



## Factsheet 3 – Ward Budgets

**This factsheet is designed to provide a script for ward councillors to use at their ward team to discuss how devolved ward budgets can address local issues.**

The Council has decided to give wards more control of the money that it currently spends within its communities.

Each ward now has a budget made up of three components:

- A general ward fund
- The Community Care Fund
- The Pride in York Fund (annual fund and ‘one-off’ 2015/16 fund)

Adding the amounts together the ward will get a combined budget of:

- £x each year
- £xk in a one-off fund (when it’s gone it’s gone)

Here is what we are being asked to do as a ward:

- Familiarise ourselves and discuss the information about the ward that we have available to us:
  - Statistical information about the ward – Ward Profile
  - Local intelligence from partners in the ward team
  - Information gathered from residents of the ward through engagement
  - Information about the needs of elderly and vulnerable people in the ward
  - Information about environmental services in the ward
- Identify 3 to 4 ward priorities that would best address the needs of the ward’s residents through partnership working
- Invite local community and voluntary groups to bid for ward funding that would address one or more ward priorities and / or
- Commission local community and voluntary groups, or a specialist organisation, to deliver a project that addresses one or more ward priority
- Purchase Council services that will address one or more ward priority (see list).

It is up to us how we use our budget; however, we will be asked to bear in mind the purposes of the Community Care and Pride in York funds:



The **Community Care Fund**: This encourages us to look at ways that could prevent or delay the need for elderly and vulnerable people to access formal care packages and support or, if formal care is already in place, delay or prevent the need for this to increase.

We are well placed to know where elderly or vulnerable people live in this ward and we can help to identify and facilitate community activity that can ensure they receive the support they need to remain independent for longer. Current feedback has shown that support in the following areas can help with this:

- Reducing social isolation and loneliness
- Prevention of falls
- Nutrition
- Transport
- Practical support and handy person services
- Support for carers

**We are asked to identify a ward priority that would best address our elderly and vulnerable residents.** Examples of initiatives that ward funding could support include:

- Forming a volunteer group to ensure older and/or vulnerable people have access to a regular nutritious meal
- Supporting affordable and accessible transport options so people are able to access services
- Providing a grant to a local group or Parish Council in order to provide an additional service for a community or group of residents.

The **Pride in York Fund**: This fund is there to improve the local environment and street level issues in the ward. Examples of initiatives that ward funding could support include:

- Helping a community group to take on management of a local project e.g. looking after a piece of local open space
- Undertaking a local clean-up
- Changing the planting or other arrangements to make a space more attractive and easier to maintain in the future.



## Communities and Equalities Team

The one-off budget for 2015/16 is there to provide grants to partners, community groups and voluntary organisations to develop street-level environment initiatives that benefit the community and help reduce the reliance on Council services. When it's gone, it's gone.

It has been allocated to wards, based on current grounds maintenance spending by the Council in the ward. The reason for this is that the Council is having to making savings from its grounds maintenance budgets over the next few years. This affects the tasks that the Council can carry out in the wards. Naturally, the more activity that takes place in the ward, the bigger the savings that need to be made. So, wards with more current activity get a bigger share of this budget to help develop appropriate community projects.

Wards will be consulted about the current grounds maintenance activity in their ward, so that they can state their priorities and use this budget effectively in the light of tasks that the Council can no longer carry out (See Fact Sheet 3). There will be support from a relevant Council officer to develop ward projects.

How will we go about spending the money? We will do it either by:

- inviting groups and organisations to bid for a grant, or
- directly commissioning local groups to carry out projects that the ward team has identified will address ward priorities, or
- a mix of these two options.

Details of how groups and individuals can access and influence how the funding is allocated will be shown on posters locally, through social media and online on the ward web pages. If you wish to use funding application forms to enable organisations to bid for grants, the application pack is available on the Communities and Equalities team web page and on request.



## Do's and Don'ts

- The annual ward budget may be used to give grants or to buy services or a mix of these two options
- The Ward Budget can be spent throughout the financial year.
- The one-off ward York in Pride budget may only be used to give grants
- Grants may only be given to organisations based in the ward unless there is a specialist need which cannot be met locally
- Grants may only be given to organisations will be from the voluntary sector, community initiatives, residents' associations, parish councils (where they have a stake in supporting a project), community halls, sports and other clubs. They must be constituted and hold a bank account or have a sponsor organisation that can hold funds on their behalf
- Ward budgets must be spent in accordance with Council policies and procedures ensuring that the Council's best value and statutory obligations are met and that projects are legal and feasible
- Initially, where a ward wishes to buy services it will be from a Council department, subject to the ability of those departments to supply additional services at an economic cost
- A range of local services options will be developed to guide wards in this regard. This list will grow and develop as the requirements of wards become clearer and will be expanded to include purchasing options outside of the Council under the Council's framework agreements
- Ward budgets must not be used in any way that increases the Council's revenue costs
- If a commissioning route is taken, decisions on funding allocations will be recorded at ward team meetings on a commissioning pro-forma available from the Communities and Equalities Team, and shared via ward web pages, posters and social media.
- Ward councillors will need to apply due declarations of interests when considering applications.
- Details of how the Ward Budget is allocated will be outlined on the ward web pages.



## Communities and Equalities Team

### Making an application:

Details of how groups and individuals can access and influence how the funding is allocated will be shown on posters locally, through social media and online on the ward web pages. The application pack is available on the Communities and Equalities team web page and on request.