



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Area Intervention
Date:	25 October 2013
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
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1	Purpose
1.1	To seek Committee endorsement of proposals from North AWG for expenditure of their allocation of intervention monies.

2	Background
2.1	In August 2012 Committee agreed to support pilot area integration intervention to address particular problems or take advantage of opportunities being identified by Area Working Groups (AWGs).
2.2	A fund of £100,000 per AWG with a pro rata amount for Shankill was later established.
2.3	To date there has been expenditure in two AWGs in regard to integration intervention funding.
2.4	The West AWG identified the need for a broader co-ordinated approach by then various agencies in regard to crime and anti social behaviour issues in the Divis area. A developed programme of work in this regard is being taken forward by the Director of Health and Environmental Services given her current responsibilities within Council.
2.5	The South AWG has expended some of its intervention funds in support for retail across four areas of South Belfast and is considering further intervention to support tourism and the economy. The Director of Development is the lead officer on this given his economic development remit.

2.6	The issues and geographic location of intervention within areas is understandably different given the different issues and opportunities that effect different parts of the city as well as the political make up of AWGs.
2.7	The intervention approach is a pilot and will become more relevant when area planning becomes grounded within Council.

3	Key Issues
3.1	The North AWG after some consideration held a special meeting on 17 October 2013 to discuss their approach.
3.2	The Councillors view anti social behaviour as one of the biggest issues in North Belfast. While the AWG recognise the nature of the integrationist approach as in Divis the problem is more widespread in North Belfast with various areas being indentified as at risk by PSNI and other agencies due to the crime and antisocial behaviours activity.
3.3	Furthermore the AWG is of the opinion that current intervention across the public sector is limited in this regard and believe a practical application of the intervention money on things such as additional alley gates would be more beneficial. There is also a view that by undertaking a practical intervention such as this Councillors have a stronger argument to make with other agencies in terms of doing better and they do not want further displacement problems arising as a result of the new gates.
3.4	The AWG does not want to use its money as a substitute for the capital programme projects Allegy Gates Phase 3 and 4 and have in some areas such as Glenard, Shore Road and Whitehall identified streets that would not be included in phases 3 or 4. A number of other streets in other areas such as Ardoyne have also been identified although the address details have yet to be confirmed. In addition the AWG wants to undertake a feasibility study with some of the intervention money to assist the Cavehill Antrim Road Regeneration Group which currently undertakes youth diversionary activity in an area that is not totally suitable for alley gates.
3.5	The number of streets and consequent gates identified by the AWG is based on estimates costs provided by H&ES staff with an inbuilt 10% contingency. Officers pointed out that these were only estimates and did not include costs such as legal advice and advertisements and that it would be around a year before gates were on the ground and allowance for inflation will be necessary. The AWG accepted that firmer costs would need to be provided and that any impact on final decisions as to number and location of gates would need to be agreed.
3.6	Some further discussion ensued regarding gate specification and procurement and officers are to follow this up with the group.

4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	There are no equality implications at this stage.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Committee is asked to endorse this approach to intervention by the North AWG subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Further refinement of the cost and scope of the work within the £100,000 intervention limit (ii) There is no substitution or duplication with Alley Gates Phase 3/4 (iii) The AWG give further consideration how to use this community safety intervention as a lever to get better responses from other agencies in North Belfast.

6	Decision Tracking

7	Key to Abbreviations
None.	

8	Documents Attached
None.	