

REPORT TO: Corporate & Policy PPB
DATE: 1st November 2011
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Communities
SUBJECT: Local Area Forum's 2010/11
WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform members of the spending profiles of the Local Area Forum's for the financial period 1st of April 2010 to 31st March 2011.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

(1) The report be discussed and a recommendation on introducing a revised funding application agreed.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Local Area Forums were set up in 2001 taking decisions and policy development into communities and bridging the gap between key agencies working within the Borough. Each Local Area Forum is led by local Councillors and supported by a senior officer from the Council. Other partner organisations such as the Police, Fire Service, Housing Associations, Youth and voluntary sector bodies also attend Local Area Forums to keep the community informed of local developments and to respond to local concerns. The Local Area Forum Projects Coordinator works closely with the Local Councillors, Community Development, External Funding, Housing Associations, and local residents in addition to other partners.

3.2 Each year funding has been allocated to the Local Area Forums to spend on small-scale projects that are identified by the community or to support larger scale initiatives providing improvements to the local area. In 2010/11, £600,000 was allocated to the Area Forum. It is allocated on a per capita basis across the seven Local Area Forums that cover the Borough.

AF1 – Broadheath, Ditton, Hough Green and Hale

AF2 – Appleton, Kingsway and Riverside

AF3 – Birchfield, Farnworth and Halton View

AF4 – Grange, Heath, Halton Brook and Mersey,

AF5 – Halton Castle, Norton North, Norton South and Windmill Hill

AF6 – Beechwood and Halton Lea

AF7 – Daresbury

- 3.3 The local community are invited to raise ideas for neighbourhood projects to enhance their local area. Access to funding requires a form being submitted to the Area Forum. A revised form is attached (appendix A) it is proposed is introduced. This will help gather more information to support accountability and reporting information and for clarity to support any Council decisions. The Forum then considers these ideas involving partners and securing other sources of funding as appropriate and an action plan agreed. Actions must have community support and not result in a long-term financial commitment.
- 3.4 The Community Development team support locality working through the Local Area Forums encouraging community involvement and developing community initiatives in the neighbourhoods. They support local community groups to engage with members, council departments, partner agencies and support the leverage of additional funding to community development projects.

4.0 LOCAL AREA FORUM EXPENDITURE

- 4.1 The projects funded through the Local Area Forums are wide and varied. However they have been categorised into a number of key areas, which are listed below:-

Landscapes

This category includes increased planting, allotments and provision of dog bins.

Safety

This category includes road safety improvements, traffic calming and speed surveys.

Youth Facilities

This category includes Improvements to youth and community centres including facilities, lighting, creation of kick about areas and sporting equipment.

Improved Parks

This category refers to an initiative which allows the provision of gardeners in parks at the weekends which helps deter vandalism, improves public reassurance and the general appearance of the parks. In addition the forum provides additional planting and improved facilities such as benches.

Pedestrian Access

This category is for making improvements to the local infrastructure, such as pathways.

Security

This category includes alley gating initiatives. It also includes other projects such as fencing and lighting to deter crime and anti-social behaviour.

Other

This category is for community facilities and resources, community initiatives, sports facilities, events organised by local groups and improvements at pre-school venues. This supports thriving, cohesive, vibrant and safer communities throughout Halton.

5.0 BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING

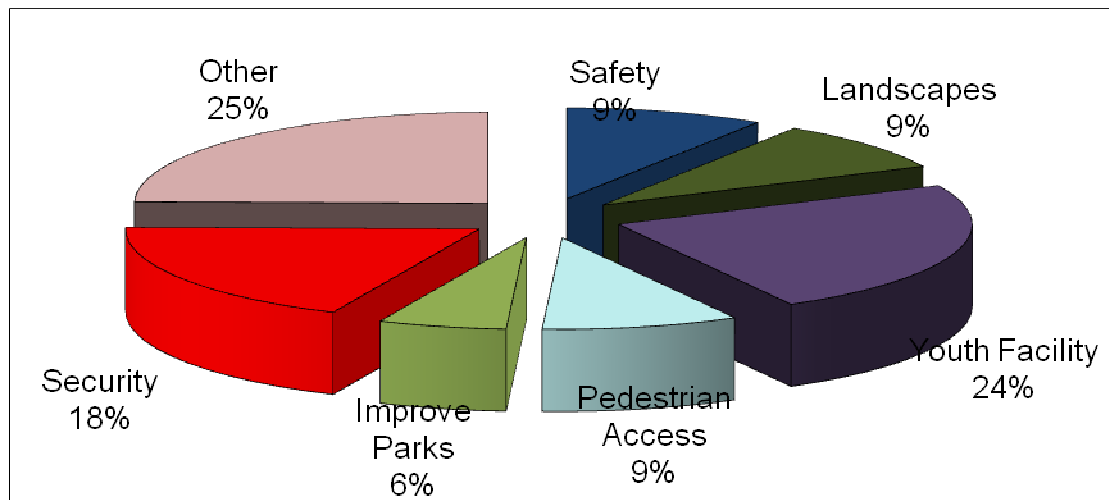
The budget detailed below is allocated using the population levels for each area.

The spend category indicated below is the actual spend for 2010/2011.

Local Area Forum	Forum Funding	
	Budget	Spend
Broadheath, Ditton, Hough Green and Hale	109626	107447
Appleton, Kingsway and Riverside	89328	89370
Birchfield, Farnworth and Halton View	87263	90131
Grange, Heath, Halton Brook and Mersey	127101	128131
Halton Castle, Norton North, Norton South and Windmill Hill	114298	115009
Beechwood and Halton Lea	52617	52569
Daresbury	19767	19766
Totals	£600,000	£602,423

All Area Forums for 2010/2011 Expenditure								
	Safety	Landscapes	Youth Facility	Pedestrian Access	Improve Parks	Security	Other	Total
AF 1	9820	9623	25325	9700	6322	19968	26689	107447
AF 2	3303	1498	0	0	21746	41421	21401	89370
AF 3	3555	10219	8052	14099	10600	22555	21051	90131
AF 4	3305	11478	17291	5110	17850	15692	57405	128131
AF 5	16816	21140	16134	0	0	16742	44176	115009
AF 6	5865	7808	13669		171	500	24556	52569
AF 7	4571	0	0	0	0	0	15195	19766
	47235	61766	80471	28909	56689	116879	210473	602423
	8%	10%	13%	5%	9%	19%	35%	

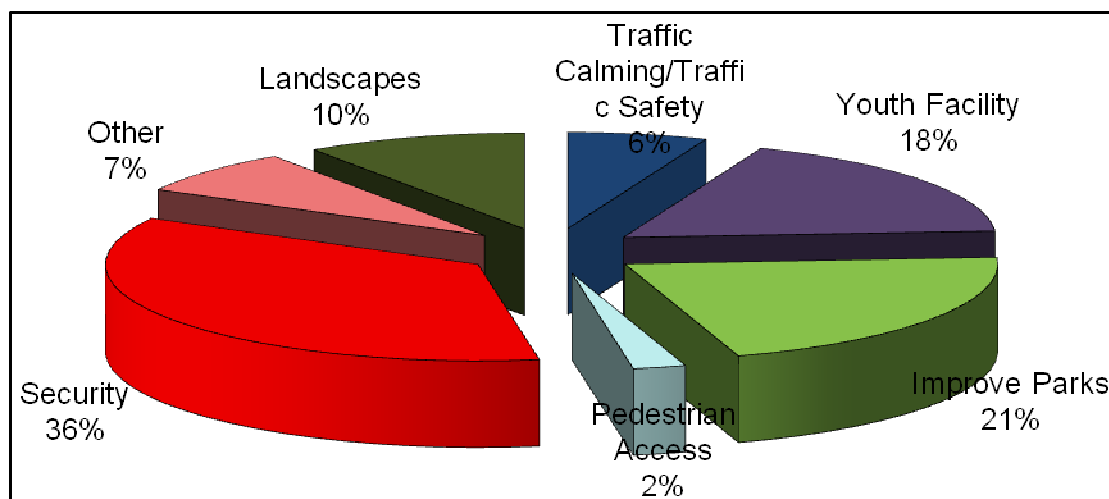
Breakdown of spend for Local Area Forum 1 – (Broadheath, Ditton, Hough Green and Hale)



5.1 Broadheath, Ditton, Hough Green and Hale

The highest category is “Other” which includes Widnes Rugby Union heating and refurbishment. The next highest is “Youth Facility” which includes items such as the Upton play builder project, Halebank Youth Club and Hale Youth Centre.

Breakdown of spend for Local Area Forum 2 – (Appleton, Kingsway and Riverside)

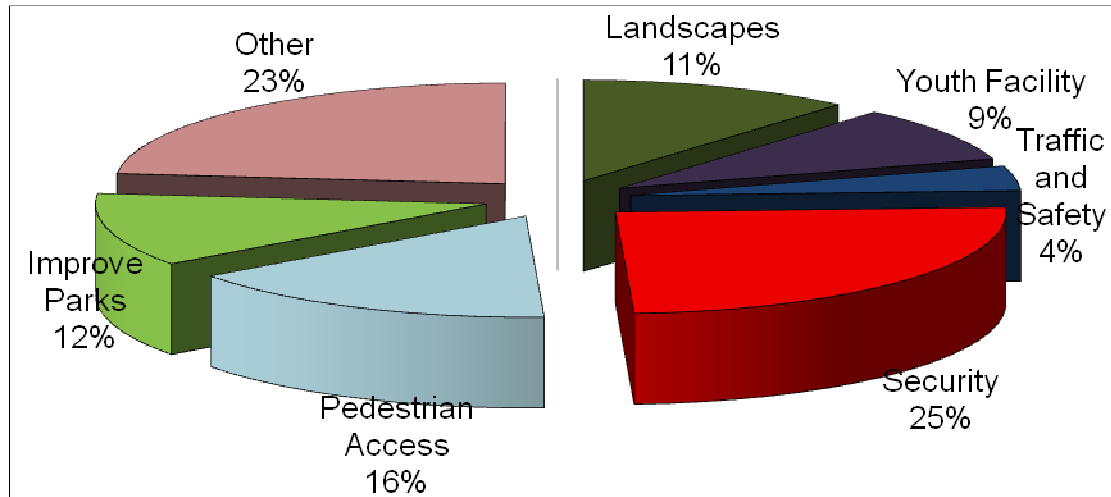


5.2 Appleton, Kingsway and Riverside

The highest category is “Security” which includes fencing and alley gating across this forum.

Next highest is “Other” and “Improve Parks” which mainly includes the Junior play facility in Victoria Park and other community schemes in the Area.

Breakdown of spend for Local Area Forum 3 – (Birchfield, Farnworth and Halton View)

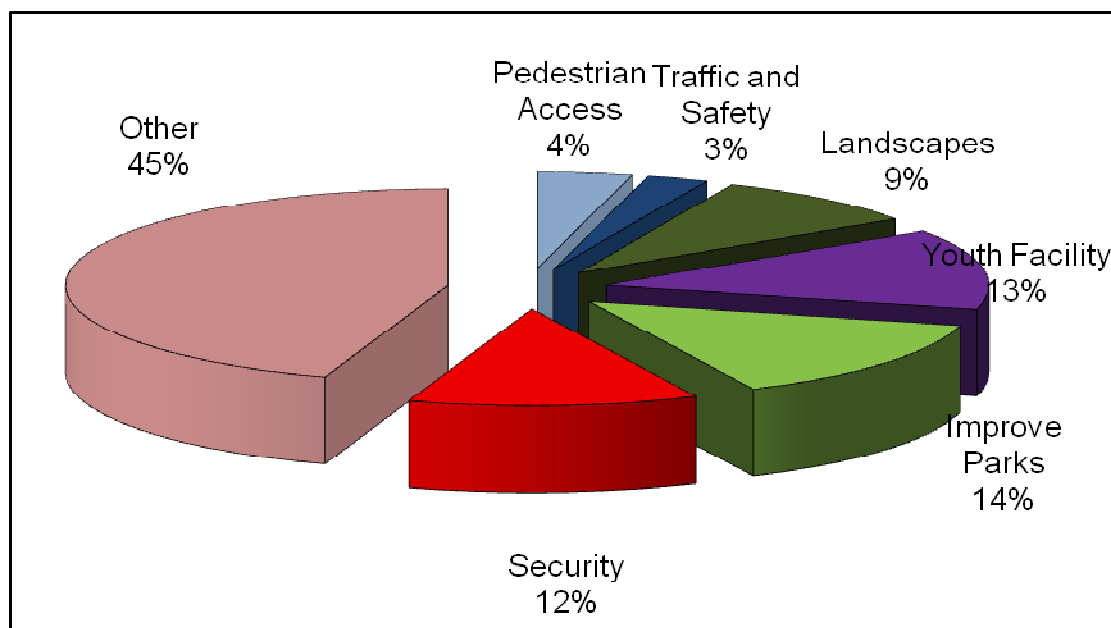


5.3 Birchfield, Farnworth and Halton Brook

The highest category is “Security” which includes alley gating and fencing schemes across the forum area.

The next highest is “Other” and includes Halton Hornets who have applied for WREN funding and other Community schemes.

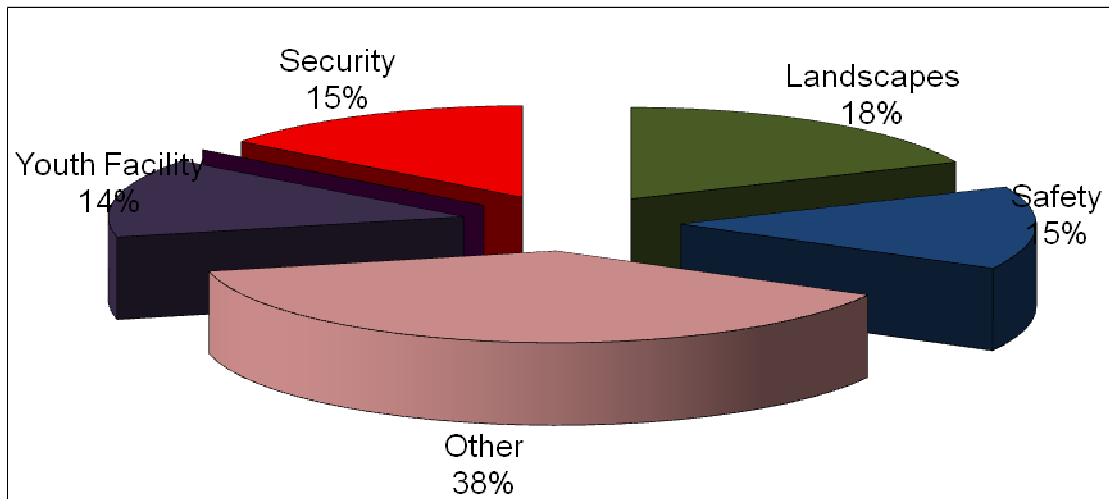
Breakdown of spend for Local Area Forum 4 – (Grange, Heath, Halton Brook and Mersey)



5.4 Grange, Heath, Halton Brook and Mersey

The highest category is “Other” which refers to many community schemes and one in particular which is Halton Heart Start a new gym in Runcorn. The next highest is “Improving Parks” which refers to the weekend gardeners in the parks and benches at Runcorn Hill Park and Ivy Park.

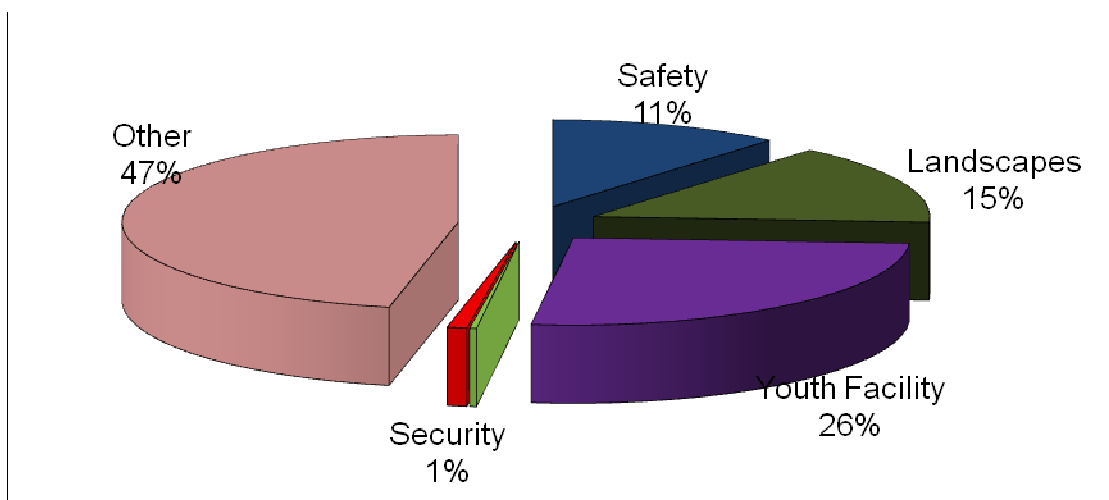
Breakdown of spend for Local Area Forum 5 – (Halton Castle, Norton North, Norton South and Windmill Hill)



5.5 Halton Castle, Norton North, Norton South and Windmill Hill

The highest category is “Other” referring to many community schemes. The next highest is “Landscapes” which includes Dog Bins across this area.

Breakdown of spend for Local Area Forum 6 – (Beechwood and Halton Lea)

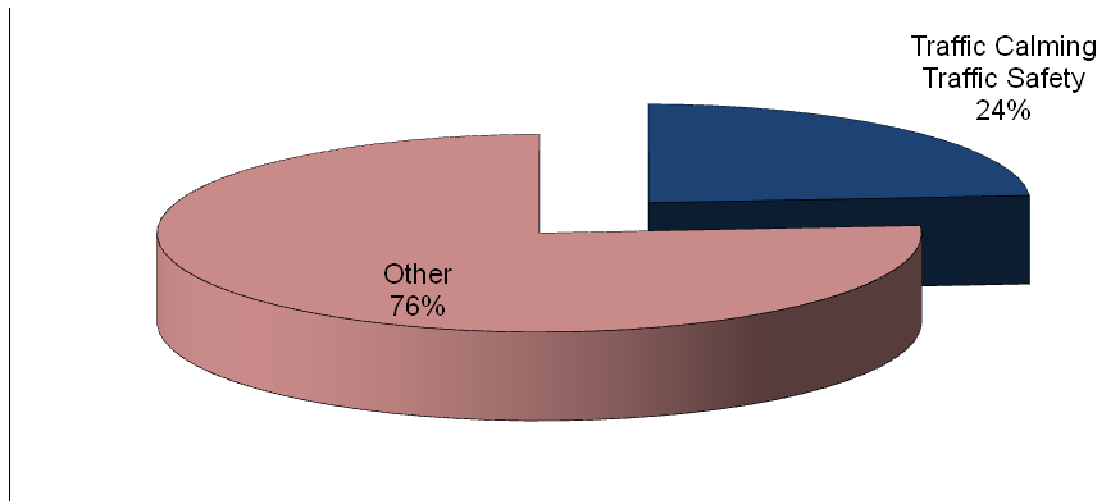


5.6 Beechwood and Halton Lea

The highest category is “Other” which includes the refurbishment of Credit Union in Halton Lea Shopping Centre and refurbishment of Hill View Pre-school in addition to other Community Schemes.

Next Highest is “Youth Facilities” which includes to the Glen Play Area and other youth schemes.

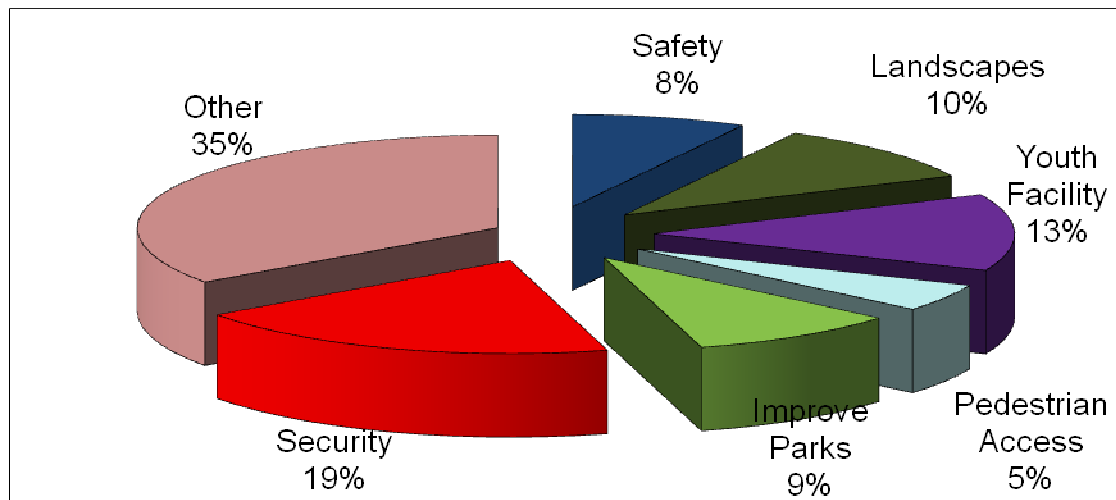
Breakdown for Local Area Forum 7 – (Daresbury)



5.7 Daresbury

The schemes for the Daresbury forum are divided amongst the four parishes and they decide along with the parish council how this is to be spent for the coming year. The majority of the funding is spent on items identified in the local parish plans.

All Forums 2010/2011

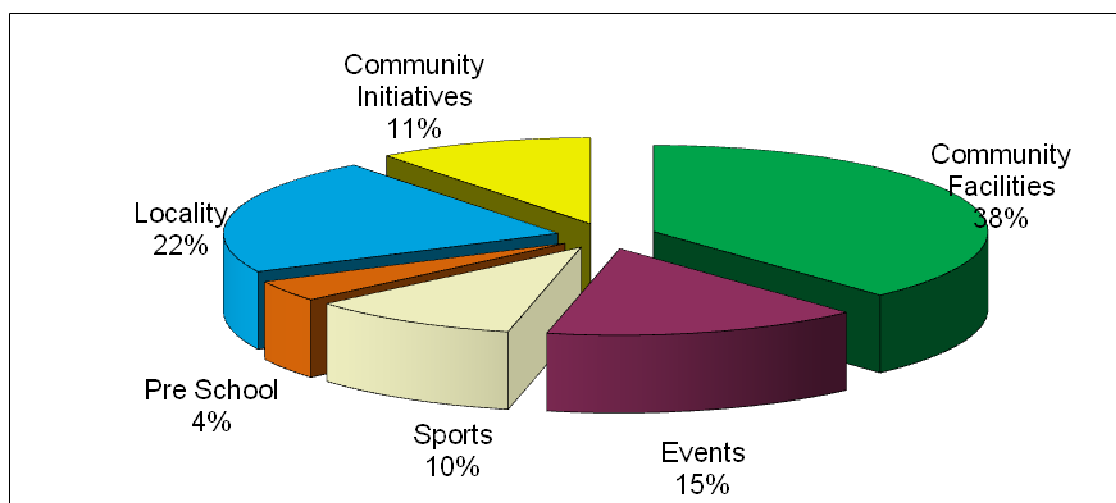


5.7 Breakdown of All Local Area Forums 2010/2011

The graph illustrated shows the breakdown of funding across the categories for 2010/11. The largest proportion of funding across the borough was expended on the category “other” and a breakdown of that spend is listed below

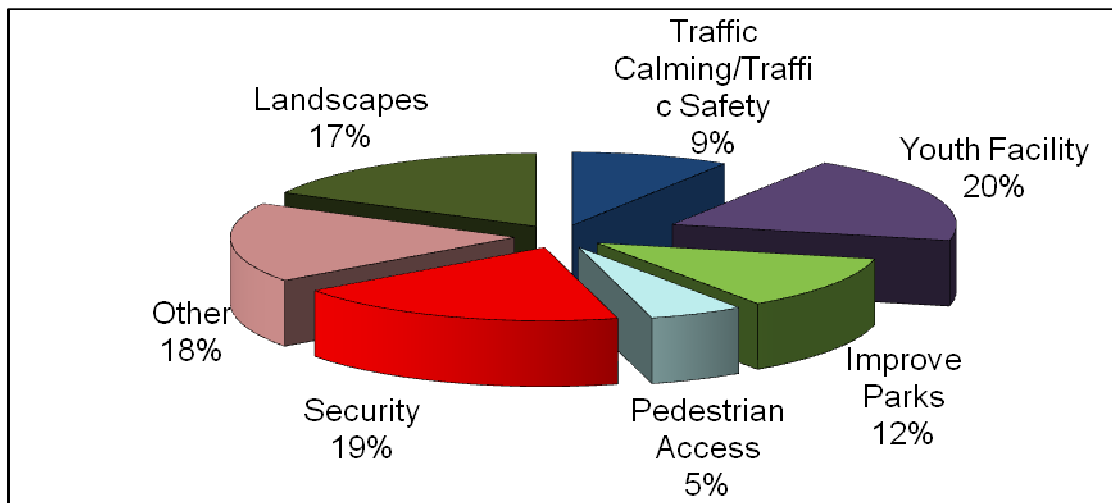
Breakdown of the Category “Other” for 2010/2011

Community Facilities	Events	Sports	Pre School	Locality	Community Initiatives
38%	15%	10%	4%	22%	11%



This category represents 35% of the total expenditure for 2010/2011, Identified as “Other”.

All Forums from 2003 to 2011



5.8 All Forums from 2003 to 2011

The graph illustrated show the breakdown of funding across the categories from 2003 to 2011. The largest proportion of funding across the borough was expended on the category “Youth Facilities”.

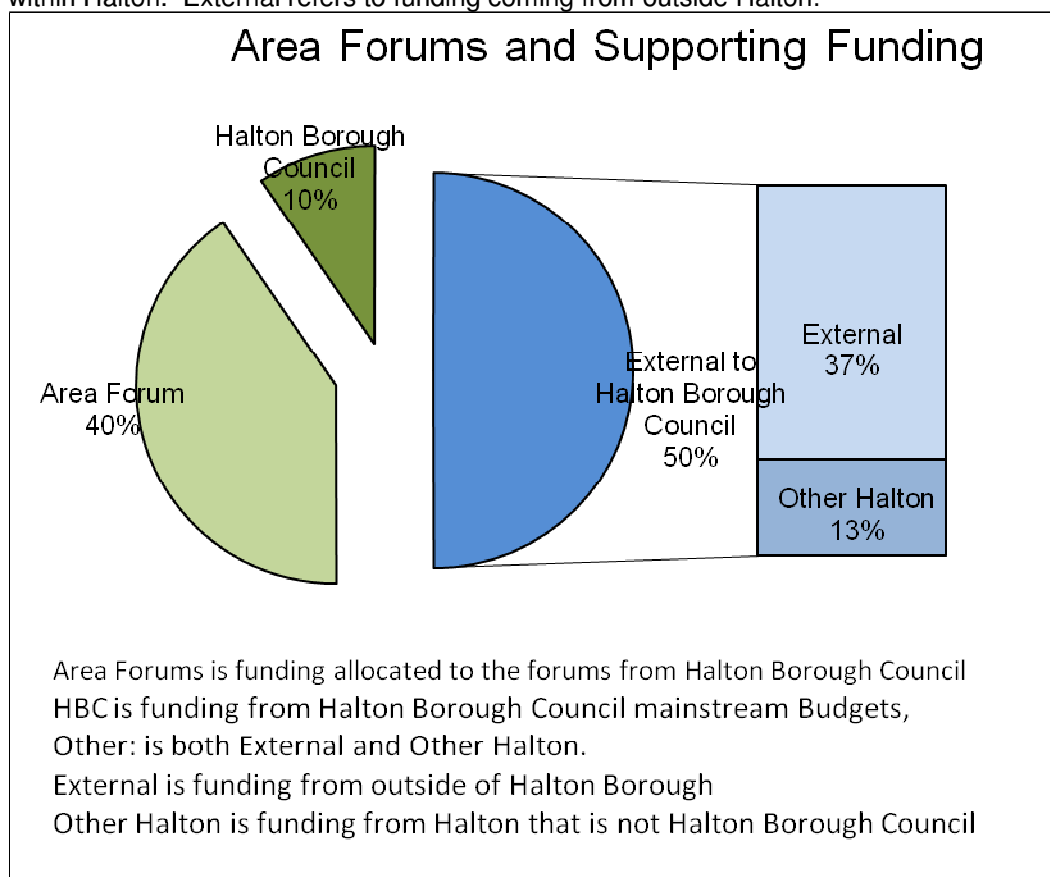
YEAR	Bonfire Initiative	Traffic Calming/Traffic Safety	Youth Facility	Improve Parks	Pedestrian Access	Security	Other	Landscapes
2003/2004	6000	74830	139143	89295	42166	120465	66583	68768
2004/2005	5000	62200	158550	39000	28457	152054	68561	86309
2005/2006	6000	43912	103940	65065	73603	152054	42540	116710
2006/2007	0	78763	126807	66496	27500	80556	85690	134818
2007/2008	0	52951	94479	80133	22763	135039	111742	110308
2008/2009	0	41425	126804	108150	22528	65780	101893	149953
2009/2010	0	38918	116102	66008	7825	106911	159696	119629
2010/2011		47235	80471	56689	28909	116879	210473	61766
Total	17000	440234	946296	570836	253751	929737	847178	848261

5.9 Supporting Funding

The forum budget has been supported with other grants and through joint working has levered in money from agencies such as Biffa, Wren, Housing Associations and the Lottery, 3mg, United Utilities and John Moores etc. Listed below is the supporting funding analysis for 2010 to 2011. This table does not represent all of the funding but gives an indication of the additional support to the Projects.

Key: HBC refers to other funding provided by Halton Borough Council.

Other Halton refers to funding provided by other agencies such as the PCT, Housing Trusts within Halton. External refers to funding coming from outside Halton.



Local Area Forum	Supporting funding			
	HBC	Other Halton	External	Total
Broadheath, Ditton, Hough Green and Hale	30400	54508	289936	374844
Appleton, Kingsway and Riverside	4100	16328	12172	32600
Birchfield, Farnworth and Halton View	7060	55400	22400	84860
Grange, Heath, Halton Brook and Mersey	11800	13768	52700	78268
Halton Castle, Norton North, Norton South and Windmill Hill	29750	1320	11500	42570
Beechwood and Halton Lea	63860	52000	161000	276860
Daresbury	0	0	0	0
Totals	£146970	£193,324	£549,708	£890,002

This table refers to Supporting Funding and does not include the £600,000 provided by the Area Forum.

Wren/HLF	Play builder	Total
159000	100000	
6000	0	
22400	0	
37368	0	
11500	0	
0	50000	
0	0	
£236,268	£150,000	£386,268

The total external budget brought into Halton is £483,095 and the above table total is details of some of the funding which totals £386,268 and includes WREN, HLF and Play builder. The remaining has been provided by other agencies such as Housing Associations, 3mg, etc.

There are 12 schemes still waiting for a decision from one of the external funding organisations from 2010/2011. These figures are NOT included in this report.

In developing Area Forum Projects negotiations with partner agencies with either a service delivery or geographical interest are embedded into the approach. This aims to maximise funding opportunities and to realise the positive impacts of the projects.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Local Area Forums are a key tool in engaging with local residents and the budget provides a means of funding minor schemes in response to local needs and aspirations. In addition, area forum grants often provide much needed 3rd party or match funding to support larger schemes, helping to lever in much larger pots of external funding from outside the borough. This mechanism provides a platform for community engagement at a neighbourhood level which can be utilised to inform strategic objectives and policy development.

The projects support safer neighbourhoods generating an increased satisfaction for local residents with their area and a willingness to participate in community life. Area Forums contribute to building cohesion in Halton's communities through projects and initiatives that encourage community connectedness.

The projects funded are all required to demonstrate a contribution to the Council's five priorities.

7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

There are no significant risks associated with this report.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

The local area forums and grant support are open and accessible to all Members of Halton's community.

10.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

10.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The expenditure profiles for each of the LAF's demonstrates a significant proportion of funding is allocated to supporting pre-school, youth activities and sports. Since 2003 20% of the total expenditure through area forums has been on youth facilities.

Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The expenditure that supports community initiatives includes accessing learning & skills opportunities through locally delivered courses. Many of the community initiatives have volunteer opportunities either with the Management Committees or as part of delivering activities i.e community café's,

A Healthy Halton

10% of the overall expenditure in 2011/12 directly supported sport activities. Many of the community initiatives have a well-being impact supporting the ethos of a whole area approach to healthy living.

A Safer Halton

A sense of community and community connectedness reduces residents fear of crime where they live, they are likely to feel a stronger sense of belonging and safety in an environment where the communities know each other, are active and there are established links to other stakeholders like police, housing, community wardens, etc. 45% of expenditure in 2010/11 directly supported community safety initiatives.

Halton's Urban Renewal

Area forums provide a mechanism for local people to be involved in the decision making impacting on place shaping for their local area. Local people can influence expenditure to improve their local environment and work jointly with the Council towards the communities aspirations.

10.2 The eligibility criteria for Local Area Forum Funding requires the projects should support one or more of the Council's priorities.

11.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document:
Minutes of Local Area
Forum

Place of Inspection:
3rd Floor Municipal Building
Kingsway

Contact Officer:
Janice Weston

APPENDIX A

AREA FORUMS GRANT FUNDING - WE ARE SEEKING YOUR GOOD IDEAS

Halton Borough Council has set aside a small account from Council Funds to respond to requests for assistance for deserving local projects. The money must be used on things that will improve life in the area and should meet the following criteria:-

- It must not result in a long-term financial commitment.
- It should contribute to one or more of the Council priorities of A Safer Halton, A Healthy Halton, Renewing Halton, Children & Young People in Halton, Skills, Lifelong Learning, Employment in Halton
- It must have community support
- It must benefit the community or community group
- *It must not support activity which either challenges Council decisions or goes against Council Policy.*

If you have any ideas you would like considered, whether it is environmental improvement, safety issues, *Community schemes for old or young* or opportunities for young people or anything else, please complete the other side of this leaflet and return it to the address below, to a Council Office, Halton Direct Link or to a Housing Association Office who will forward it on.

If you have any ideas you would like considered, whether it is environmental improvement, safety issues, opportunities for young people or anything else, please complete the other side of this leaflet and return it to the address below, to a Council Office, Halton Direct Link or to a Housing Association Office who will forward it on. *Although we will endeavour to satisfy requests for funding the Council cannot guarantee that even the most deserving schemes will be successful or that funds will be available at the time a request is made.*



Miss Janice M Weston
Area Forums Projects Coordinator
Runcorn Town Hall -2nd Floor
Heath Road
Runcorn
WA7 5TN
Contact Phone Number 0151 906 4879

Proposal:

You can submit extra information on blank forms if required.

Approximate Cost (if known)

PLEASE NOTE THAT IF SUCCESSFUL YOU WILL NORMALLY BE REQUIRED TO PRODUCE THREE QUOTATIONS FOR ANY WORKS – for clarification speak to the Janice Weston the Projects Coordinator 0151 906 4879

Supporting funding:

Please show details of any other supporting funding either a contribution from your group, Housing Association or a submission to an external funder.

(Please show the status of the funding for example: Submitted to WREN on June 1st 2011)

Does this proposal have community support (please give brief details)

Please say how this will improve the area

Please give your name and address so that we can keep you informed or seek clarification:

Name.

Address:

Phone:

Date Received on

Position within your Group and Organisation details:

Please confirm if your group is constituted: