

REPORT TO: Corporate Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 3rd September 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community & Resources

SUBJECT: Area Forum Annual Report for 2018/19

PORTFOLIO: Community & Sport

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform members of the project delivery for Area Forums for the period 1st of April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Members consider and comment on the report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Local Area Forums provide a mechanism for Councillors to respond to community needs and aspirations. Community initiatives and projects are generated which are delivered collaboratively with other partner organisations to help secure funding from a variety of sources. Support to Local Area Forum's is provided by the Community Development team.

4.0 LOCAL AREA FORUM

4.1 Each year funding is allocated to support the projects programme. In 2018/19 the budget was £250,000. It is split on a per capita basis across the seven Local Area Forums that cover the Borough:-

AF1 – Broadheath, Ditton, Hale & Hough Green

AF2 – Appleton, Kingsway & Riverside

AF3 – Birchfield, Farnworth & Halton View

AF4 – Grange, Halton Brook, Heath & Mersey

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

AF6 – Beechwood & Halton Lea

AF7 – Daresbury

4.2 The Community Development & Project Officers are neighbourhood based. They engage with and work alongside community groups to support them to develop their skills and knowledge; promoting community action and developing initiatives. They manage the Area Forum funding applications process and co-ordinate project delivery.

- 4.3 The local communities are invited to contribute ideas for neighbourhood projects to enhance their local area. These ideas are developed jointly and applications are submitted for forum consideration. Initiatives must have community support and must not result in long-term financial commitment.
- 4.4 Case study information and resident feedback is appended to the report (Appendix 1) to demonstrate the impact Area Forum projects have for Halton's communities. A full breakdown of projects across the seven areas is also appended to the report (Appendix 2).

5.0 LOCAL AREA FORUM EXPENDITURE

- 5.1 The Projects funded through the Local Area Forums are varied, they have been categorised into a number of key areas, which are listed below:-

5.1.1 Children & Youth Facilities - This covers activities, support and improvements to facilities for children and young people.

5.1.2 Community Events - This category is for community events organised by local groups, this supports participation and residents connecting with each other.

5.1.3 Community Resource & Equipment - This category is for equipment and resources to support community organisations and venues.

5.1.4 Community Initiatives - This category includes community activity and pilot initiatives in our neighbourhoods.

5.1.5 Improved Parks - This category includes initiatives which support the provision of weekend gardeners in the Council's parks which can deter vandalism, improves public reassurance and the general appearance of parks. It also includes additional improvements such as benches or new features.

5.1.6 Landscapes - This category includes increased planting and any support to green spaces.

5.1.7 Pedestrian & Highway Improvements - This category captures improvements to the local physical infrastructure, such as pathways and any facilities on the highways for example road safety improvements, traffic calming and speed surveys.

5.1.8 Community Safety - This category covers initiatives that deter crime and anti-social behaviour (ie fencing, lighting and alley gating)

5.2 Breakdown of Budget by Area Forum

The Area Forum budget is allocated per capita on the population levels for each area:-

Forum	2017/18 Carry Forward	2018/19 Budget	Total Budget	2018/19 Spend
1: Broadheath, Ditton, Hale & Hough Green	£2,950.59	£43,960.00	£46,910.59	£42,019.32
2: Appleton, Kingsway & Riverside	£27,142.35	£37,030.00	£64,172.35	£26,530.16
3: Birchfield, Farnworth & Halton View	£30,714.18	£43,980.00	£74,694.18	£39,187.71
4: Grange, Halton Brook, Heath & Mersey	£10,520.44	£52,790.00	£63,310.44	£49,892.11
5: Halton Castle, Norton North, Norton South & Windmill Hill	£17,511.91	£43,260.00	£60,771.91	£36,120.10
6: Beechwood & Halton View	£13,161.62	£19,880.00	£33,041.62	£19,059.24
7: Daresbury	£3,336.55	£9,100.00	£12,436.55	£9,488.16
Total	£105,337.64	£250,000.00	£355,337.64	£222,296.80

5.3 Breakdown of Expenditure by Category

	Children & Young People	Community Events	Community Resources & Equipment	Community Initiatives	Improved Parks	Pedestrian & Highway Improvements	Community Safety	Total
AF1	£5,000.00	£0.00	£7,959.66	£15,200.00	£7,600.00	£0.00	£6,259.66	£42,019.32
AF2	£280.00	£7,000.00	£5,522.16	£6,645.00	£0.00	£1,000.00	£6,083.00	£26,530.16
AF3	£6,726.48	£0.00	£12,340.23	£900.00	£7,600.00	£2,550.00	£9,071.00	£39,187.71
AF4	£11,478.00	£855.00	£14,448.80	£7,476.90	£7,600.00	£0.00	£8,033.41	£49,892.11
AF5	£1,760.00	£3,707.50	£15,551.60	£8,101.00	£0.00	£7,000.00	£0.00	£36,120.10
AF6	£6,782.00	£419.00	£11,858.24	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£19,059.24
AF7	£4,023.02	£0.00	£5,465.14	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£9,488.16
Total	£36,049.50	£11,981.50	£73,145.83	£38,322.90	£22,800.00	£10,550.00	£29,447.07	£222,296.80
%	16	5	33	17	10	5	13	100

5.3.1 Broadheath, Ditton, Hale & Hough Green

The forum approved 10 projects with spend of £42,019.32. The highest category of spend was Community Initiatives.

5.3.2 Appleton, Kingsway & Riverside

The forum approved 16 projects with spend of £26,530.16. The highest category of spend was Community Events.

5.3.3 Birchfield, Farnworth & Halton View

The forum approved 15 projects with spend of £39,187.17. The highest category spend was Community Resources & Equipment.

5.3.4 Grange, Halton Brook, Heath & Mersey

This forum approved 30 projects with spend of £49,892.11. The highest category of spend was Community Resources & Equipment.

5.3.5 Halton Castle, Norton North, Norton South & Windmill Hill

This forum approved 19 projects with spend of £36,120.10. The highest category spend was Community Resources & Equipment.

5.3.6 Beechwood & Halton Lea

This forum approved 8 projects with spend of £19,059.24. The highest category of spend was Community Resources & Equipment.

5.3.7 Daresbury

This forum approved 6 projects with spend of £9,488.16. The highest category spend was Community Resources & Equipment.

5.4 Breakdown of Expenditure by Council Priority

5.4.1 All Area Forum projects are required to demonstrate a contribution to the Council's priorities. The table below shows the spend on projects for each priority.

	Healthy Halton	Environment & Regeneration	Employment, Learning & Skills	Children & Young People	Community Safety	Total
AF1	£2,683.90	£26,401.82	£5,275.76	£5,000.00	£2,657.84	£42,019.32
AF2	£427.35	£8,137.10	£4,602.71	£7,280.00	£6,083.00	£26,530.16
AF3	£1,580.00	£16,532.10	£5,278.13	£6,726.48	£9,071.00	£39,187.71
AF4	£5,420.27	£18,625.73	£6,334.70	£11,478.00	£8,033.41	£49,892.11
AF5	£7,649.63	£13,198.80	£7,991.67	£7,280.00	£0.00	£36,120.10
AF6	£6,664.48	£0.00	£5,193.76	£7,201.00	£0.00	£19,059.24
AF7	£2,843.11	£1,530.00	£1,092.03	£4,023.02	£0.00	£9,488.16
Total	£27,268.74	£84,425.55	£35,768.76	£48,988.50	£25,845.25	£222,296.80
%	12	38	16	22	12	100

6.0 Supporting Funding

6.1 Area Forum projects support partnership working and enable the leverage of funding from other organisations and grant giving bodies. Overall, an additional amount of £28,251.56 was 'levered in' to support area forum projects providing a total spend of £250,548.36 as detailed in the table below.

Funding Source	Amount
Area Forum	£222,296.80
Halton Borough Council	£1,368.61
Other Halton	£8,443.91
External	£18,439.04
Total	£250,548.36

In the above below, 'HBC' refers to funding provided by departments within the Council; such as Highways and Open Space Services. 'Other Halton' refers to funding provided direct by applicants or other agencies such; as local Housing providers. 'External' refers to funding coming in from outside of Halton; for example from organisations such as WREN, Biffa and Big Lottery Fund.

7.0 STRATEGIC APPROACHES

7.1 The Local Area Forum projects programme provides a means of funding neighbourhood schemes in response to local needs and aspirations. In addition, area forum grants often provide much needed third party or match funding to support larger schemes. Area forums provide a platform for community engagement at a neighbourhood level which not only delivers projects and improvements but can contribute towards achieving strategic objectives and informing decisions on policy development.

8.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no Policy implications arising from this report

9.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 These are contained within the report.

10.0 RISK ANALYSIS

10.1 There are no significant risks associated with this report.

11.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

11.1 The Area Forum process is open and accessible to all Members of Halton's community.

12.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

12.1 A Healthy Halton

Many of the community initiatives have a wellbeing impact supporting the ethos of a whole area approach to community life. Enabling community led activity builds community resilience.

12.2 Environment & Regeneration in Halton

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

12.3 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 cafés.

12.4 Children & Young People in Halton

The expenditure profiles for each of the area forums demonstrates a significant proportion of funding is allocated to supporting activities and facilities for children and young people.

12.5 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.

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

13.1 None under the meaning of the Act

Area Forum Case Studies and Feedback

Area Forum 1 Broadheath, Ditton, Hale & Hough Green

Broadheath: £2,658 was provided to install a set of alley gates at a location where there had been a number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported. The gates were installed to help make residents feel safer.

Ditton: £250 was provided for a community initiative to purchase defibrillators so that they are accessible across the community should they be required by members of the public.

Hale: £3,800 was used to provide weekend gardeners in Hale Park. Research has shown that the public like to see a uniformed staff presence in public parks as it makes people feel safer and also deters anti-social behaviour.

Hough Green: £2,434 was provided to purchase new furniture for Upton Community Centre. The new furniture will benefit members of the local community that currently use the centre and help encourage new users.

Area Forum 2: Appleton, Kingsway & Riverside

Appleton: £3,000 was provided as a contribution towards Panto in the Park. *“The event provided an excellent service to the local community in providing a free day out with the opportunity to meet Santa for the children whilst enjoying many other activities. In the current climate, with families struggling financially and the relative costs of similar events elsewhere, this is not something all our visitors would be able to experience if it was not for the events and the funding provided by the forum”.*

Kingsway: £1,000 was provided so that a speed bump could be installed on Highfield Crescent. This was to increase the safety of local residents; particularly pedestrians and cyclists.

Riverside: St Mary’s Community Centre were successful with a lottery bid to refurbish their kitchen. The forum awarded £415.35 so that new equipment could be purchased for the luncheon club. *“It enabled us to continue to ‘trade’ as we needed to meet the requirements of the EHO. The group has grown in number and also have grown some off-shoots such as Monday Night Cards! They are also planning a holiday together later in the year.”*

Area Forum 3: Birchfield, Farnworth & Halton View

Birchfield: £8,421 was provided to install a CCTV camera covering the local centre and surrounding area. *“It now provides the community with the assurance that anti-social behaviour will be monitored and the police dispatched when suitable. Whilst the cameras are proactively managed by the Council’s central control office, tenants of the retail park are also able to call in issues on a reactive basis. This ensures instances of anti-social behaviour and the like are kept to a minimum.”*

Farnworth: £1,000 was provided to install 4 replacement signs for the area to welcome visitors to the village.

Halton View: £1,580 was provided for a new boxing ring to Title Shot Amateur Boxing Club which *“has solved all safety issues that we were concerned with on the old ring. It has improved all the boxers training ability as they now have a ring that is the same as they would compete in. Everyone involved in the gym is now benefitting from this piece of equipment that will last us many years. Thank you”*

Area Forum 4: Grange, Halton Brook, Heath & Mersey

Grange: £2605 was provided by the forum (including a contribution from Halton Housing) to instal a community noticeboard. This has provided a means for local residents to find out what is going on at both the community centre and in the wider area.

Halton Brook: £250 was provided to Four Estates to deliver a Christmas Party for older residents. The funding enabled *“a warm, friendly, social activity in a safe environment for people who would otherwise feel lonely and isolated”*.

Heath: Weston Primary School were granted £2,531 towards the cost of providing an eco-toilet on the site of their forest school. This was to benefit not only the pupils but also the wider community.

Mersey: £2,226 was provided so that a skip scheme could be held. There was significant involvement from the local community and the scheme enabled residents to responsibly dispose of waste from their properties and was especially important for those that don't have access to a vehicle.

Area Forum 5: Halton Castle, Norton North, Norton South & Windmill Hill

Halton Castle: St Mary's Primary School were granted £1,750 to refurbish their school library to create a space that was welcoming, relaxing and that would encourage reading amongst the pupils and parents.

Norton North & South: Brookvale Children's Centre held a Fun Day for local families and received a contribution of £620 towards this. The families had the chance to play, socialise, learn, make friends and develop new skills in a fun, safe, secure and welcoming environment.

Windmill Hill: The forum made a £1760 contribution towards the BMX Track project in Phoenix Park. This has enabled further funding to be drawn in so that Halton children and young people can access a provision in the local area to encourage healthy activity of cycling, BMX'ing and scooter play.

Area Forum 6 Beechwood & Halton Lea

Beechwood: £1,409 was provided to Hillview Women's Group to hold some activity to encourage new members. They had a great response to their recruitment campaign: *"Since receiving the Area Forum Grant in August last year we have been overwhelmed by the response from our advertising campaign. Our membership is now flourishing with some of the new Ladies bringing their friends. It is very rewarding to come to our meetings and hear the buzz in the room"*.

Halton Lea: £5,895 was provided to City Arts Hub to provide a variety of engaging activities and much needed equipment and resources. *"The workshops have kept existing members, who are keen to develop their skills and knowledge, and also attracted new members due to the public events and workshops we have delivered. This vibrancy of activity has also helped us to develop partnerships within the Shopping City's Community Unit, with other community based initiatives. The room dividers have solved lots of issues as they have enabled us to create a secure storage space for equipment and member's work in progress to be kept safe. It also means that anything messy is hidden from public view which makes the exhibition more appealing to the eye. They have also meant that the space can be divided up as appropriate making it a more workable and adaptable space"*.

Area Forum 7 Daresbury

Daresbury: £936 awarded to Finesse Gymnastics and their feedback has been positive: *"Having the money has enabled us to purchase more equipment for our club which has enabled us to increase the number of places offered to local children to participate in the sport. We have also been able to offer two new sessions for younger children on a Friday evening due to being able to pay for training and DBS of 2 junior coaches who were previous gymnasts in the club. This is good for both the club and the new coaches as it is keeping them involved in the sport"*.

APPENDIX 2

Area Forum Projects List 2018/19

Area Forum 1: Broadheath, Ditton, Hale & Hough Green		
Group/Project	Spend	Ward
Locality	£5,275.76	All
Skip Scheme - Hale	£2,000.00	Hale
Skip Schemes for Broadheath, Ditton and Hough Green	£12,000.00	Broadheath, Ditton & Hough Green
Alley gate - 85 Radnor Drive	£2,657.84	Broadheath
St Michaels Catholic Primary School - Educational Bus	£5,000.00	Ditton
Weekend Park Workers	£7,600.00	Ditton & Hale
Upton CC - New Furniture	£2,433.90	Hough Green
Upton Dental Practice - Fencing	£3,601.82	Hough Green
Silent Soldiers Project	£1,200.00	All
Community Defibrillators	£250.00	Ditton
Total	£42,019.32	

Area Forum 2: Appleton, Kingsway & Riverside		
Group/Project	Spend	Ward
Locality	£4,443.74	All
Adjustments to Alleygates at Alice Court	£2,398.00	Riverside
Equipment & Resources - Adult Day Care @ Kingsway Leisure	£158.97	Kingsway
St Mary's Community Centre - Kitchen Equipment	£415.35	Riverside
Dual Bin - Frederick Street	£492.10	Kingsway
Repositioning of Alleygate near to Bowling Club - Milton Road	£1,235.00	Kingsway
Victoria Park - Christmas Event	£3,000.00	Appleton
Speed Humps - Highfield Crescent	£1,000.00	Kingsway
Tea and Coffee for Meeting 27.06.18	£12.00	All
Silent Soldiers Project	£4,200.00	All
Family Nurse Practitioners - Christmas Party for Young Parents	£280.00	Riverside/Kingsway
Dummy CCTV Camera	£295.00	Kingsway
Christmas Event - West Bank	£1,000.00	Riverside
Alley Gate - Luton Street onto Chapel Street	£2,155.00	Riverside
West Bank Clean Up Day	£2,445.00	Riverside
Christmas Event 19 - Victoria Park	£3,000.00	Appleton
Total	£26,530.16	

Area Forum 3: Birchfield, Farnworth & Halton View		
Group/Project	Spend	Ward
Locality	£5,278.13	All
Upton Rocks - CCTV	£8,421.00	Birchfield
Weekend Park Workers	£7,600.00	Birchfield & Halton View
St Ambrose Church - Flooring	£3,910.00	Halton View
Warrington Rd Daycare Nursery - Play Equipment	£1,718.48	Halton View
Signs for Public Right of Way in Farnworth	£650.00	Farnworth
Sign for Moss Bank Road	£450.00	Halton View
Replacement Boundary Sign	£1,100.00	Halton View
Warrington Rd Children's Centre - Play Equipment	£5,008.00	Halton View
Silent Soldiers	£900.00	All
Replacement Signs in Farnworth (4)	£1,000.00	Farnworth
Litter Bin on Warrington Rd	£360.00	Halton View
Title Shot Amateur Boxing Club - Boxing Ring	£1,580.00	Halton View
Duel Litter bin Lunts Heath Road (Cranshaw Lane)	£492.10	Farnworth
2 Litter bins - Upton Lane and Upton Rocks area	£720.00	Birchfield
Total	£39,187.71	

Area Forum 4: Grange, Halton Brook, Heath & Mersey		
Group/Project	Spend	Ward
Locality	£6,334.70	All
Alleygating - Larch Road	£1,033.41	Grange
Contribution to J418	-£526.50	Grange
Grange Community Noticeboard	£2,605.83	Grange
Four Estates - Defib for Halton Brook Community Centre - CF	£770.00	Halton Brook
Mersey Ward - Skip Scheme - CF	£2,226.90	Mersey
Open Door Runcorn - CF	£516.00	Mersey
Mobile SiD Speed Sign	£7,000.00	Halton Brook, Heath & Mersey
Halton Brook CC Refurbishment	£2,000.00	Halton Brook
Halton Brook Skip Scheme	£1,900.00	Halton Brook
Halton Zipper Club - Social outing to Norton Priory	£150.00	Grange
Holy Spirit – Pantomime Trip	£320.00	Halton Brook
Runcorn Locks - Visitor Cabin	£2,680.00	All
Halton Lodge Children's Centre - Summer Event	£945.00	Grange

Halton Brook CC - Summer Event	£510.00	Halton Brook
Weekend Park Workers	£7,600.00	All
Halton Play Council - Installation of play equipment	£4,372.00	All
Years Ahead - Exhibition trip	£350.00	Grange
Hope Corner Community Café - Furniture	£1,488.90	Heath
Ragheed Group	£290.37	Grange
Silent Soldiers - British Legion	£1,200.00	All
Four Estates - 11 o clock club Christmas Party	£250.00	Halton Brook
Four Estates - Pensioner Christmas Lunch	£250.00	Halton Brook
Grange Forum - Halloween Party	£355.00	Grange
Navigation Bell - The Brindley	£650.00	Mersey
Children's Centres - Christmas Hampers	£1,000.00	Halton Brook & Mersey
Four Estates - Decoration of Halton Brook Community Centre	£289.50	Halton Brook
HALDS - Childrens Event	£800.00	All
Weston Primary School - Eco Toilet for forest school	£2,531.00	Heath
Total	£49,892.11	

Area Forum 5: Halton Castle, Norton North, Norton South & Windmill Hill		
Group/Project	Spend	Ward
Locality	5190.67	All
Craft Creators	£284.05	Halton Castle
Weekend Park Workers	£3,800.00	All
Mobile SiD Traffic Sign	£7,000.00	Norton North & South
Castlefields Community Centre - Summer Fayre	£157.50	Halton Castle
Norton Priory - Blue Room in Halton	£2,801.00	All
Phoenix Park BMX Pump Track - Fees	£1,760.00	Windmill Hill
Murdishaw Community Centre - Summer Event	£280.00	Norton North & South
Murdishaw Community Centre - Equipment and furniture	£6,428.08	Norton North & South
Windmill Hill Children's Centre - fun day	£520.00	Windmill Hill
Brookvale Children's Centre - fun day	£620.00	Norton North & South
PPX Event - Pheonix Park	£960.00	All
Village Life - Day Trip	£500.00	Halton Castle
BPR Leiria JFC - U16s team	£1,000.00	All
Silent Soldiers - British Legion	£1,500.00	All
St Marys School - Library refurbishment	£1,750.00	Halton Castle
St Bertaline's Church - Replacement Doors	£898.80	Windmill Hill
Churches Together - Runcorn Light Party	£520.00	All
Murdishaw Community Centre - Christmas Party Event	£150.00	Norton North & South
TOTAL	£36,120.10	

Area Forum 6: Beechwood & Halton Lea		
Group/Project	Spend	Ward
Locality	£2,384.97	All
Halton Lodge Play Area	£5,000.00	Halton Lea
City Arts Hub	£5,894.48	Halton Lea
Four Estates/ Palace Fields Community Centre	£770.00	Halton Lea
Halton Play Council - Glendale Playground	£1,782.00	Halton Lea
Sew Halton	£1,399.79	Halton Lea
Hillview Women's Club - Membership events	£1,409.00	Beechwood
Four Estates - Easter Event Palacefields CC	£419.00	Halton Lea
Total	£19,059.24	

Area Forum 7: Daresbury		
Group/Project	Spend	Ward
Locality	£1,092.03	Daresbury
Preston Brook Village Hall - Projector	£549.99	Daresbury
Finesse Gymnastics - Equipment & Training	£936.00	Daresbury
Milner Institute - Lighting	£1,530.00	Daresbury
Preston Brook Pre-School Garden Project	£4,023.02	Daresbury
Daresbury Village Hall - Sound System	£1,357.12	Daresbury
Total	£9,488.16	