



	Cabinet Member Report
Date:	21 January 2021
Subject:	Approval of Expenditure from the Ward Budgets of St James's, Warwick, Queen's Park and Bayswater
1. Summary	
1.1 This report seeks approval for the expenditure of £10,237.50 from the St James's, Warwick, Queen's Park and Bayswater Ward Budgets in order to commission:	
(a) Westminster Creative Collective by the City Lions, Innovation and Change, WCC Libraries and Children Services Teams, which will mark the events of the past year, including lockdown and the Black Lives Matter movement, in a series of creative projects and exhibitions. This includes public exhibitions in Westminster Libraries, community art and podcast workshops. This funding proposal is specifically for the public exhibition element of the wider project and will cover the costs of curating the exhibitions and commissioning artist-led workshops for schools and youth groups, enabling young people to explore and unpack what 2020 has meant to them.	
Recommendation	
That the Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration approves the release of funds in the amount of £10,237.50 in respect of the above proposal, from the ward members of St James's, Warwick, Queen's Park and Bayswater wards as detailed in the report.	



City of Westminster

Cabinet Member Report

Cabinet Member:	Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration
Date:	21 January 2021
Classification:	For General Release
Title of Report:	Approval of Expenditure from the Ward Budget of St James's, Warwick, Queen's Park and Bayswater
Report of:	Head of Cabinet Secretariat, Member and Committee Services
Wards involved:	St James's, Warwick, Queen's Park and Bayswater
Policy context:	Ward Budget Programme
Financial summary:	<p>The proposed expenditure of £2,925.00 from the St James's Ward Budget leaves £48,252.61 remaining for allocation in the current financial year.</p> <p>The proposed expenditure of £1,462.50 from the Warwick Ward Budget leaves £9,611.67 remaining for allocation in the current financial year.</p> <p>The proposed expenditure of £2,925.00 from the Queen's Park Ward Budget leaves £23,071.39 remaining for allocation in the current financial year.</p> <p>The proposed expenditure of £2,925.00 from the Bayswater Ward Budget leaves £34,113.71 remaining for allocation in the current financial year.</p>
Report Author:	Matt Gaskin, Senior Member Services Officer
Contact details	<p>This matter is being handled by: Matt Gaskin, Senior Member Services Officer 07966 164556; mgaskin@westminster.gov.uk</p>

1. Background Information

- 1.1 Ward budgets were established under the City Council's Neighbourhood Programme agreed by the Cabinet in November 2007.
- 1.2 The programme enables ward members to fund projects in the local area which benefit residents of that area and/or meet local priorities.
- 1.3 £46,000 is provided to each ward in each financial year of a 4-year electoral cycle. Monies not spent in year roll-over to the next until the end of the cycle.
- 1.4 Budget provision for the financial years 2018 to 2022 equates to £184,000 per ward
- 1.5 All decisions on projects to be funded are made by the ward members from the wards concerned, to support their local priorities.

2. Proposed Projects

- 2.1 £10,237.50 will fund the Westminster Creative Collective which is a cross-directorate venture that is responding directly to the unprecedented time we are currently in with the COVID-19 pandemic. It aims to improve the social and mental wellbeing of our residents by using creativity as an outlet for expression and celebration following many months of hardship during the pandemic. The project aims to help residents in the ward areas identified make sense of lockdown and other poignant moments such as Black Lives Matter, which we feel will greatly benefit our communities. The Westminster Creative Collective project was established to capture 2020 as a significant moment in time. The project will mark the events of the past year, including lockdown and the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, in a series of creative projects and exhibitions. The experiences of COVID-19, lockdown and the re-emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement have had a profound impact on many of our residents. Creativity as an outlet of expression can enable our communities to make sense of these experiences and throughout the pandemic services from across the council have received artwork from young people that have communicated their feelings of these. This project will collate these pieces of work and other works to mark 2020 in three co-ordinated projects: Public exhibitions in Westminster Libraries, community art workshops and podcast workshops. This funding proposal is specifically for the public exhibition element of the project and will cover the costs of curating the exhibitions and commissioning artist led workshops for schools and youth groups, enabling their young people to explore and unpack what 2020 has meant to them.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Expenditure and approvals in process from the St James's budget to date total £86,822.39 leaving **£51,177.61** to be allocated.

- 3.2 The proposals for expenditure in this report amount to **£2,925.00** and leaves **£48,252.61** available for future allocation.
- 3.3 Expenditure and approvals in process from the Bayswater budget to date total £100,961.29 leaving **£37,038.71** to be allocated.
- 3.4 The proposals for expenditure in this report amount to **£2,925.00** and leaves **£34,113.71** available for future allocation.
- 3.5 Expenditure and approvals in process from the Queen's Park budget to date total £112,003.61 leaving **£25,996.39** to be allocated.
- 3.6 The proposals for expenditure in this report amount to **£2,925.00** and leaves **£23,071.39** available for future allocation.
- 3.7 Expenditure and approvals in process from the Warwick budget to date total £126,925.83 leaving **£11,074.17** to be allocated.
- 3.8 The proposals for expenditure in this report amount to **£1,462.50** and leaves **£9,611.67** available for future allocation.
- 3.9 This report approves the release of the above funding from the central pot. The individual decisions taken on the projects being funded are made by the ward members for the ward(s) involved.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 Section 1 of the Localism Act, aka "the general power of competence" enables authorities "to do anything that individuals generally may do". The proposals within this report are consistent with the Council exercising this power.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The proposals have been approved by all Councillors, or a majority of Councillors from all wards involved
- 5.2 The proposal for Westminster Creative Collective has been drawn up by the Member Services Officer with the City Lions, Innovation and Change, WCC Libraries and Children Services Teams, the financial and legal aspects of the funding have been verified by the Council's Finance and Legal Services Departments.

If you have any queries about this report or wish to inspect one of the background papers, please contact Matt Gaskin on 07966 164556 or mgaskin@westminster.gov.uk.

For completion by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration

Declaration of Interest

- I have no interest to declare in respect of this report

Signed Date
Councillor Heather Acton, Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration

- I have to declare an interest

State nature of interest:
.....

Signed Date
Councillor Heather Acton, Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration

(N.B: If you have an interest you should seek advice as to whether it is appropriate to make a decision in relation to this matter.)

For the reasons set out above, I agree the recommendation(s) in the report entitled **Approval of Expenditure from the Ward Budgets of St James’s, Warwick, Queen’s Park and Bayswater of £10,237.50** and reject any alternative options which are referred to but not recommended.

Signed
Councillor Heather Acton, Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration

Date

For Ward Specific Reports Only

In reaching this decision I have given due regard to any representations made by relevant Ward Members.

Signed
Councillor Heather Acton, Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration

Date

If you have any additional comment which you would want actioned in connection with your decision you should discuss this with the report author and then set out your comment below before the report and this pro-forma is returned to the Secretariat for processing.

Additional comment:
.....

NOTE: If you do not wish to approve the recommendations, or wish to make an alternative decision, it is important that you consult the report author, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, the Director of Finance and Performance and, if there are staffing implications, the Director of Resources (or their representatives) so that (1) you can be made aware of any further relevant considerations that you should take into account before making the decision and (2) your reasons for the decision can be properly identified and recorded, as required by law.

Note to Cabinet Member: Your decision will now be published and copied to the Members of the relevant Policy & Scrutiny Committee. If the decision falls within the criteria for call-in, it will not be implemented until five working days have elapsed for any call-in request to be received.