

NOTICE OF MEETING

Cabinet Member Signing

WEDNESDAY, 1ST JULY, 2015 at 12.00 pm HRS - CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH ROAD, WOOD GREEN, N22 8LE.

MEMBERS: Councillor Bernice Vanier, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities

AGENDA

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

Please note that this meeting may be filmed or recorded by the Council for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site or by anyone attending the meeting using any communication method. Although we ask members of the public recording, filming or reporting on the meeting not to include the public seating areas, members of the public attending the meeting should be aware that we cannot guarantee that they will not be filmed or recorded by others attending the meeting. Members of the public participating in the meeting (e.g. making deputations, asking questions, making oral protests) should be aware that they are likely to be filmed, recorded or reported on.

By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings.

The chair of the meeting has the discretion to terminate or suspend filming or recording, if in his or her opinion continuation of the filming, recording or reporting would disrupt or prejudice the proceedings, infringe the rights of any individual or may lead to the breach of a legal obligation by the Council.

2. URGENT BUSINESS

The Leader/Cabinet Member will advise of any items they have decided to take as urgent business.

3. WARD BUDGETS (PAGES 1 - 16)

The report will seek Cabinet Member approval to establish ward budgets and agree the allocation of £10k for each ward. The report will also seek Cabinet Member approval for the process and criteria of expenditure and seek agreement for the necessary officer delegations to administer the ward budgets.

4. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any new items of Urgent Business admitted under Item 2 above.

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Report for:	Cabinet Member Signing	Item Number:	
Title:	Ward Budgets 2015/16		
Report Authorised by:	Tracie Evans, Chief Operating Officer		
Lead Officer:	Erica Ballmann, Head of Policy & Business Management		
Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Key Decision		

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. The vision underpinning the Council's Corporate Plan is to work with communities to make Haringey an even better place to live. Key to that goal is changing the way we engage with residents, developing new approaches to resident engagement, focused on building community capacity. Effective engagement with residents is also essential to ensure that the services we deliver are focused on their needs.
- 1.2. This report recommends that ward budgets are established as a way of enabling this approach and that £10k is allocated to each ward. This report also recommends to the Cabinet Member that she agrees the process and criteria as set out in the appendices attached to this report and agrees the necessary officer delegations to administer the ward budgets.

2. Cabinet Member introduction

At the last Full Council meeting, Members agreed that the existing Area Forum and Committee arrangements should be brought to an end and that, instead, we should set about exploring in detail how we can find more effective ways of engaging and working with Haringey's residents, businesses and partners – and giving local people a greater stake in community projects.



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We understand that the Area Forum sessions were popular with some residents, but in many areas they weren't as well attended as we'd have liked, and that means they were no longer the best way of giving local people a say. If we are to encourage more people to get involved, then it's really important that we find more effective ways of doing so. Ward budgets should be flexible enough to enable different approaches to Community Leadership to take place in different wards. For instance, in some wards Councillors may wish to hold community meetings similar to Area Forums.

We're proud of the huge wealth of talent that we have here in Haringey, and of the significant resources and assets that we have in our communities and in our neighbourhoods, and we want to make sure we make the most of these. Ward budgets will be one tool that will enable us to take this approach. The appendices attached set out guidance on how these budgets will operate.

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member agrees:

- 3.1. That a budget of £10k is allocated to each ward;
- 3.2. The process and criteria for allocating ward budgets as set out in appendices to A and B of this report;
- 3.3. To delegate to the Assistant Director of Environmental Services and Community Safety authority to determine applications for ward budget funding;
- 3.4. To delegate to the s151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, authority to make any necessary changes to the process for awarding money from ward budgets, including changes to the officer responsible for determining applications for ward budget funding;
- 3.5. That there will be an annual review and evaluation.

4. Alternative options considered

4.1. Alternative options considered include:

- Continuing with Area Forums and Committees;
- Abolishing Area Forums and Committees and not establishing anything in their place.

4.2 There is a clear commitment in the Council's Corporate Plan to work and engage with more of our community in a meaningful way to make Haringey an even better place to live.

4.3 With that in mind, it is not appropriate to abolish existing arrangements without considering alternatives. Nor is it appropriate to continue Area Committees and Forums in the knowledge that this mechanism has only partially achieved its objectives.



5. Background information

- 5.1. The future of Area Committees and Forums and possible alternatives has been under discussion with Members since before the 2014 local government elections.
- 5.2. There has been concern for some time that attendance at Area Forums and Committees is variable and often low, they were not the best forum for meaningful engagement with a wider number of residents.
- 5.3. With this in mind, alongside the focus in the Corporate Plan to increase engagement and work with our communities, ward budgets are being proposed as a tool for Councillors to use in their local area.
- 5.4. The key principles of how the ward budgets will operate are:
- **Acting as a catalyst:** to equip Councillors to encourage resident-led activities that become autonomous and self-sustaining.
 - **Community leadership as a process not a transaction:** while it will sometimes be beneficial to help resident-led initiatives get off the ground through seed funding, the ward budgets are not exclusively a seed fund. The intention is that they are also used to support the process of community leadership, a process that involves bringing residents together, identifying priorities and developing resident-led solutions. The process of community leadership can potentially reach a wider range of community groups and inspire a greater number of autonomous community initiatives, than could be supported through the ward budget used exclusively as a seed fund.
 - **A strategic, evidence based approach:** Councillors need to be equipped to use their ward budgets in a strategic way and focus on the most important issues in their wards. Councillors will have access to ward profiles and other sources of information about the pattern of need in their wards. They also need to have as much information as possible about the 'community assets' within their wards – the community groups, networks of support and community champions that Councillors may look to 'lead', bring together and invite to develop new initiatives. The ward budgets will enable Councillors to commission additional information gathering, surveys and asset mapping where it is required.
 - **Active leadership not passive acceptance of applications for funding:** It is suggested that it would be best to avoid a "passive" approach of simply welcoming applications to a pot of funding. By using the ward budget to support a strategic process of community leadership, Councillors can seek and draw out initiatives where funding would be most valuable and then help to deliver a successful application.
 - **Flexibility:** ward budgets should be flexible enough to enable different approaches to Community Leadership to take place in different wards. For instance, in some wards Councillors may wish to hold community meetings similar to Area Forums.



5.5 Communication and transparency:

It is important that ward budget activity is clearly communicated and transparent. There will be a borough-wide publicity campaign organised through the Communications Unit to publicise ward budgets. At the end of the year, Communications will produce feature articles on ward budget projects using the Council's normal channels. Communications support to engage individual communities will be available through the use of local social media and website channels. The costs of any locally requested materials (posters or leaflets) would need to be paid for out of ward budgets and will be sourced through the Communications Unit procurement sources.

6. Comments of the Section 151 Officer and financial implications

- 6.1. The recommendation within this report is to create a ward budget of £10k per ward (there are 19 wards), which equates to a total annual budget requirement of £190k. This sum has not been built into the approved Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2015-18 and is therefore additional to the current available budget provision.
- 6.2. It should be noted that budget provision was available to fund special allowances for the area chairs as well as incidental costs associated with running and supporting the Area Forums and Committee arrangements. As these have now ceased, this budget, totalling £66k, can be re-directed to support part of the required £190k leaving a balance of £124k to find from other sources.
- 6.3. Given that this is a new approach to community engagement and that the 2015/16 MTFS has already been approved, it is proposed that the additional £124k budget requirement be funded from unspent inflation contingency as a one-off allocation for this financial year. Ahead of the finalisation of the 2016/17 MTFS, it is recommended that officers undertake a review of the effectiveness of the new arrangements and against this make a funding decision on a more permanent basis.
- 6.4. The Chief Financial Officer has been involved in the preparation of the proposed arrangements for financial governance of the decision making and the administration of the ward budgets and is content that the arrangements should minimise risk of improper use of public funds.

7. Comments of the AD Corporate Governance and legal implications

- 7.1. The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and confirms that the Council has a discretionary power of 'general competence' under s1 of the Localism Act 2011 which allows it to do anything that an individual can do, including the power to do anything for the



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benefit of the authority, the Haringey area or persons resident or present in the area.

7.2. Decisions about the allocation of ward budgets cannot be delegated either individually or collectively to ward members of the authority and therefore an officer will need to make decisions on awarding money from ward budgets on recommendations from ward councillors based on the criteria set out in the attached appendices.

7.3. Ward budgets comprise council funds and must be spent in accordance with the relevant constitutional, financial and procurement rules.

8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

8.1. The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:

- tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
- foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

8.2 Ward budgets provide an opportunity for Councillors to help foster community cohesion in local areas by encouraging different communities to work together to identify priorities and develop resident-led solutions to local issues.

8.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached at Appendix C. It found that ward budgets provide an opportunity for Councillors to help foster community cohesion in local areas by encouraging different communities to work together to identify priorities and develop resident-led solutions to local issues.

8.4 The EqIA identified a number of potential risks around the introduction of ward budgets but also found that there is adequate mitigation in place to address these risks, such as equalities training for Councillors, support from the Council Communications team, a transparent process for distributing funds, and control in the form of senior officer confirmation of spending.

8.5 The EqIA recommended that an annual review be carried out to monitor the cumulative impact of ward budgets and the effectiveness of any mitigation measures put in place. This is included in the recommendations to the Cabinet Member at paragraph 3.5 of this report.



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9. Reason for Decision

9.1. Area Forums and Committees have been deleted and it is recommended that ward budgets are established as a means of enabling engagement with Haringey's residents.

9.2. This decision will establish the funding and process for ward budgets.

10. Use of Appendices

The appendices attached to this report set out guidance on how ward budgets will operate and the EQIA

Appendix A - Guidance on Ward Budgets

Appendix B – Ward Budget Application Form

Appendix C – Equalities Impact Assessment

11. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985



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Appendix A - Guidance on Ward Budgets

Decision process and criteria

Ward budgets are designed to act as a catalyst to encourage resident led activities that are autonomous and self sustaining.

1. Who should receive funds from ward budgets?

Local community organisations, charities, statutory bodies (e.g. the police), businesses and sole traders can receive funds, either separately or in partnership. Ward budgets cannot be used to support any kind of political activity.

A small group or individual that has a sponsor that is a constituted local organisation that is willing to administer the funds on their behalf can also apply.

2. How will funds be awarded?

Ward Councillors, working together, will be responsible for agreeing proposals to be put forward for approval for the award of funding. Wards may wish to do this in different ways and will have the flexibility to do this in the way that best suits their ward. Some suggestions are:

- Ward Councillors may wish to agree priorities, perhaps in consultation with the local community, at the start of the year and invite applications that will further that agenda (for instance, a focus on enhancing local high streets, or tackling social isolation).
- Ward Councillors may wish to maintain more flexibility and adopt a combination of seeking community groups to take forward specific initiatives, or to maintain complete flexibility to allow anyone to come forward with a proposition in line with the general aims of the ward budget.
- The frequency with which decisions are made on spending of the budget is for Ward Councillors to agree – and could be annual, quarterly or monthly, for instance. If awards are to be made at specific periods during the year, Councillors will wish to weigh up the benefits of speediness of decision making versus ensuring that the budget is not all spent within the first few months of the year.

All the Councillors in the Ward will need to agree and set out for publication how awards are made, on what timescale, and how they will ensure that the money is disbursed in accordance with the overall aims and objectives of ward budgets. Ward Members will need to make available this information before applications can be submitted or decisions about spending made.

3. What are the criteria for awarding funds from ward budgets?



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a) In order to ensure that there is transparency and clarity, it is suggested that a standard template is used across wards, and this will be provided. Successful applications must:

- improve the well being of the local community in Haringey, or its environment or economy
- be one off expenditure with no expectation of future funding
- be a minimum of £1000, for applications from external organisations. (Applications from Ward Members, such as for room hire and printing, will not be subject to a minimum) and
- be for revenue or capital expenditure.

Examples of applications that are likely to meet the criteria are:-

- providing access to tools for a community garden or impacting positively on resident engagement
- providing seed or match funding for a larger scale project. For example to help fund the painting of shop frontages in a particular street.
- funding to be used to engage a particular part of the community on a specific issue.
- funding to support ongoing and regular ward or community engagement and development

Ward budgets can be used to fund joint projects between two or more wards providing each ward has identified the project as something that would benefit residents in all the participating wards.

b) Ward budgets CANNOT be used for the following purposes:

- Projects that would adversely impact the local community or environment like for example funding a parade for a socially excluded body
- Projects that would undermine council approved priorities
- To fund existing, changing or decommissioned council services
- To fund the mainstream activities of a commercial or voluntary sector organisation.
- To fund retrospective applications (e.g. equipment etc cannot be purchased and then an application submitted)
- Projects that are political in nature or campaign against the council or its agreed priorities or funding for lobbying
- Must not have on going revenue or capital implications
- Projects/proposals that would be unlawful for the Council to support



4. How will decisions about applications be made and when?

A named officer (currently the Assistant Director of Environmental Services and Community Safety) will have the delegated decision making authority to approve applications for money from ward budgets. Ward members will therefore make their recommendations on the spending of the budgets to the named officer. However, ward members are expected to make recommendations that meet all of the above criteria for awarding ward budgets. The named officer should then be able to agree spending without further information. The decision of the named officer will be final and is not subject to appeal. Unspent ward budgets will not be rolled forward to the following financial year.

The decision making process is set out below.



5. What rules apply to spending ward budget funds?

Ward budget funds are public money and so the same rules apply as would apply to any other council spending. All spending is subject to the Council's Constitution, Contract Standing Orders and Financial regulations, as well as the appropriate scrutiny and accountability.



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The Council will not be putting resources into checking that projects supported by a ward budget have been delivered. There is an element of trust between the Ward Members and the applicant to ensure that the money is spent in accordance with the application. If Members believe at any point that the funds awarded have been used for different purposes than those applied for, they should notify the named officer who will make a decision on the most appropriate course of action. .

Ward Councillors must consider and identify any potential conflicts of interest in relation to proposals they are supporting.

6. Transparency

The officer delegated decisions will be published on the Council's website in accordance with the Council's Transparency policies. The Council's internet site will include a section on ward budgets, and a ward by ward page. This will be pre-populated with ward profiles. It will also include:

- Information about how wards are awarded, what frequency decisions will be made on, and priorities and objectives – to be provided by ward members
- A full list of applications, and which ones have been recommended by ward councillors for funding
- Any applications rejected by the named officer (expected to be small in number)
- Information at the end of the year about how money has been spent
- Any declarations of interest from ward members in relation to budget applications



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Appendix B – Ward Budget Application Form

Please refer to the guidance notes for a full explanation of the rules about ward budget funds.

Ward:

Applicant Information:

Name of Organisation/Group/Company/Charity/sponsor:

Position, name and address of contact in organisation:

E-mail address and telephone number:

Note: Applications must come through recognised or constituted groups, but if excellent ideas are proposed, 'ownership' by a constituted group could be considered.

Proposal:

Please explain what you are proposing to do and how it meets all of the criteria for ward budget funds.

How much are you requesting from the ward budget fund? £ _____



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If your application for ward budget funding is part of a larger project please explain how much will come from other sources and what those other sources are.

List any attached documents you are supplying in support of your project:

Check you meet the requirements for ward budget funds:

All necessary consents/insurance or permissions are/will be in place (yes/no)

None of the prohibitions in section 3(b) of the guidance on ward budgets applies (yes/no)

Certification by applicant:

I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the entries on this application form are true, accurate and complete.

I confirm that I am authorised to sign this application form on behalf of the organisation or group named within this application form.

Signature.....



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Ward Councillor certification

We, the undersigned ward councillors support this proposal:

Signed.....

Councillor

Signed.....

Councillor

Signed.....

Councillor

Date:.....

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Equality Impact Assessment

Name of Project	Ward Budgets	Cabinet meeting date If applicable	1 July 2015
Service area responsible	Policy & Business Management		
Name of completing officer	Will Shanks	Date EqIA created	16 June 2015
Approved by Director / Assistant Director		Date of approval	17 June 2015

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The Equality Act 2010 places a '**General Duty**' on all public bodies to have '**due regard**' to:

- **Eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act**
- **Advancing equality of opportunity between those with 'protected characteristics' and those without them**
- **Fostering good relations between those with 'protected characteristics' and those without them.**

In addition the Council complies with the Marriage (same sex couples) Act 2013.

Haringey Council also has a '**Specific Duty**' to publish information about people affected by our policies and practices.

All assessments must be published on the Haringey equalities web pages. All Cabinet papers MUST include a link to the web page where this assessment will be published.

This Equality Impact Assessment provides evidence for meeting the Council's commitment to equality and the responsibilities outlined above, for more information about the Council's commitment to equality; please visit the Council's website.

Stage 1 – Names of those involved in preparing the EqIA	
1. Project Lead	Will Shanks, Policy and Projects Officer, 6926
2. Equalities / HR	
3. Legal Advisor (where necessary)	
4. Trade union	

Stage 2 - Description of proposal including the relevance of the proposal to the general equality duties and protected groups. Also carry out your preliminary screening (Use the questions in the Step by Step Guide (The screening process) and document your reasoning for deciding whether or not a full EqIA is required. If a full EqIA is required move on to Stage 3.

The proposal is that ward budgets are established as a flexible fund for enabling Councillors to exercise community leadership and catalyse resident-led initiatives. It is proposed that £10k is allocated to each ward, to be distributed according to a prescribed process.

Guidance has been drafted that details who is eligible to receive funds, the criteria for awarding funds and the process for deciding which applications to fund. Processes to ensure transparency of decision making are also included.

The proposal is relevant to the Council's equalities duty as there is real scope to impact positively upon protected groups and on community cohesion in general. There is scope for Councillors to use ward budgets to promote, lead, catalyse or fund resident-led initiatives that seek to address social problems or improve neighbourhoods in ways that directly or indirectly impact positively upon protected groups. There is scope for ward budgets to engage residents and support events and initiatives that bring communities together and promote cohesion.

Ward budgets are designed to be flexible and responsive to community need and enthusiasm, as well as Councillors' preferred way of working. Bureaucratic controls have been minimised to enable an array of community leadership techniques and for the widest range of community initiatives to be supported. There is an inherent risk therefore that ward budgets are not spent equitably, with some groups/communities benefitting disproportionately and some protected groups struggling to access the funding.

It is therefore deemed necessary to carry out an EqIA.

Stage 3 – Scoping Exercise - Employee data used in this Equality Impact Assessment
Identify the main sources of the evidence, both quantitative and qualitative, that supports your analysis. This could include for example, data on the Council’s workforce, equalities profile of service users, recent surveys, research, results of recent relevant consultations, Haringey Borough Profile, Haringey Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and any other sources of relevant information, local, regional or national.

Data Source (include link where published)	What does this data include?
EqIA Profile on Harinet	Age, gender, ethnicity, disability information – for the Council and the Borough

Stage 4 – Scoping Exercise - Service data used in this Equality Impact Assessment
This section to be completed where there is a change to the service provided

Data Source (include link where published)	What does this data include?
NA – no service data used as proposal does not impact upon services	NA

**Stage 5a – Considering the above information, what impact will this proposal have on the following groups in terms of impact on residents and service delivery:
Positive and negative impacts identified will need to form part of your action plan.**

	Positive	Negative	Details	None – why?
Sex				<p>No evidence to suggest a negative impact and no risks identified.</p> <p>Measures should be in place to determine whether the cumulative impact of the new ways of working are adversely affecting people based on their sex.</p>
Gender Reassignment				<p>No evidence to suggest a negative impact and no risks identified.</p> <p>Measures should be in place to determine whether the cumulative impact of the new ways of working are adversely affecting people based on gender reassignment.</p>
Age	Potential	Risk	There is significant potential for ward budgets to support community-led initiatives that support older people – i.e. befriending, community transport etc. Older people seem to be	

			<p>a popular focus for community-led initiatives elsewhere in the UK.</p> <p>Older people (retirees) also tend to be time-rich and the most engaged in volunteering so community initiatives supported by ward budgets may give this groups more opportunities to be involved.</p>	
Disability		Risk	If ward budgets are promoted via digital channels there is a risk that some disabled people who lack digital literacy are excluded.	
Race & Ethnicity	Potential		There is scope to advance community cohesion objectives by promoting and supporting community events and uses of community buildings that bring communities together. See section 6.	
Sexual Orientation				No evidence to suggest a negative impact and no risks identified.

				Measures should be in place to determine whether the cumulative impact of the new ways of working are adversely affecting people based on sexual orientation.
Religion or Belief (or No Belief)	Potential		There is scope to advance community cohesion objectives by promoting and supporting community events and uses of community buildings that bring communities together. See section 6.	
Pregnancy & Maternity	Potential	Risk	Children and young people seem to be a popular focus for community-led initiatives elsewhere in the UK. There is a risk that commissioners will engage with residents at times that do not suit parents, or working parents. Councillors will need to engage communities in different ways and different times.	
Marriage and Civil Partnership (note this only applies in relation to eliminating unlawful				No evidence to suggest a negative impact and no risks identified.

discrimination (limb 1))				Measures should be in place to determine whether the cumulative impact of the new ways of working are adversely affecting people based on marital status.
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Stage 5b – For your employees and considering the above information, what impact will this proposal have on the following groups: Positive and negative impacts identified will need to form part of your action plan.

	Positive	Negative	Details	None – why?
Sex	There will be no impact on staff as there are no implications for service delivery			
Gender Reassignment				
Age				
Disability				
Race & Ethnicity				
Sexual Orientation				
Religion or Belief (or No Belief)				
Pregnancy & Maternity				
Marriage and Civil Partnership (note this only applies in relation to eliminating unlawful discrimination (limb 1))				

Stage 6 - Initial Impact analysis

Risks or potential for positive impact:	Actions to mitigate, advance equality or fill gaps in information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk: ward budgets are not distributed equitably, with some groups/communities benefitting disproportionately and some protected groups struggling to access the funding 	<p>There will be equalities training and guidance for Councillors. A programme of community leadership training is currently being developed with initial discussions having taken place with South Bank University and the LGIU. Training will also focus on partnership working and stakeholder mapping – which will help Councillors to identify marginalised groups to engage and invite to apply for ward budget funding.</p> <p>Councillors will also be equipped with ward profiles and information about local need.</p> <p>The ward budget process requires councillors to set the criteria, strategic objectives and timescales for their ward budgets – and these will be published on the Council website. This ensures transparency and promotes equal access to ward budget funds.</p> <p>Proposals for distributing ward budgets must be confirmed by a named senior council officer under delegated decision making, which provides a control against inequitable funding decisions.</p> <p>All spending decision will be published on the Council website – this transparency mitigates against inequitable funding decisions.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk: that communications around ward budgets don't reach all communities and protected groups 	<p>Councillors will have access to Communications support from the Council's Communication team, including assistance with digital and social media campaigns. The Council's Communication team have expertise in reaching different groups in society – and will explicitly address equalities and accessibility issues when designing borough wide promotion of ward budgets.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk: the cumulative impact of ward budgets has a negative 	<p>Recommendation for Cabinet report: Measures need to be in place</p>

<p>impact on protected groups.</p>	<p>to record the profile of residents who are participating in community leadership initiatives, and receiving support from ward budgets. An annual assessment should be carried out to determine whether there are inequities and imbalances in who is taking part and who is being supported.</p> <p>A review of ward budgets from a value-for-money perspective is due to take place ahead of the finalisation of the 2016-17 Medium Term Financial Strategy. It is recommended that this review to extended to include a cumulative equalities impact review.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive potential: there is scope to advance community cohesion objectives by promoting and supporting community events and initiatives that bring communities together. 	<p>Ward budget guidance and the Community Strategy emphasise the need to promote community cohesion. The Council uses MOPAC indicators to monitor levels of community cohesion – as part of initiatives such as Prevent and Operation Shield.</p>

Conclusion – adequate mitigation is in place to address the equalities risks raised by the introduction of ward budgets. It is recommended that an annual review be carried out to monitor the cumulative impact of ward budgets, the effectiveness of mitigation measures and whether further mitigation is required.

Stage 7 - Consultation and follow up data from actions set above

The future of Area Committees and Forums and possible alternatives has been under discussion with Members since before the 2014 local government elections.

There has been concern for some time that attendance at Area Forums and Committees is variable and often low, they were not the best forum for meaningful engagement with a wider number of residents.

The proposal to introduce ward budgets was approved by majority group on 2nd June 2015.

No further consultation will be carried out.

Stage 8 - Final impact analysis

Conclusion – adequate mitigation is in place to address the equalities risks raised by the introduction of ward budgets. It is recommended that an annual review be carried out to monitor the cumulative impact of ward budgets, the effectiveness of mitigation measures and whether further mitigation is required.

Stage 9 - Equality Impact Assessment Review Log

Review approved by Director / Assistant Director

Date of review

Stage 10 – Publication

Ensure the completed EqIA is published in accordance with the Council’s policy.