

23 January 2013

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB), Community Chest and Healthy Cities Investment Fund – Financial Statement and proposals for further allocation of resources

1. Why has it come to Committee

Area Committee has delegated budgets to allocate to specific strategic priorities identified in the Local Area Plan, with the overall aim to benefit the wider community and to attract other funding into the area. The report provides a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating SIB, SIP and Community Chest and presents proposals for further funding requests.

2 Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB)

2.1 The table below shows the financial position of SIB following the September 2012 meeting.

Project Name	Committee Date	Allocated (not yet assessed)	Approvals	Balance
The allocation for 2012/13 is £236,693, with the under spend of £105 from 2011/12 this totals £236,798				£236,798
Phoenix Project	23.04.12		£4,000	£232,798
Street lighting, the Cove, Shiney Row	21.06.12		£6,600	£226,198
Houghton War Memorial	21.06.12		£10,000	£216,198
Allotments watering project	21.06.12		£3,458	£212,740
Houghton Feast	09.07.12		£15,000	£197,740
Area Events and Celebrations	09.07.12		£7,740	£190,000
Returned to budget: HCA Empty Homes 2012			(£7,529)	£197,529
People's Challenge (Community Challenge phase 2)	19.09.12		£10,000	£187,529
Junior and Holiday Youth Provision	19.09.12		£24,482	£163,047
Allotments Improvement Programme (subject to consultation and appraisal)		19.09.12	£30,000	£133,047
Shop Local (subject to consultation and appraisal)		19.09.12	£20,000	£113,047
Returned to budget: Walking route to Rainton Meadows-			(£20,000)	£133,047
Returned to budget: Houghton Feast 2011			(£113)	£133,160
Balance	-		-	£133,160

2.2 The following projects detailed in **Annex 1** are presented for approval:

1	Community Transport Project	£9,321
2	Welfare and Benefits Advice	£23,166
3	Flatts – Looking Good	£10,000
4	Environmental Improvements	£10,000

2.3 The total of projects listed above is £52,487. Should the projects be approved the balance of SIB funding remaining following allocation would be £80,673.

2.4 The People Board has developed a brief and related process to engage local VCS organisations in the delivery of local projects to reduce social isolation and improve wellbeing. The Board recommend that a budget of £30,000 SIB is made available for the delivery of such projects (which would be subject to application, consultation and assessment). Should this recommendation be approved the balance of SIB funding remaining would be £50,673.

2.5 The Place Board has discussed the development of an allotment improvement project in partnership with Groundwork. All allotment plots deemed ‘unlettable’ have been identified and those which will bring most benefit to the community have been prioritised for improvement. Work using core budgets has been completed on some sites and a further SIB funded programme of work across a number of sites (Burnside, Fletcher Cres, Girven Tce, Old Store Tce, Hutton Street) will improve and create additional plots for rent by demolishing derelict and unsafe buildings, removing fly tipping, repairing and replacing fencing, clearing/levelling plots and installing access gates. The newly refurbished plots will be offered for rent to those next on the waiting list and will be closely monitored to ensure upkeep and cultivation to a high standard. The proposal is to utilise £30,000 of the SIB budget previously approved by Committee for work on allotment improvements.

2.6 As identified at 3.1 in item 2, the Community Heritage project continues to be delivered via VCS Network partners. There is a remaining £5,000 budget which will be used to deliver a heritage education project as detailed in the previously approved application. It is requested that the Committee agree the change of Lead Agent on this project to ELCAP and Groundwork on behalf of the VCS Network partners (subject to completion of appropriate paperwork and revised action plan).

3 **Healthy City Investment Fund: Financial statement and proposals**

3.1 The table below show the position following the September 2012 meeting.

Project Name	Committee Date	Allocated (not yet assessed)	Approvals	Balance
Healthy City Investment Fund (approved to AC to award)	31.03.12			£31,413
Coalfield Healthy Men Partnership	19.09.12		£31,000	£413
Balance			£31,000	£413

4 **Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)**

4.1 The table below shows the financial position of SIP following the September 2012 meeting.

Project Name	Committee Date	Allocated (not yet assessed)	SIP Approvals	Balance
Returned to budget: Walking route to Rainton Meadows			(£14,000) Houghton ward	
Returned to budget: Sunderland Road/ High Lane			(£13,221) Copt Hill ward	
Balance	-		-	£27,221

4.2 Funding is returned to the Houghton ward SIP due to the project not being taken forward. Funding is returned to the Copt Hill ward SIP due to an underspend on a previously approved project. Members from the relevant wards are requested to agree projects for proposal to the April 2013 Area Committee meeting to avoid loss of funds.

5 Community Chest

5.1 The table below details the balances remaining following the last meeting in September 2012, and project approvals as detailed in **Annex 3**.

Ward	Budget Remaining	Project Approvals	Balance
Copt Hill	£7915	£4410	£3505
Hetton	£9337	£3088	£6249
Houghton	£8561	£2939	£5622
Shiney Row	£4329	£2633	£1696
Total	£30,142	£13,070	£17,072

5.2 An application for the Houghton Fitness and Youth boxing club for £498 to purchase equipment was presented to the Houghton ward panel. However a unanimous decision could not be reached, with two members approving the funding and one member rejecting the application. Therefore, it is presented to Area Committee for a final decision. Should the project be approved the balance for Houghton ward will be £5124.

Recommendations:

Committee is requested to:

- Note the financial information set out in sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 and Annex 2
- Approve the 4 proposals for support from SIB detailed in Annex 1
- Approve the allocation of £30,000 SIB to deliver projects which meet the priority 'Support for older people, vulnerable adults and carers' outlined in 2.4 above
- Approve the proposed allotments project outlined in 2.5 above (subject to consultation and assessment)
- Approve the change of Lead Agent on the Community Heritage project from City Services to ELCAP and Groundwork on behalf of the VCS Network
- Note the 29 Community Chest approvals from the October, November and January Panel Meetings set out in Annex 3
- Approve the one Community Chest application for Houghton ward based on a majority decision as identified in 5.2 above

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Annex 1 SIB Applications
Annex 2 SIB budget and balance for each priority
Annex 3 Community Chest approvals