

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**PUBLIC HEALTH, LOCALISM AND LIBRARIES CABINET PANEL****WEDNESDAY 15 JULY 2015 AT 10.00 AM****LOCALITY BUDGET SCHEME 2014/15 – OVERALL BREAKDOWN OF SPEND**

Report of the Asst. Director Environment (Planning, Strategy and Communications)

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1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To provide the Public Health, Localism & Libraries Cabinet Panel with a breakdown of overall spend against the 2014/15 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, allocates 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, almost £4.5 million has been spent on over 6,500 projects, events and schemes.
- 2.3. At the conclusion of 2014/15 scheme, £768,890 out of a possible £770,000 had been allocated through 1,201 grants to a variety of local organisations.
- 2.4. The 2015/16 scheme began on Monday 1 June following the parliamentary elections.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. The Panel is invited to note the contents of this report.

4. Overview of expenditure

- 4.1. In 2014/15 1,201 grants were made with a total value of £768,890
- 4.2. There was a slight 1% fall in the number of grants made, and consequentially a small rise in the mean size of each grant. However, in practice the overall number of grants made, after rising steadily for the first three years of the scheme, has been more or less stable for the past three years at just over 1,200 grants per year with a mean value of circa £635 per grant.

4.3. A comparison with previous years:

Year	Grants	Value	Mean grant value
2009/10	790	£762,134.00	£964.73
2010/11	1020	£796,305.98	£754.22
2011/12	1161	£769,190.66	£662.52
2012/13	1206	£769,175.64	£637.79
2013/14	1213	£766,837.20	£632.00
2014/15	1201	£768,890.02	£640.21

5. Analysis by type of applicant

- 5.1. Appendix 1 details the type of organisation that has been the recipient of 2014/15 LBS.
- 5.2. 34% of grants went to community and civic organisations (up from 27% in 2013/14 and 31% in 2012/13) or which 289 (24%) went to small community organisations or local business groups, up from 17% in 2013/14 and 20% in 2012/13.
- 5.3. 13% of grants went to therapy and counselling groups, more or less unchanged compared to the past two years. However within this applications from hospices halved compared to last year while applications from adult and family counselling groups doubled.
- 5.4. 12% of applications were from schools and educational bodies, continuing a steady rise from 6% in 2012/13.
- 5.5. Elsewhere, although comparatively small in number, it is notable that applications from environmental groups have also steadily risen and are now double what they were two years ago. At the same time applications from faith and youth groups have halved.
- 5.6. Other categories of applicant have shown little change over the three years.

6. Analysis by subject of grant

- 6.1. Appendix 2 groups 2014/15 expenditure by type of activity, as described in the application.
- 6.2. The classification in this table is (at the request of Finance) based upon the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice (SERCOP).
- 6.3. Since 2012/13 there have been significant rises in grants for educational purposes (from 77 in 12/13 to 143 in 14/15) and adult social care (55 to 115).
- 6.4. On the other hand grants for “Community safety” (crime reduction measures and CCTV) have fallen from 69 in 12/13 to 15 in 14/15. Similarly the number of grants for “Community development” and “planning and development” have dropped by around a third.

6.5. The most popular purposes have been consistently culture, heritage and sports – roughly 30% of grants tend to be spent on these purposes which might include sports coaching, museum exhibitions (very popular recently), and plays and entertainments (so street parties, for example, would come under this heading). Note that this would not generally include equipment or building repairs (even to historic buildings) as these would generally be included under RO7.

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 on its own record who benefits from a grant.

7.3. 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.

7.4. 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.

7.5. Note that:

- The data is not directly comparable to that in Appendixes 1 and 2. Projects that provide an evaluation in 2014/15 will not always be the same as the ones receiving a grant in 2014/15 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 an 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.

7.6. The data is self-explanatory, but highlights include:

- Slightly more women benefit from LBS grants than men.
- Roughly half of all grants benefit teenagers and young adults.
- Over a third of all grants benefit people from ethnic and cultural minorities.

- Carers and socially disadvantaged people benefit from the effects of around 40% of grants made.

8. “Raising the profile of members in the community”

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. In addition: “The [Locality Budget scheme] is predicated on the basis that Members will invest in schemes that are beneficial to the local community and that they are best placed to know what their communities would benefit from. It also increases Member accountability, visibility and local leadership through ‘ownership’ of a budget responsive to the needs of their local community.” (*ibid.*).

8.3. The new evaluation system also collects information about how effective the scheme has been in meeting these aims.

8.4. The key outputs are

- Slightly under 12% (about one in eight) of grant recipients were not previously aware of their councillor.
- Nearly 88% of grant recipients are more likely to contact their councillor in future

8.5. In addition nearly half of grant recipients found out about the scheme directly from their councillor. Of the rest, 20% discovered the scheme on Hertsdirect, and another 17% from other organisations (often other previous recipients).

9. Details of each elected member’s allocations for 2014/15 (and all other years) can be found on individual member’s web pages on the council’s website which can be accessed at:

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/CountyCouncillors.aspx>

Appendix 1: Types of organisation applying, 2014/15

		Number of grants	Value of grants
A	Adult organisations		
AE	Elderly	21	£10,384.45
		21	£10,384.45
C	Civic/community organisation		
CB	Business group	10	£5,076.00
CC	Crime prevention (inc police)	8	£3,283.29
CD	District Council	44	£32,327.40
CH	Herts CC	25	£38,250.75
CP	Parish Council	36	£29,787.46
CT	Town Council	6	£7,600.00
CVA	Community Arts groups	47	£31,619.84
CVC	Community Charitable bodies	79	£38,386.64
CVF	Community Festival organisers	54	£25,463.23
CVH	Community Heritage groups	14	£10,095.00
CVR	Community Residents groups	59	£47,416.61
CVV	Community Halls & buildings	26	£27,974.54
		408	£297,280.76
E	Educational bodies		
EA	Adult	11	£6,391.00
ED	Disabled, Special	11	£5,050.00
EF	Further	0	£0.00
EH	Higher	1	£1,000.00
EP	Primary	54	£38,386.43
ES	Secondary	44	£29,138.50
		122	£80,965.93
F	Financial organisations		
FA	Advice and support	4	£2,550.00
		2	£5,270.00
		6	£7,820.00
H	Health-related organisations		
HR	Health/rescue (inc ambulance)	27	£16,366.75
		29	£17,780.66
		56	£34,147.41
M	Minority support groups		
MC	Cultural minority	11	£5,475.00
MD	Disabled	65	£26,213.96
MS	Socially disadvantaged	28	£17,290.00
		104	£48,978.96
N	Natural environment support groups		
		41	£20,166.66
		41	£20,166.66
P	Pre-school children and parents groups		
PP	Playgroup	53	£30,000.16
		5	£3,617.16
		58	£33,617.32
R	Religious and faith groups		
		26	£16,417.00
		26	£16,417.00
S	Sporting bodies		
SD	Disabled	129	£91,229.10
		18	£11,060.00
		147	£102,289.10
T	Therapy and counselling Groups		
TA	Adult counselling	41	£18,140.00
TA	Adult counselling	50	£25,469.41
TC	Carers	11	£4,494.00
TD	Drug and alcohol support	16	£8,696.00
TE	End of life care (ie. hospice)	15	£9,450.00
TY	Youth counselling	18	£8,925.00
		151	£75,174.41
Y	Youth groups		
YC	Youth centre	23	£13,258.20
YC	Youth centre	8	£5,847.59
YU	Uniformed (guides, scouts, cadets)	30	£22,542.23
		61	£41,648.02
		1201	£768,890.02

Appendix 2: Grants by subject

CIPFA		Number of grants	Value of grants
R01	1	Education services (all levels)	
		All education	143
			£93,923.09
R02	2	Highways and Transport Services (Planning, maintenance, road safety, public transport)	
		All highways & transport	27
			£56,541.86
R03	3	Social care (including disability support)	
	3.1	Children	48
			£22,507.49
	3.2	Adult	115
			£58,311.31
	3.3	All age	96
			£47,273.00
		All social care	259
			£128,091.80
R04	4	Housing services (Advice, repair, homelessness, benefits and welfare)	
		All housing services	6
			£6,000.00
R05	5	Cultural, environmental, regulatory and planning	
	5.1	Cultural and related (general)	1
			£1,250.00
	5.11	Culture, Heritage	183
			£94,744.23
	5.12	Recreation & sport	188
			£121,415.30
	5.13	Open space	35
			£21,651.50
	5.14	Tourism & libraries	4
			£3,100.00
		All Cultural & related	410
			£240,911.03
	5.2	Environmental & regulatory (general)	1
			£1,000.00
	5.21	Regulatory (H&S, animal & public health)	0
			£0.00
	5.22	Community safety (CCTV, crime reduction)	15
			£8,369.20
	5.23	Other environmental (ag & fish, flood, street cleaning, waste)	29
			£19,042.07
		All environmental & regulatory	44
			£27,411.27
	5.3	Planning & development (general)	1
			£500.00
	5.31	Business support	11
			£8,712.77
	5.32	Community development	45
			£38,481.05
		All planning and development	57
			£47,693.82
		All cultural, environmental, regulatory and planning	512
			£316,016.12
R06	6	Protective services (police, fire)	
	6.1	Police	7
			£2,728.09
	6.2	Fire & rescue (general)	0
			£0.00
	6.21	Fire	0
			£0.00
	6.22	Ambulance	22
			£10,880.66
		All fire and rescue	22
			£10,880.66
		All protective services	29
			£13,608.75
	7	Public Health	
		All public health	56
			£36,756.94
R07	8¹	Central services to the public (general grants, donations etc)	
		All central services	169
			£117,951.46
			1201
			£768,890.02

¹ Mainly capital purchases and repairs. Includes building repairs, upgrading of IT equipment, and other equipment purchases.

Appendix 3: Groups benefiting from LBS grants

Groups benefiting from the Locality Budget grant	2014/15 grants	2013/14 grants	Total	Overall percentage
Adult women	265	158	423	58.1%
Adult men	255	158	413	56.7%
Parents and Families	251	156	407	55.9%
Young Adults	218	157	375	51.5%
Older people	225	141	366	50.3%
Teenagers	209	146	355	48.8%
Socially disadvantaged people	176	124	300	41.2%
Primary age children	161	125	286	39.3%
Carers	161	106	267	36.7%
Ethnic and cultural minorities	134	110	244	33.5%
Disabled people	133	80	213	29.3%
Members of Health and therapy groups	95	90	185	25.4%
Under 5 children & parents	107	74	181	24.9%
Members of sports clubs	90	43	133	18.3%
Members of arts and heritage groups	51	21	72	9.9%
Drug/Alcohol rehabilitation	49	11	60	8.2%
Members of environmental groups	43	17	60	8.2%
Victims of crime	39	11	50	6.9%
Members of religious groups	21	17	38	5.2%
Members of uniformed youth groups	23	9	32	4.4%

Appendix 4: Increasing public awareness of members

	"Yes" (2014/15)	"Yes" (2013/14)	Total "Yes"	
Were you aware of your county councillor before apply for a grant?	404	238	642	88.2%
Are you now more likely to contact your county councillor than previously?	398	242	640	87.9%

Appendix 5: Effectiveness of promotion

How did you hear about the LBS?	2014/15	2013/14	Total	
Direct from local councillor	235	128	363	49.9%
Herts Direct	62	89	151	20.7%
Other local organisations/word of mouth etc.	100	25	125	17.2%
Other	8	39	47	6.5%
Previous grant recipient*	20	3	23	3.2%
Newspaper article	10	1	11	1.5%
Horizons	3	5	8	1.1%