

Report to CABINET

Establishing a Local Improvement Fund for Districts

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Sean Fielding, Council Leader

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Reason for Decision

At Annual Council on the 22nd May it was agreed to abolish District Executives, including the attached Capital and Revenue funding. To continue investing in local projects, Council agreed that a Local Improvement Fund (LIF) should be established. The LIF is a £500k fund that all elected members and District Teams can access through a bidding process.

This paper outlines:

- The process for bidding into the LIF
- How the LIF will be administered
- The terms-of-reference for the Cabinet sub-committee overseeing the LIF and the advisory panel who will make recommendations to the sub-committee.

Recommendations

1. Approve the establishment of a Cabinet sub-committee to oversee the LIF application process and approve successful grant applications.
2. Agree the LIF application process and scoring criteria.
3. Approve the establishment of an advisory panel to review the LIF applications and make recommendations to the Cabinet sub-committee on which projects should be funded.

Reviewing District Working in Oldham

1 Background

- 1.1 The Local Improvement Fund (LIF) will be available to all elected members and District Teams to support District Priorities. The Fund will be made up of £500k capital funding in 2019/20. This funding will be reviewed annually.
- 1.2 The funding will support Districts to:
- Encourage the active participation of residents and local organisations in improving the quality of life in the local area.
 - Improve community buildings, equipment and other facilities.
 - Engage with residents to prioritise schemes that matter to them.

2 Oversight of the LIF

- 2.1 The LIF will be overseen by a Cabinet sub-committee made up of:
- The Council Leader
 - The Deputy Leader (Statutory)
 - The Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources
 - A nominated Shadow Cabinet Member will attend in a non-voting capacity.
- Advisory members:
- Members of SMT as appropriate – no voting rights
- 2.2 All successful applications to the LIF will be signed-off by the Cabinet sub-committee. The Cabinet sub-committee's decision is final. The Sub-Committee will be subject to the Council's procedure rules, Cabinet procedure rules and the access to information procedure rules. The terms-of-reference for the Cabinet sub-committee are included in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 In addition, an advisory panel will be established to review the LIF applications and make recommendations to the Cabinet sub-committee on which projects should be funded. The advisory panel will be made up of:
- Two elected representatives from the Labour administration
 - One elected representative from the Opposition
- 2.4 To assess potential projects the advisory panel will use the process and scoring criteria outlined in section 3. The terms-of-reference for the LIF advisory panel are included in Appendix 2.

3 LIF Application Process and Scoring Criteria

- 3.1 In the first instance an Expression of Interest (EOI) should be submitted to the LIF advisory panel for consideration (Appendix 3).
- 3.2 The EOI will be scored by the LIF advisory panel using the scoring criteria detailed in Appendix 4.
- 3.3 If the EOI is successful you will be invited to submit a full application for funding (Appendix 5).
- 3.4 The full application will be scored by the LIF advisory panel using the scoring criteria detailed in Appendix 6.
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3.5 Once scored by the advisory panel, full applications will be submitted to the Cabinet sub-committee for final sign-off and approval. The Cabinet sub-committee's decision is final.

4 Options/Alternatives

1.	Do nothing – this is not an option in this case (see recommendation below).
2.	Approve the establishment of a Cabinet sub-committee to oversee the LIF application process and approve successful grant applications. Agree the LIF application process and scoring criteria. Approve the establishment of an advisory panel to review the LIF applications and make recommendations to the Cabinet sub-committee on which projects should be funded.

5 Recommended Option

2.	Approve the establishment of a Cabinet sub-committee to oversee the LIF application process and approve successful grant applications. Agree the LIF application process and scoring criteria. Approve the establishment of an advisory panel to review the LIF applications and make recommendations to the Cabinet sub-committee on which projects should be funded.
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6 Financial Implications

6.1 This report is seeking to set up a Sub Committee and advisory panel to help oversee and review the Local Improvement Fund (LIF) which will aim to continue investing in local projects, and details how the LIF will be administered

£500k has been set aside within the capital programme for 2019-20 to help support this initiative. (Sadrul Alam)

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 The Cabinet will ordinarily carry out all of the Council's Executive Functions that are not the responsibility of any other part of the Council unless, the Leader decides to discharge them personally or allocate them to an individual Cabinet Member or a Committee of the Cabinet.

Where the Cabinet is exercising these functions, it may delegate those functions to a Sub-Committee of the Cabinet.

Where Executive functions have been delegated, that does not prevent the discharge of delegated functions by the person or body who delegated them; or the Leader or Cabinet from reviewing decisions made in the discharge of those functions. (Liz Drogan)

8 Co-operative Agenda

8.1 As a co-operative council, we are committed to reforming public services and encouraging innovation, leading to better outcomes and delivery. The Local Improvement Fund will

ensure that Districts are best able to meet the needs of both elected members and the residents they represent. (Jonathan Downs).

9 **Human Resources Comments**

9.1 None

10 **Risk Assessments**

10.1 None

11 **IT Implications**

11.1 None

12 **Property Implications**

12.1 None

13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 None

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 None

15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1 None

16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1 No

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 No

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 N/A

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 None

20 **Appendices**

20.1 Appendix 1 – Terms-of-Reference: Cabinet sub-committee
Appendix 2 – Terms-of-Reference: Advisory panel
Appendix 3 – LIF Expression of Interest
Appendix 4 – Expression of Interest scoring criteria
Appendix 5 – LIF Full Application
Appendix 6 – Full Application scoring criteria
