

Title: Performance Reward Programme: Main Fund

What is your request of the LSP Board?	The LSP Board is asked to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree the next steps for the PRG Programme Main Fund set out in the report and Appendices 2. Agree the proposed changes to the Small Grants element of the fund set out in Paragraph 11 3. Recommend to the Council Cabinet accordingly
What do you want from the Theme Delivery Partnerships?	Subject to any discussion on the agenda report relating to future partnership arrangements, it is requested that final projects be “anchored” within one of the partnerships. This would entail monitoring and working closely with projects and ensuring they are accountable and link with the theme’s overall approach.
Background material	Appendix 1: Scoring system for projects Appendix 2: Programme Themes Appendix 3: Timetable

Background

1. As a result of the Council and partners delivering the Local Area Agreement, the Partnership received £1.3m of “Performance Reward Grant”. The Council budget report in February 2011 noted that the Local Strategic Partnership would manage this funding which would be spent on building capacity in the community.
2. The £1.3m was divided into two funds: £300,000 of small grants aimed at local projects (maximum £5k) to be available as soon as possible and £1m for longer term investment (the “Main Fund”).
3. Subsequently the Cabinet in March 2011 noted that this budget will be managed through LSP governance arrangements as part of an overall approach to Community Enablement/Empowerment. The key principles of the Main Fund were noted as:
 - to build capacity in the community
 - to be one-off funding only
 - to Pump Prime activity which becomes sustainable in its own right
 - to reduce the need for future funding and be built around Invest to Save principles
 - to have an exit strategy in place
 - to include realistic milestones
4. The emphasis was based particularly around investment in the community to develop sustainable change. For the £1m Main Fund the partnership developed a detailed “Outcomes Framework”, linked to the Sustainable Community Strategy, to guide thinking about allocation. From 11 July to 30 September ideas were submitted through a process described as Project Outline Proposals (or “POPs”). This engagement included a facilitated

ideas-sharing day on 22 September 2011 designed to encourage people to work together to develop sustainable proposals and to advise on the commissioning framework.

5. The outputs of this workshop can be summarised as
 - “Do less but do it well”
 - “Common themes not project ideas”
 - “Focus on identified need”
 - “Flexibility on the outcomes framework”
 - “Community hubs”
 - “Partnership Working”
 - “Recognition of local expertise”
 - “Recognise that “new and innovative” isn’t always what’s needed”
6. This led to a series of conversations across the partnership and the development of a framework for procurement using the concept of “hubs” across the main outcome themes which was presented to the LSP Board.
7. When the proposals were presented to the LSP Board on November 17th it identified the following key issues:
 - a. The number and value of the proposals was much greater than anticipated
 - b. There was a wide variation in the type of proposals
 - c. There were some misunderstandings about the process being followed
8. The Board requested officers to review the approach proposed and to come back with a new approach that:
 - a. Is simple
 - b. Didn’t limit proposals made to the outcome “hubs” (the feeling being that good ideas might get lost as they cut across the different outcomes).
 - c. Recognises some concept of geographical “fairness” in the process
 - d. Moves the process on as quickly as possible within the procurement rules
9. Taking this feedback into account, and drawing on the work undertaken so far, it is proposed that we should now move to the bid stage. Assessments of bids will be made on the basis of the proposed scoring/weighting in Appendix One. This weighting draws on the feedback received so far which has stressed in particular the need for significant weight to be placed on links with the local community in assessing proposals. Applications will be requested to identify the particular theme they are contributing to from the themes set out in Appendix Two.
10. To ensure flexibility and encourage high-quality proposals, specific funding allocations between the themes are not proposed. Instead, all Project Bids will be ranked according to the scoring criteria, regardless of the theme they are supporting. Once this ranking has been applied, the following additional criteria will be introduced in order to approve specific projects:

- Ensuring that the £400,000 capital and £600,000 revenue split is upheld
- For each theme area, a minimum of £100,000 to be allocated (subject to a minimum score of 50% being achieved by these projects).

11. As well as the Main Fund, there is also a two-year £300,000 “small grants” fund for organisations working in local communities. At present, this fund is capped at £5000 per project. It is proposed that, from April 2012, this be amended as follows:

1. A £100,000 for medium-size projects (up to £20,000) providing Pump-Priming resources for developing emerging proposals;
and
2. A £50,000 “micro grants” fund for proposals up to £500 to encourage new and fledgling community groups

APPENDIX ONE: SCORING SYSTEM FOR PROJECTS

Evidence that the project...	Proposed Weight	Notes
...has significant impact in delivering the the theme identified	20%	This will be assessed against criteria which build on the framework in Appendix Two
...is embedded in the local community and works with other partners	20%	This is designed to ensure local links are valued and collaboration encouraged-this is in response to feedback from the workshop
...helps the community help itself	10%	This would consider issues such as volunteer time attracted and is central to the LSP's approach to the theme
...is clear about who will benefit from the project/need	10%	Scoring would seek specific evidence of community needs to be addressed and opportunities to promote equalities-response to feedback from workshop
...provides measurable milestones for delivery	10%	Scoring would examine the realism of delivery, milestones, risks, etc
...can sustain itself in the long run	10%	Scoring would be looking at long-term business models and revenue generation over 5 years- central to the LSP's approach
...is innovative	5%	Scoring would examine comparative innovation at both local and national level but the weighting is relatively low to recognise development of existing projects
...reduces costs and makes better use of resources	5%	Scoring would seek specific examples of impact on cost reduction
...attracts additional funding and support	5%	Scoring would seek evidence of levered-in funding
...provides value for money	5%	Scoring would take into account the funding requested compared to a target amount of £100,000 to set against the benefits

APPENDIX TWO: Programme Themes

THEME A: Renewing our community assets

- The POP process identified a number of “standalone” proposals for upgrading community facilities.
- Project Bids will be invited under this Theme to upgrade community facilities and support new ways of working in relation to community assets such as community halls, local facilities, etc.
- Given the Council’s interest in ensuring best outcomes from its own assets, this amount could be further “topped up” if agreed from the Council’s Community Empowerment Fund.

THEME B: A resilient voluntary and community sector

- The POP process identified many ideas to help voluntary and community organisations become more sustainable and resilient.
- Project Bids will be invited under this Theme to equip our voluntary and community organisations in Bath and North East Somerset for the challenges and opportunities which face them. This would include:
 - investment to support local voluntary and community groups to get the help they need to better meet local needs- including fundraising, volunteering and other support needed to become more resilient and self-sufficient
 - acting as a catalyst for volunteering and social action
 - gaining access to funding and encouraging groups to work together
 - delivery of innovative projects that support the “Big Society” agenda

THEME C: A Low carbon future

- A number of POPs identified the need to support our communities to move to low-carbon lifestyles, and to ensure that the benefits of renewable energy production stay local.
- Project Bids will be invited under this theme to directly deliver renewable energy projects across the district, as well as help development of renewable energy projects by other groups. This would
 - contribute to achievement of Core Strategy renewable energy targets
 - retain benefits within the district
 - Increasing capacity in the community through joint working
 - Contribute to local Green Deal provision

THEME D: Transforming local services

- Many POPs identified significant potential to work with local people to “redesign” services, listening to communities and focusing in particular on the needs of the most vulnerable.
- Project Bids will be invited under this theme to exemplify this approach and potentially act as a “pilot” for new ways of working. This also fits clearly with the Council’s support for “community budgets. Projects would be invited to:
 - identify an area or community of focus- either at geographical level or a group with shared needs and common experiences

- be clear about the needs of this community over the longer-term and across the full range of services, including underlying causes
- bring together voluntary, community and public services working closely with local people to improve outcomes
- identify improvements over time and where possible “cashing out” benefits

THEME E: Jobs, business, growth

- Lack of suitable business space, particularly for small and emerging businesses, has been consistently highlighted as a constraint on our area achieving its full potential. The situation is even more urgent given the current situation with regard to the national economy
- Project Bids will be invited under this theme for physical space for start-ups, microbusinesses and self-employed people to locate in Bath.

THEME F: Listening to the users of health and social care services

- Sustaining high-quality health and social care continues to provide a number of challenges, particularly focused on the need to ensure prevention and- increasingly- to involve users in their own care. The introduction of HealthWatch will provide a further dimension to public involvement
- It is proposed that Project Bids be invited under this theme that contribute to this aim.

+`APPENDIX THREE: Performance Reward Programme_Main Fund – Timetable

Stage	Activities
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LSP Board 13 December 2011 • Prepare all documentation (tender documents, application forms, guidance) • Cabinet will meet on 11January 2012 – will agree delegations for signing funding agreements • Publish and promote programme 16 January 2012.
Applications invited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on 24 January 2012 (invites to those who submitted POPs, together with other potential applicants) outlining the process, invite full bids for projects and identify assessment • The closing date for applications will be 12 March 2012 (8 weeks from 16 January 2012).
Applications assessed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications will be scored under each of the project headings/funding allocations. • Applicants notified of the results of the bids and tenders. • Funding agreements will be put in place and signed off • Projected date for commencement of delivery of all projects 1 May 2012 • Any learning points/updates to be reported through LSP process

