

BRECKLAND PARTNERSHIP

5 November 2009

Report of Terry Scott, Operational Partnership Team

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING (PB)

1. Purpose of Report

To present to the LSP Board Members an application to enhance the 'Your Norfolk Your Decision' - Year 2 Participatory Budgeting in Norfolk project.

A bid has been successfully applied for by the Breckland Operational Partnership Team and a fund of £11,666 has been granted by the CDRP and match funding is being sought from LSP Board.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the LSP Board:

- 2.1.1 Note [for information and planning purposes] the contents of this report.
- 2.1.2 To fund the PB process up to £11,666 to match fund the £11,666 granted by the CDRP.
- 2.1.3 The Breckland Operational Partnership Team, together with members of the Partnership Tasking and Co-Ordination Group to be involved in the planning and the delivery of the PB process with the panels, but without a vote on decision day.

3.1 Background

- 3.1.1 A successful bid has been made to the CDRP for capital funding to enable a PB project to be conducted, inviting bids from the community to help fund projects that seek to address anti social behaviour issues. The LSP is asked to match fund this grant in order to provide a continuance of the successful PB project already being conducted under the 'Your Partnership, your decision'.
- 3.1.2 The PB project consists of three key areas.
 1. Bids will be invited from community based groups which specifically aim to reduce the effects of anti social behaviour (this will not be restricted to specifically targeting young people) on their communities.
 2. Area-based Participatory Budgeting. Based on Breckland Council's and Norfolk Constabulary's area based working arrangements, £4,000 will be made available to each of the five Breckland 'neighbourhoods'. A Community Panel – made up of Elected Members, local community representatives and Breckland's Youth Council representatives – will be set-up and will directly involve local people in making decisions on the allocation of funds for their 'neighbourhood'.
 3. Budget Training. Budget and PB training will be greatly reduced as a team of panel representatives has been funded and trained under the original PB project. There will still be an outlay for venue hire and out of pocket expenses. Total cost £3,332

Area Based

- 3.1.3 The Area Based PB will consist of local ward members, residents volunteering from the Citizen's panel and a youth council member.
- 3.1.4 The database for the citizen's panel will be used to approach members to seek their voluntary involvement.
- 3.1.5 A panel will be set up in each of the '5' areas to deliver their respective PB events.
- 3.1.6 Decision making events will take place across the district in January 2010.
- 3.1.7 Evaluating the PB process and the projects will be carried out by the panel members and the applicants during the process and post the decision evening to ensure projects are delivering the proposed outcomes.

3.2 Issues

- 3.2.1 The decision day/event must be held before 1st March 2011.
- 3.2.2 The expenditure of the projects must be completed by 31st March 2011.
- 3.2.3 The outcomes of the projects funded should be completed at 6 and 12 Month intervals.

3.3 Options

- 3.3.1 To note [for information and planning purposes] the contents of this report
- 3.3.2 To agree / reject the Match Funding Bid.
- 3.3.3 To agree / not agree that the Breckland Operational Partnership Team, together with members of the Partnership Tasking and Co-Ordination Group to be involved in the planning and the delivery of the PB process with the panels, but without a vote on decision day.

3.4 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 3.4.1 The Local Government White Paper of 2006 and the Lyon's Report of 2007 provided both an incentive and an opportunity for local authorities to adopt PB. The emerging policies included:
 - A duty to "inform, consult and involve" citizens.
 - Accountability via information to citizens.
 - Local public ownership of assets.
 - More citizen and user choices.
 - Citizen involvement in debates on local priorities, services and budgets. and
 - Public engagement to be a "bottom up" rather than a "top down" process.
- 3.4.2 Local authorities are required by the Government to inform, consult and involve local people; PB encourages local people getting involved, community cohesion and improves democracy. It can be used to assist Local Strategic Partnerships and inform strategies such as the Sustainable Community Strategy, the Local Area Agreement and Comprehensive Engagement Strategies.
- 3.4.3 The funding awarded will provide the Breckland Partnership with a significant opportunity to consult the community on their priorities and allow them to take decision making at a local level.
- 3.4.4 The decision making at a local level will be fed up to the Breckland Partnership (LSP Board) to ensure that common district wide issues are identified and addressed.