

**STRATEGIC INITIATIVES BUDGET:
2009/2010 WARD-BASED COMMUNITY CHEST**

Report of the Chief Executive

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to bring forward 13 recommendations relating to the 2009/2010 Community Chest Scheme.
- 1.2 This report also outlines the proposed review of the Community Chest procedures.

2.0 Description of Decision

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to approve all 13 proposals for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest as detailed in Annex I.
- 2.2 The Committee is also requested to agree to the proposed Community Chest review.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The Community Chest was introduced in the 1994/95 financial year. The overall aim of the Community Chest is to support community and voluntary groups and assist in the establishment and development of these groups.
- 3.2 During the past 15 years a number of minor improvements have been made to Community Chest procedures and processes. It is now proposed to carry out a full review and introduce new financial, management, marketing and monitoring procedures for the financial year 2009/10. The review will include new applications forms, leaflets, a monitoring programme and improved financial controls.

The outcome will support both the effective financial management of the grant in addition to providing improved methods of monitoring and maximising the benefits to the community. A report outlining the success of the Community Chest 2009/10 will be presented to the Area Committee in April 2010.

- 3.3 The Committee will be aware that the Community Chest forms part of the Strategic Initiatives Budget and that £250,000 is available for the scheme in 2009/2010, £10,000 for each Ward, plus any unclaimed allocations identified from previous years. This scheme is operated under Section 137 of the Local Government Act.

4.0 Current Position

4.1 The projects listed on Annex 1 total:

Washington Central	£400
Washington North	£1300
Washington South	£400
Washington East	£400
Washington West	£520

4.2 Should the Committee grant the requests listed on Annex 1 the remaining balances would be:

Washington Central	£9600
Washington North	£8700
Washington South	£9600
Washington East	£9600
Washington West	£9480

5.0 Reason for Decision

5.1 Community Chest support is given to projects which clearly demonstrate that they will address identified local needs, provide genuine community benefit and which can subsequently provide evidence/measurement of success in this respect.

5.2 Improved marketing arrangements in addition to financial and performance management of the grant will help to ensure that the funding is spent in this regard, support organisations in accessing the fund and provide evidence to highlight how the grant benefits local communities.

6.0 Alternative Options

6.1 The circumstances are such that there are no realistic alternatives that could be considered.

7.0 Relevant Consultation

7.1 Members have been consulted on all applications for Community Chest support and the implementation of the review.

7.2 The City Treasurer has been consulted on this report, all costs associated with developing Community Chest applications are resourced by the Strategic Initiatives Budget.

7.3 Residents have been consulted about the priorities in the Local Area Plans and Community Chest supports these identified priorities.

8.0 Background Papers

8.1 The following background papers were used:

- Community Chest Application Forms
- Schedule of projects circulated at the panel meeting held on 13th May, 2009.

COMMUNITY CHEST 2009/2010

PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR APPROVAL

	Recommended Grant subject to final estimates, invoices, up to
WASHINGTON CENTRAL WARD	
Washington 'F' Pit Banner Group – Contribution towards hire of transport, brass band etc.,	200
3rd Washington Scout Group – Contribution towards transport costs etc.,	200
Total	400
WASHINGTON EAST WARD	
Washington 'F' Pit Banner Group – Contribution towards hire of transport, brass band etc.,	200
3rd Washington Scout Group – Contribution towards transport costs etc.,	200
Total	400
WASHINGTON NORTH WARD	
Washington 'F' Pit Banner Group – Contribution towards hire of transport, brass band etc.,	200
3rd Washington Scout Group – Contribution towards transport costs etc.,	200
Usworth & District W.C. Family Group – Contribution towards day trip to Flamingo Land.	600
Washington Usworth F.C. – Contribution towards new strips and football equipment.	300
Total	1300
WASHINGTON SOUTH WARD	
Washington 'F' Pit Banner Group – Contribution towards hire of transport, brass band etc.,	200
3rd Washington Scout Group – Contribution towards transport costs etc.,	200
Total	400

WASHINGTON WEST WARD

Washington 'F' Pit Banner Group – Contribution towards hire of transport, brass band etc.,	200
3rd Washington Scout Group – Contribution towards transport costs etc.,	200
George Washington Primary School – Contribution towards transport in respect of Citizenship programme.	120
Total	520
Total of Projects	3,020