



Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee

21 October 2015

Title	Finchley and Golders Green Insight and Evidence Review – establishing priorities for Area Committee budgets allocations
Report of	Director of Strategy and Communications
Wards	Child's Hill, East Finchley, Finchley Church End, Garden Suburb, Golders Green, West Finchley, Woodhouse
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix A: Insight and Evidence Review – Executive Summary Appendix B: Insight and Evidence Review
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Summary

At 24 June 2015 Community Leadership Committee and 9 July 2015 Policy and Resources Committee, changes were agreed to the way that Area Committee budgets are allocated, together with additional funding being made available to each Area Committee through the Community Infrastructure Levy.

As a result of these changes, Area Committees have greater budgets and flexibility to allocate these funds to local issues and needs.

The purpose of this report and the attached Insight and Evidence reviews in Appendix A and Appendix B, is to provide some insight into the current local issues that are impacting the Finchley and Golders Green constituency, in relation to issues such as health, employment, crime and housing to help the Committee consider where and how it might prioritise the funding it has available to it in order to help address any issues of concern

The Insight and Evidence Review Appendix B, identified three overarching themes that are specifically important to areas within Finchley and Golders Green:

- Increasing Diversity and Community Cohesion
- Inequality across areas of the constituency
- High Levels of Theft and Handling

Recommendations

1. That the Committee note and discuss the specific issues highlighted in this report in relation to:

- **Increasing Diversity and Community Cohesion**
- **Inequality across areas of the constituency**
- **High Levels of Theft and Handling**

2. Based on the issues highlighted in the Insight & Evidence Review, that the Committee decides if it wishes to set any priorities for the allocation of the funding it has available to it and instruct officers to come back with costed proposals to help address any areas of concern.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

Background

Additional resources for the Area Committees

- 1.1 At 9 July 2015 Policy and Resources Committee agreed for 15% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts to be allocated to local Area Committees. This is to be capped at £150,000 per year per constituency and is ring-fenced for infrastructure schemes. The funding from the CIL is in addition to the £100,000 a year that was previously available to each Area Committee until 2017/18.
- 1.2 It was also agreed that in 2015/16 CIL allocations for 2013/14 and 2014/15 would be amalgamated, supporting a more even distribution across Committees.
 - 1.2.1 The total funding available to the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee in 2015/16 is set out in the table below:

Proposed funding to be allocated by each Area Committee in 2015/16

	<i>Base budget 2015/16</i>	<i>Unallocated funds from 2014/15</i>	<i>CIL income</i>	<i>Allocation through Corporate Grants programme</i>	<i>Total 2015/16 allocation through Committees</i>
<i>Finchley & Golders Green</i>	£100,000	£14,628	£111,905	-£17,000	£209,533

Changes to Funding Allocations

- 1.3 In June 2014 the Policy & Resources Committee delegated £100,000 per year to each Area Committee, for the four years 2014/15 to 2017/18, to be spent in their local area. In September 2014, the Community Leadership Committee agreed a procedure for administering the budgets for 2014/15 through an open public grants process.
- 1.4 For the first year, the agreed process was adopted as a pilot scheme, and the Committee instructed officers to review it at the end of the first year of operation and put forward recommendations to amend and improve the process. This was incorporated into a wider review of how the Area Committees and Residents' Forums have operated in 2014/15.
- 1.5 The outcome of the review recommended that the open public grants process was not repeated in 2015/16 and that Area Committees instead move to a new system which would give Members more of an opportunity to plan and direct how they spend their funds. It was agreed that £17,000 from each Area Committee would be transferred to the Corporate Grants Programme. These recommendations were approved at 24 June 2015 Community Leadership Committee.
- 1.6 The new system allows for Area Committees to continue funding proposals put forward by residents but it also allows for Members to set aside a proportion of the budget to respond to low level - environmental or non-environmental - issues as and when they emerge through various routes including Resident Forums or issues brought by individual Members.
- 1.7 If other issues – either environmental or non-environmental - are flagged up as significant local problems by officers, through existing needs assessments or other evidence-gathering processes, Members can instruct officers to investigate the issue and bring possible options for projects which could address it back to the Committee, with funding used to implement the preferred option if it was considered a local priority. This provides Members with the opportunity to allocate some of the funding they have available to them on local issues based on evidence and insight.

Purpose of the Report

- 1.8 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of some of the local issues that are impacting upon the Finchley and Golders Green constituency, based on various sources of evidence including the 2015-2020 Barnet JSNA, Public Health Outcomes Framework, GLA population projections, Adults Social Care Outcomes Framework and local analysis. This can then be used to help the Area Committee set priorities for the coming year, that funding can then be allocated against.
- 1.9 The insight identified three overarching themes that are specifically important to areas within Finchley and Golders Green:

Increasing Diversity and Community Cohesion

- 1.10 The Finchley and Golders Green constituency is one of the most diverse in the borough, with residents coming from a variety of different ethnic and religious backgrounds, such as Christian (34.8%), Jewish (21.1%) and Indian (7.2%).
- 1.11 Within the Finchley and Golders Green constituency, the main driving factor for growth over the next five years is the redevelopment work around Brent Cross Cricklewood. It is likely that a large proportion of residents who move into these new homes will be from outside of the area. This could further increase the diversity of the population.
- 1.12 Within such a diverse population, it is important to support and encourage community cohesion across the area. Community cohesion is important, as without it different groups can work against one another, which can cause tension, violence and discrimination.

Inequality across Areas of the Constituency

- 1.13 The Finchley and Golders Green constituency is the most affluent constituency in the borough, with some of the highest earners of all Barnet residents (see Appendix B page 21). However, this masks areas of deprivation within the area.
- 1.14 Deprivation levels across the whole constituency are quite low; however the 2010 indices of multiple deprivation indicated that the most deprived location in the whole borough was the Strawberry Vale estate in East Finchley (see Appendix B page 21). When looking at household income, although Garden Suburb and Finchley Church End have the highest average incomes across all three constituencies, East Finchley and Golders Green have the fifth and sixth lowest incomes across the borough (see Appendix B page 21).
- 1.15 Overall the Finchley and Golders Green constituency also has the lowest rate of benefit claimants of all three constituencies; 8.4% of the working age population. However once again, specific areas of the constituency have much higher rates than the constituency average. By ward Golders Green (11.3%) and Child's Hill (10.8%) have the third and fourth highest rates of benefit claimants across all wards in the borough. These two wards also

have the joint second highest number (22) of 16-19 year olds who are not in employment, education or training across the whole borough.

- 1.16 It is also useful to look at health at the ward rather than the constituency level due to wide ranging differences across different areas. Once again, the high life expectancies of areas such as Garden Suburb and Finchley Church End act to mask some areas of concern, as West Finchley, Golders Green and Childs Hill are amongst the five wards with the lowest life expectancies in the borough (see Appendix B page 25).
- 1.17 These pockets of deprivation across the constituency create high levels of inequality across the area. In order to combat these it may be necessary to prioritise support at smaller geographical areas, rather than taking a whole constituency approach.
- 1.18 One of the best ways to improve levels of deprivation is to move people into work. Voluntary and community sector organisations relating to economic development and unemployment are well developed in some of the most deprived areas of the borough, such as Colindale and Burnt Oak, however there is weaker voluntary and community sector provision in areas of Finchley and Golders Green which also have some noteworthy levels of deprivation.

High Levels of Theft and Handling

- 1.19 Despite Finchley and Golders Green having the second highest crime rate of all three constituencies, (63.0 reported crimes per 1,000), the majority of wards within Finchley and Golders Green compare quite favourably to other areas of the borough.
- 1.20 However reported crime levels in Child's Hill are the second highest across the borough; there are 90.5 reported crimes for every 1,000 people in the population. This is the second highest of all wards in the borough, although there has been some progress with this over the past three years with the level of reported crime in Child's Hill reducing from 98.3 in 2012.
- 1.21 Across all wards in the constituency, theft and handling is most frequently reported crime, accounting for around two fifths of all reported crimes. Violence against the person and Burglary are also quite prominent types of crime in the constituency, accounting for around one fifth each of all reported crime.

Recommended areas of focus

- 1.22 Increasing Diversity and Community Cohesion
 - Improving community cohesion
 - Supporting people as they move into the area
- 1.23 Inequality across areas of the constituency
 - Placed based commissioning, to target specific areas with:

- Tackling deprivation and unemployment
- Improving health and lifestyle

1.24 High Levels of Theft and Handling

Examples of Programmes and Services

1.25 The following programmes of work are examples of the types of initiatives that could be delivered to target priority areas. Officers would investigate the specific circumstances and local opportunities to develop a tailored programme which would deliver the best outcomes.

Increasing Diversity and Community Cohesion

- Community groups are a great way of promoting community cohesion within an area. These can take the form of **sporting activities**, or could be linked into wider community based activities such as **community gardens** or **environmental projects**.
- Local **sports clubs and activities** offer a great opportunity to build community cohesion and encourage participation in physical activity. Barnet already delivers **daily walking schemes** from four locations within the borough, and there is opportunity to try and develop these further at a more local level.
- **Community gardens** or **environmental projects** offer a great way of improving community cohesion, whilst encouraging residents to take more of an interest in the care and upkeep of their local area.
- There are a variety of services and programmes that could be funded to help support new resident's moving into the area and help build community cohesion. Localised **communication campaigns** could be used to help increase awareness of the services and support that are available to residents. **Mentoring programmes** would also provide a way of providing support and guidance to residents who have just moved into the area, this would be especially useful for international migrants.
- For international migrants who have just moved into the borough, not being able to speak the language or understand the culture can act as a significant barrier to them being able to use their skills and engage with the local community. **English language and cultural programmes** help to alleviate some of these issues, as well as bring together residents from different ethnic and religious backgrounds which can help to build community cohesion. **The Conversation Café** is already providing English language sessions in four locations across the borough and with strong take-up there is an opportunity to expand these programmes in the future.

Deprivation and employment

- The highest proportion of people claiming out-of-work benefits are claiming Employment Support Allowance, a sickness related benefit. Residents claiming this benefit may have health barriers to employment, amongst other barriers such as lack of skills, experience or long periods without work. The Council is working closely with the four JobCentres in Barnet as well as the college to support people in a rounded or more holistic way. For example, the **Barnet Welfare Reform Task Force** brought together a range of services, including JobCentre Plus, Barnet Homes and wider services such as mental health support, into one place. An evaluation of the service indicated that the strongest results in terms of both getting people into work and also wider outcomes around improving people's overall health and wellbeing were highest when clients engaged with all services and received health and employability support side by side. The Jobcentre also works alongside council teams to support care leavers, offenders and families into work.
- Building on this model, the **Burnt Oak Opportunity Support Team (BOOST)** has recently been setup in Burnt Oak. This is a community based multi-agency team consisting of staff from Jobcentre Plus, Barnet Homes, Barnet Council's Benefits Service and Education and Skills team. A community partner, **Love Burnt Oak**, will also support the team's work through a local **Work Club**, language and skills classes. By locating all the services together in Burnt Oak, BOOST will be able to offer residents the targeted support they need to help them develop the skills they need to move into employment and build close links with local employers.
- **Area Forums** could support community based projects that help people find employment and / or move out of poverty. The sorts of programmes that could be beneficial are: **mentoring, skills development, skills retraining** – which may be especially useful for the older working population, **IT skills training, confidence and wellbeing support and money management**.

Health and lifestyle

- Barnet has a number of outdoor gyms installed in parks across the borough. **Outdoor gym activator programmes** are already being run across the borough, to encourage the public to engage with the gyms. There is an opportunity to build on programmes such as these, as well as introducing new programmes that offer low cost **physical activity classes** in parks and open spaces.
- In Harrow, youth and community centres are being used to provide **low cost physical activity programmes** for the community. Utilising these spaces

provides an opportunity to offer **locally based gyms and fitness classes**, at relatively low costs to the public.

- **Local sports clubs**, offer a great opportunity to build community cohesion and encourage participation in physical activity. Barnet already delivers **daily walking schemes** from four locations within the borough, and there is opportunity to try and develop these further at a more local level. Supporting these types of programmes in the local community can not only help to improve the general health of the population, but it can also help to promote community cohesion across the area.

High Levels of Theft and Handling

- Location based multi-agency problem solving. This is where partners consider the crime and anti-social behaviour in the area and devise a local plan to address the impact on the victim/community, action/intervention with the offender and addressing location based issues. The Committee could fund **area based community safety officers** who work with the local community, members, partners (for example the police, probation, immigration) and the business and voluntary sector to respond to and provide long term solutions to local crime and anti-social behaviour issues.
- Increasing community confidence and raising awareness of services to support victims of crime and anti-social behaviour by running a **localised communication campaign** to increase awareness of services; and running localised, **resident based community safety summit** to promote the safety of the area.
- Spot purchasing of **mobile CCTV** would fund the moving of a camera, or installation of a new one in areas where there are persistent problems of anti-social behaviour to deter offenders and support evidence gathering.
- Establishing **neighbourhood watch schemes**. This is most applicable in areas of high burglary.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The process for allocating Area Committee Budgets was approved by the Community Leadership Committee and Policy & Resources Committee to allow Area Committees to help support local issues and areas of need.
- 2.2 These recommendations are required to ensure that priorities are based on insight into the current needs within the Finchley and Golders Green constituency.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 None

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 This report does not require any direct decision to be made. The report should provide insight to help support future funding decisions made by the Area Committee.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 The recommendations set out in this report further the principles of the Corporate Plan 2015-2020 by seeking to ensure that Area Committee operations and the resources they allocate improve quality of life for people in each local area, support communities to help themselves, and work efficiently to ensure value for money.

5.1.2 The decision will contribute to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy's aim to improve wellbeing in the community by helping Area Committees to prioritise funding to reflect the needs of communities in their local area.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 The total funding available to the Finchley and Golders Green Area Committee in 2015/16 is set out in the table below:

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5.2.2 Officer support for the Area Committee budget allocation is required but has so far been managed within existing workloads.

Support has come from the Governance Service, Strategy Unit and Finance, with support from Legal and Delivery Units as appropriate. Some transactional finance support will also be required post-decision to provide audit and due diligence and arrange for funds to be released.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 The Council has statutory duties to promote the wellbeing and health of its residents for example in the Care Act 2014.

5.3.2 The Constitution section Responsibility for Functions (Annex A - Membership and Terms of Reference of committees and partnership boards) provides that Area Committees' functions include "in relation to the area covered by the Committee. Discharge any functions, within the budget and policy framework agreed by Policy and Resources, of the theme committees that they agree are more properly delegated to a more local level.

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 The recommendations set out in this report and its appendices are designed to mitigate risk, by allowing funding decisions to be based on insight that demonstrates local areas of need.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 The 2010 Equality Act outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equality Duty. This requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups.

5.5.2 The recommendations set out in this report are designed to ensure that Area Committees are able to reflect the needs of different communities within their local area in their own decisions, and to give Area Committees a route to feed these into the decisions made by Theme Committees.

5.5.3 The protected characteristics are:

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex;
- sexual orientation.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 None

5.8 Insight

5.8.1 All recommendations put forward in this report are based on insight and analysis from a variety of sources including the 2015-2020 Barnet JSNA, Public Health Outcomes Framework, GLA population projections, Adults

Social Care Outcomes Framework and local analysis.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Area Environment Sub-Committees - Draft Funding Arrangements (Policy & Resources Committee, 10 June 2014).
- 6.2 Area Sub-Committees - Budget Allocation Draft Framework (Community Leadership Committee, 25 June 2014).
- 6.3 Developing a Community Participation Strategy for Barnet (Community Leadership Committee, 25 June 2014).
- 6.4 Community Participation Strategy: Area Committee Budget Arrangements and Wider Community Funding (Community Leadership Committee, 11 September 2014).
- 6.5 Community Participation Strategy: Implementation Plan (Community Leadership Committee, 11 March 2015).
- 6.6 Review of Area Committees and their relationship with the Environment Committee (Environment Committee, 11 June 2015)
- 6.7 Review of Area Committees – operations and delegated budgets (Community Leadership Committee, 24 June 2015)