



	Cabinet Member Report
Date:	13/08/2021
Subject:	Approval of Expenditure from the Ward Budget of Marylebone High Street
1. Summary	
1.1 This report seeks approval for the expenditure of £20,000.00 from the Marylebone High Street Ward Budget in order to commission:	
(a) The St Marylebone Changing Lives Project	
Recommendation	
That the Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration approves the release of funds in the amount of £20,000.00 in respect of the above proposal, from the ward members of Marylebone High Street ward, as detailed in the report.	



City of Westminster

Cabinet Member Report

Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration

Date:

13/08/2021

Classification:

For General Release

Title of Report:

Approval of Expenditure from the Ward Budget of Marylebone High Street

Report of:

Head of Governance and Councillor Liaison

Wards involved:

Marylebone High Street

Policy context:

Ward Budget Programme

Financial summary:

The proposed expenditure of £20,000.00 from the Marylebone High Street Ward Budget leaves £13,171.93 remaining for allocation in the current financial year.

Report Author:

Clare O'Keefe, Councillor and Governance Support Officer

Contact details

**This matter is being handled by:
Clare O'Keefe, Councillor and Governance Support Officer, 07811 721748, cokeefe@westminster.gov.uk**

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 £20,000.00 will fund the St Marylebone Changing Lives Project. As a result of the funding, the Parish Church hope to achieve two things:
 - a. Following Covid-19, the St Marylebone HCC Psychotherapy Centre are already seeing the vast repercussions for people's mental health. They are currently continuing to operate sessions via zoom but want to resume face to face therapy. They have four therapy rooms which are small, in need of modernisation, and badly ventilated. They plan to convert these four rooms into three, modernise them to ensure they offer a welcoming environment, and carrying out work to the ducts to improve ventilation. The Centre support between 200-300 people with face-to-face therapy and group sessions. They also regularly share mental health support videos online which go in their local newsletter which reaches about 3,000 people.
 - b. A proportion of the grant will also be directed to their bursary fund to help more people access therapy at a heavily subsidised rate. As well as supporting anyone who contacts them directly, The Diocese of London, The London Clinic, and the University of London all use the centre as a place to direct individuals in real urgent need of help. The London Clinic for example have said that due to the trauma suffered by their staff through the pandemic, more front-line workers are seeking help. As a result of the funding, the Parish Church hope to offer 25 individuals 30 subsidised sessions of counselling each (roughly one per week – so a total of 750 counselling sessions).

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Expenditure and approvals in process from the Marylebone High Street budget to date total £150,828.07 leaving **£33,171.93** to be allocated.

- 3.2 The proposals for expenditure in this report amount to **£20,000.00** and leaves **£13,171.93** available for future allocation.
- 3.3 This report approves the release of the above funding from the ward budget(s) as listed above. 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 The St Marylebone Changing Lives Project has been drawn up by the Councillor and Governance Support Officer with St Marylebone Parish Church, 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 Clare O’Keefe on 07811 721748, email cokeefe@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 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 Budget of Marylebone High Street** and reject any alternative options which are referred to but not recommended.

Signed
Councillor Heather Acton, Cabinet Member for 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 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:
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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.