent-liaison teacher at Westminster School has expressed an interest in the school taking part. One of our first meetings will be with her and parents.

Discussed at Ward meeting at Welford School

