

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**EDUCATION, LIBRARIES AND LOCALISM CABINET PANEL**

**TUESDAY, 20 JUNE 2017 AT 2:00PM**

**LOCALITY BUDGET SCHEME 2016/17 – OVERALL BREAKDOWN OF SPEND**

*Report of the Assistant Director of Customer Engagement and Libraries*

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Executive Member: Terry Douris, Education, Libraries and Localism

**1. Purpose of report**

1.1 To provide the Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel with a breakdown of overall spend against the 2016/17 Locality Budget Scheme, and information collected about the use and effectiveness of the scheme.

**2. Summary**

2.1 The Locality Budget Scheme (LBS), launched in 2009, allocated each elected member of the County Council with £10,000 to support projects that would benefit local communities within their electoral division.

2.2 Since the scheme was launched, over £5.5 million has been spent on over 8,500 projects, events and schemes.

2.3 In 2016/17, as decided by County Council on 23rd February 2016, Members each had only £5,000 to allocate through the scheme, with the other £5,000 being contributed to a central fund for additional 'housekeeping' works on the highway. It was also agreed that any unspent monies from 2015/16 would be carried forward to 2016/17.

2.4 As a result, the total budget available in 2016/17 was £498,678 instead of the £770,000 with individual members having between £5,000 and £14,543 (due to carry-forwards from 2015/16). For the first time the entire budget was allocated through 894 grants to a variety of local organisations.

### **3. Recommendation**

3.1 For the Panel to note the report.

### **4. Overview of expenditure**

4.1 The 2016/17 Locality Budget year was unusual for three reasons.

4.2 First, County Council on 23rd February 2016 agreed that members would each have £5,000 to allocate through the scheme in 2016/17, with the other £5,000 being contributed to a central fund for additional 'housekeeping' works on the highway.

4.3 It was also agreed that any unspent monies from 2015/16 would be carried forward to 2016/17.

4.4 In practice this resulted in a carry-over of £113,678 giving a total available budget for the 2016/17 year of £498,678– 65% of the budget available in previous years.

4.5 The carry forward also meant that individual budgets available to members varied, from £5,000 for the 34 members who had spent all of their 2015/16 budgets, to an average of £7,644 for members who had underspent in the previous year. 11 members had budgets of over £10,000 each.

4.6 Secondly, due to county council elections in May, the year was roughly a month shorter, ending on 13th February 2017.

4.7 And thirdly – for the first time - the entire budget was spent, every member spending their entire allocation.

4.8 Not unexpectedly, the number of grants fell, from an average of around 1,100 per year in previous years, to 894 – a fall of 17%. This was only half of what might have been expected from a 35% fall in monies available.

4.9 The average size of each grant also fell, from an average of just under £700 per grant, in previous years, to £557 – a fall of 20%.

4.10 This reflects widely varying responses by members to the budget reduction, with some making fewer grants while others made smaller grants. There was no discernible pattern. For example:

4.10.1 22 members made the same number of awards – or more – in 2016/17 than in 2015/16, reducing the size of award made.

4.10.2 On the other hand, 15 members gave almost the same sized awards in 2016/17, but significantly cut the number of awards made.

## 5. Analysis by type of applicant

5.1 Appendix 1 details the type of organisation that has been the recipient of 2016/17 LBS.

5.2 Although the size of grants and number of grants made to particular types of organisation has reduced compared to 2015/16, what is striking is that the distribution of grants and monies is very similar.

5.3 For example, in 2015/16, 10% of awards and 12.5% of funds went to **educational bodies**. In 2016/17 the figures were 11% and 12%. Similarly, in 2015/16, 2.2% of awards and 2.8% of funds went to **community halls and buildings**, and in 2016/17 the figures were 2% and 2.3%.

5.4 Overall, the only significant gains were made by **sporting and health-related bodies** received 2% greater share of awards made in 2016/17 than in the previous year, with the latter in particular receiving both more awards and funding despite there being less money available than in 2015/16.

5.5 The biggest reduction in funding and support was experienced by **arts groups** which received nearly 10% of awards in 2015/16, but only just over 5% in 2016/17, which meant a fall in funding from nearly £46,000 in 2015/16 to under £20,000.

5.6 However, overall local **community organisations** continue to receive a greatest proportion of grants each year. Nearly a quarter of all grants went to organisations such local arts groups, village halls, festival organisers, residents groups and other small charitable institutions with a very local focus.

## 6. Analysis by purpose of grant

6.1 Appendix 2 groups 2016/17 expenditure by type of activity, as described in the application.

6.2 In general, although the number of grants and their value was less than in 2015/16, the distribution of grants was remarkably similar.

- 6.3 However, there was a significant trend to supporting applications for capital purposes and away from supporting cultural or environmental activities.
- 6.4 Grants for equipment increased massively, with nearly an eighth of all awards being for small capital items from tents for scout troops to computers. In 2015/16 only 2% of grants were for these purposes.
- 6.5 Larger capital projects also benefited, with 8% of grants (and 12% of funds) going to support building and playground repairs and construction. In 2015/16 less than 5% of grants were for these purposes.
- 6.6 Purposes that received significantly less support were environmental projects (which were high in 2015/16 partly due to “Clean for the Queen” and related events), and non-capital sport activities. The proportion of grants supporting social care projects and activities also fell, from 9% of all awards to 4%.

## **7. Analysis by beneficiary group**

- 7.1 Appendix 3 looks at the groups benefiting from Locality Budget Grants.
- 7.2 The data in Appendixes 1 and 2, while recording the types of organisation receiving grants and the overall purpose, does not record who benefits from a grant. For example, a grant to repair a village hall might be applied for by a community group, and would be a grant for a capital purpose, but these two measures alone would fail to take into account the groups who actually use the hall and the purpose to which the hall is put.
- 7.3 As a result the evaluation process for the Locality Budget Scheme was revised at the start of 2013/14 to create a system from which this data could be obtained. When a project is completed grant recipients are now asked which specified groups benefited from the project.
- 7.4 Note that:
- The data is not directly comparable to that in Appendixes 1 and 2. Projects that provide an evaluation in 2016/17 will not always be the same as the ones receiving a grant in 2016/17 as some (perhaps more than half) will have received their grant in a previous year.

- The data is as reported by the various recipients, and based on their interpretation of the categories so there will be some inevitable inconsistencies in reporting. In addition, not all recipients provide and evaluation, though well over 60% do.
- A grant can (and almost invariably does) benefit members of more than one group, as a result of which the total number of groups benefiting will exceed the total number of grants.

#### 7.5 Highlights include:

- Since 2013/14 more women have benefited from LBS grants than men, but that gap is closing.
- Roughly half of all grants benefit teenagers and young adults.
- Just under a third of all grants benefit people from ethnic and cultural minorities.
- Carers and socially disadvantaged people benefit from the effects of around 60% of grants made.

#### 7.6 There have been some slight changes based on evaluations received so far for 2016/17 grants:

- Men have benefited marginally more than women for the first time
- Although carers and socially disadvantaged people continue to benefit significantly from the scheme, only 50% of grants in 2016/17 have benefitted them.
- Members of health groups and people on drug rehabilitation have also had less support in 2016/17 than in previous years.
- People benefiting significantly more in 2016/17 have been under-fives (and their parents), members of sports clubs and religious groups, and uniformed youth organisations.

### **8. Increasing public awareness of members**

- 8.1 When the scheme was launched in 2009 it was said that: “The major purpose of the locality budgets scheme is to raise the profile of Members in their localities” and “maximise their effectiveness to meet an enhanced community role.” (Cabinet minutes, 20/4/09).

- 8.2 Year on year the proportion of grant recipients who were aware of their county councillor before applying for the grant has grown, and in 2016/17 this reached 98%.
- 8.3 In addition almost 92% now credit the scheme with making recipients more likely to contact their councillor in future – again a figure that has risen year by year.

## **9. Equality Implications**

- 9.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the equalities implications of the decision that they are taking.
- 9.2 Rigorous consideration will ensure that proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) produced by officers.
- 9.3 The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 9.4 No EqIA was undertaken in relation to this matter.

## **Background Information**

Attached at Appendix 1-4

## **Appendix 1: Grants by type of applicant**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Adult/Elderly organisations</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>£12,303.00</b>
Business group	10	£10,160.00
Crime prevention (inc police)	4	£1,873.00
District Council	10	£15,620.00
Herts CC	29	£52,734.55
Parish Council	38	£31,397.28
Town Council	5	£4,947.50
Community Arts groups	46	£19,701.20
Community Charitable bodies	60	£34,584.10
Community Festival organisers	21	£6,885.00
Community Heritage groups	11	£4,130.00
Community Residents groups	53	£33,676.59
Community Halls & buildings	18	£11,635.58
<b>Civic/community organisation</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>£227,344.80</b>
Adult	3	£1,700.00
Disabled, Special	10	£7,500.00
Primary	50	£33,065.76
Secondary	37	£17,970.00
<b>Educational bodies</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>£60,235.76</b>
<b>Financial advice</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>£1,150.00</b>
Health/rescue (inc ambulance)	10	£3,950.00
<b>Health-related organisations</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>£19,968.14</b>
Cultural minority	13	£3,300.00
Disabled	44	£19,973.00
Socially disadvantaged	19	£11,204.50
<b>Minority support groups</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>£34,477.50</b>
<b>Natural environment support groups</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>£9,472.00</b>
<b>Pre-school children and parents groups</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>£16,820.26</b>
<b>Religious and faith groups</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>£19,682.81</b>
Sporting bodies	93	£36,995.64
Disabled	3	£1,350.00
<b>All Sporting bodies</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>£38,345.64</b>
<b>Therapy and counselling Groups</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>£9,216.81</b>
Adult counselling	44	£12,266.50
Carers	21	£7,878.76
Drug and alcohol support	12	£2,750.00
End of life care (ie. hospice)	10	£6,968.00
Youth counselling	6	£2,510.00
	<b>115</b>	<b>£41,590.07</b>
<b>Youth groups</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>£2,551.67</b>
Youth centre	1	£500.00
Uniformed (guides, scouts, cadets)	24	£14,236.43
	<b>31</b>	<b>£17,288.10</b>
	<b>894</b>	<b>£498,678.08</b>

## **Appendix 2: Grants by purpose of grant**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Value</b>	
<b>Education services (teaching &amp; courses)</b>	62	£32,793.32	
Educational resources (book, equipment, etc.)	30	£17,135.14	
All education	<b>92</b>		<b>£49,928.46</b>
<b>Highways and Transport Services (general)</b>	3	£3,859.00	
Roads maintenance/safety	19	£38,136.86	
Footpaths maintenance/safety	6	£15,566.05	
Car parking	3	£4,000.00	
Public transport	7	£5,164.00	
All highways & transport	<b>38</b>		<b>66725.91</b>
<b>Social care (including disability support)</b>	0		
Children	14	£7,089.81	
Adult	51	£20,052.00	
All age	44	£23,815.00	
All social care	<b>109</b>		<b>£50,956.81</b>
<b>Housing services (Advice, repair, homelessness, benefits and welfare)</b>			
All housing services	<b>0</b>		<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Cultural, environmental, regulatory and planning</b>	0	£0.00	
Cultural and related (general)	2	£1,558.76	
Culture, Heritage (inc. festivals. Celebrations, visits)	139	£67,087.20	
Recreation & sport	54	£20,885.84	
Outdoor areas (gardens, public space, etc.)	33	£17,904.00	
Tourism & libraries	10	£3,871.76	
All Cultural & related	236	£109,748.80	
Environmental & regulatory (general)	0	£0.00	
Regulatory (H&S, animal & public health)	1	£480.00	
Security & safety (CCTV, crime reduction)	1	£600.00	
Other environmental (ag & fish, flood, street cleaning, waste)	12	£6,458.00	
All environmental & regulatory	14	£7,538.00	
Planning & development (general)	0	£0.00	
Business support (inc general office costs)	79	£32,620.16	
Community development	11	£3,765.50	
All planning and development	90	£36,385.66	
All cultural, environmental, regulatory and planning	<b>340</b>		<b>£153,672.46</b>
<b>Protective services (police, fire)</b>	0	£0.00	
Police	6	£2,149.43	
Fire & rescue (general)	0	£0.00	
Fire	0	£0.00	
Ambulance	9	£3,450.00	
All protective services	<b>15</b>		<b>5599.43</b>

<b>Public Health</b>				
All public health		<b>67</b>		<b>£30,741.00</b>
<b>Capital &amp; equipment (not inc. security - 5.22)</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>£0.00</b>	
Exterior of permanent buildings/structures	18		£12,551.76	
Internal maintenance, repair, construction, decoration	45		£30,754.39	
Surfaces (playgrounds, flooring, etc. NOT roads/paths )	11		£15,410.00	
All buildings	74		58716.15	
Furnishings (general)	24		£18,871.60	
Noticeboards/displays	7		£2,398.33	
All furnishings	31		21269.93	
Equipment and resources	57		£27,934.33	
IT	19		£7,722.00	
Sporting equipment	26		£14,796.00	
Temporary structures (tents/gazebos)	7		£3,992.60	
Clothing	4		£1,650.00	
All equipment	113		56094.93	
Transport	15		£4,973.00	
All Capital and equipment		<b>233</b>		<b>141054.01</b>
		<b>894</b>		<b>£498,678.08</b>

### Appendix 3: Groups benefiting from LBS grants

Groups benefiting from the Locality Budget grant	2016/17 grants	2015/16 grants	2014/15 grants	2013/14 grants	Total	Overall percentage
Adult women	132	370	492	165	1159	58.21%
Adult men	135	365	464	165	1129	56.71%
Parents and Families	123	337	429	164	1053	52.89%
Teenagers	109	270	432	149	960	48.22%
Young Adults	110	257	412	162	941	47.26%
Older people	108	249	372	144	873	43.85%
Primary age children	92	243	351	136	822	41.29%
Socially disadvantaged people	69	240	312	130	751	37.72%
Ethnic and cultural minorities	72	177	261	112	622	31.24%
Disabled people	66	212	241	82	601	30.19%
Carers	47	157	241	108	553	27.77%
Under 5 children & parents	80	137	204	84	505	25.36%
Members of Health and therapy groups	31	107	166	96	400	20.09%
Members of sports clubs	76	112	154	49	391	19.64%
Members of arts and heritage groups	41	82	80	22	225	11.30%
Members of environmental groups	32	75	83	19	209	10.50%
Drug/Alcohol rehabilitation	8	40	81	13	142	7.13%
Members of religious groups	30	56	37	18	141	7.08%
Members of uniformed youth groups	23	44	44	10	121	6.08%
Victims of crime	8	23	68	12	111	5.58%
<b>Total evaluations received</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>1991</b>	

#### Appendix 4: Increasing public awareness of members

	"Yes" (2016/17)	"Yes" (2015/16)	"Yes" (2014/15)	"Yes" (2013/14)	Total "Yes"	
Were you aware of your county councillor before apply for a grant?	226	581	754	255	1816	91.21%
Are you now more likely to contact your county councillor than previously?	211	574	776	252	1813	91.06%