

London Borough of Lambeth Ward Purse Guidance

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Ward Purse

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are needed to see this picture.

Introduction

Steve Reed
Leader, London Borough of Lambeth

This guide for the Ward Purse has been produced to assist Members and help provide a clear understanding of how the fund will operate in Lambeth for the pilot year. This new fund has been developed following the outcome of local consultation as part of the Lambeth Communities First programme.

We have also taken into account the experiences of other local authorities and research through the Improvement and Development Agency.

The Ward Purse will help Members to directly contribute towards delivering our Local Area Agreement outcomes, whilst at the same time promoting their community leadership responsibilities by providing them with a fund with which to tackle local priorities.

One of the essential requirements of the fund will be the need to engage with local people through bodies like Safer Neighbourhood Panels, Resident Associations, and voluntary, community and faith groups to determine how the fund should be prioritised.

In this pilot year the Ward Purse will provide a borough wide capital budget of £293,000 (including management costs) to deliver positive local outcomes. The scheme is consistent with the principles of the Government's 'participatory budgeting' proposals and will be formally reviewed by the end of 2008/09.

I believe the Ward Fund provides new opportunities for Members to pursue their community leadership responsibilities, as well as producing tangible benefits to local communities and neighbourhoods.

1. The basics of the Ward Purse

The Ward Purse provides an allocation £12,000 capital per ward for 2008/09. Members are requested to utilise the Local Area Agreement (LAA) outcomes framework and seek to complement other sources of funding in pursuit of projects.

In assessing local priorities and recommending spend under the scheme; Members are encouraged to engage with local residents, community groups, the voluntary and community sector and other LAA partners.

You Can

Spend up to £12,000

Commit to projects up until December 2008

Support projects inside and outside your electoral ward but must be within Lambeth and in agreement with the appropriate ward councillors

Combine ward allocation to other wards to support larger projects.

You Can't

Fund an individual project which costs less than £1,000.

Fund a project beyond 31st March 2009 (i.e. the pilot year of the Ward Purse)

Commit to a project which Members have a personal or prejudicial interest in.

Support a project that would be outside of the Council's legal powers or is contrary to Council policy

Carry forward funds – unspent allocations will be returned to the Council's capital programme.

Ward Purse funding is public money and the same criteria of ensuring value for money and appropriate accountability will apply in the same way as all other Council expenditure. All spending will be subject to compliance with Council policy and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, particularly the Scheme of Delegation and financial regulations.

Well-being powers

Under the terms of the Local Government Act 2000, every local authority has the power to do anything, which they consider is likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of the area unless it is prohibited elsewhere in statute.

This has direct implications on partnership working as local authorities are permitted to work with partners to deliver services promoting or improving economic, social or environmental well-being of their area, even if the services are not provided by local authorities (provided they are not prohibited by statute).

2. What the fund is for

The Ward Purse is designed to allow Members to have a genuine impact on their area. It enables Members to address local issues in so far as they also relate to the Local Area Agreement outcomes.

Members are required to work collaboratively, initially with their fellow Ward Members to avoid duplication and support projects, which are capable of sustained outcomes. Where possible, partnership arrangements should be fostered together with match-funding opportunities with other agencies.

You Can

Only support projects with links to LAA outcomes.

Attract or secure match funding or third party sponsorship provided external conditions conform to this guidance.

Use the funding to deliver physical improvements and enhancements.

Explore innovative ways under the Council's well-being powers to fund organisations.

Identify reserve projects that may be supported if first choice projects fail to materialise or if unspent allocations become available elsewhere.

You Can't

Fund other authorities or agencies who have a responsibility to provide services for which the fund is requested **unless** this involves service enhancements.

Fund lobbying, political activity or election publicity.

Make grants to a 3rd party under the Ward Purse that will then be used to finance the employment of staff.

Make payment to individuals in their own right or support initiatives where the final beneficiary is an identifiable individual (or family).

Support projects where beneficial outcomes are unlikely to commence within 2008/09.

Commit to a project which would lead to additional costs being incurred by Council service departments without prior agreement from the appropriate Executive Director.

The December 2008 deadline

Where Ward Members have not committed their Ward Purse allocations by 12th December 2008 any uncommitted sums will be 'frozen' and spare resources will then be re-allocated by the Executive Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council to support reserve projects developed during 2008 by Ward Members.

Key dates

In order for the Ward Purse to run smoothly, it is essential that all parties are aware of some key dates:

Date	Action
17 th July 2008	Scrutiny considers the proposed Ward Purse and subject to appropriate amendments approves the project.
1 st August 2008	Guidance formally issued to all Members. Ward Purse publicity prepared through Corporate Communications. Q & A session arranged for Members
12 th December 2008	Deadline for submission of application form to Communities and Neighbourhoods Team.
19 th December 2008	Reallocation of uncommitted budgets by Executive Director of Housing, Regeneration & Environment in Consultation with Leader and Deputy Leader.
30 th April 2009	Scrutiny to instigate review of pilot and report back to Cabinet.

3. Publicity and conduct

Members are reminded of the need to observe the authority's Code of Conduct for Members. Further information is available from the Director of Legal and Democratic Services.

Members are required to liaise with the Council's Campaigns and Communications team for assistance with the preparation of any press releases or publicity relating to the Ward Purse.

All expenditure from the Ward Purse is considered to be information that is available to the public. Therefore details of any spending made from the Ward Purse will be provided to any internal or external enquirer upon request.

Public awareness of the availability of the Ward Purse is key to its successful application and to public participation in its use. Whilst a publicity campaign will be coordinated centrally through Lambeth Life and press releases, Members are encouraged to widely publicise the Ward Purse at local level, subject to guidance from the Campaigns and Communications Team, especially on ensuring compliance with the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity.

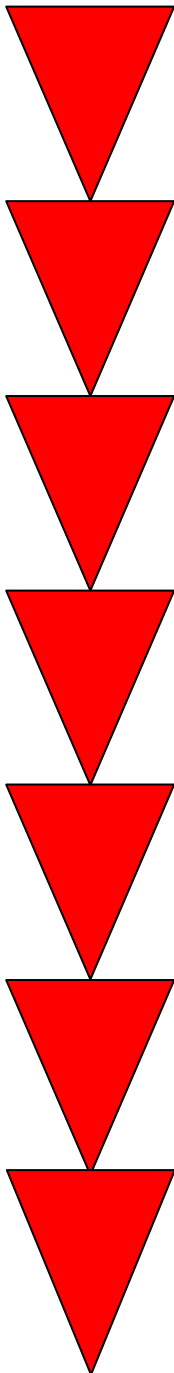
The only departure from this approach will be during the period immediately preceding elections, which is commonly referred to as the "purdah" period. Approximately 6 weeks before any election or by election, the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, in liaison with the Director of Campaigns and Communications, will issue guidance to all members as to the restrictions that apply to any publicity or press releases issued by the Council during this period.

4. Administrative procedures

As part of the adoption of executive arrangements in 2002, the Council resolved that individual Cabinet members should have no legal powers to take decisions which bind the Council, including certifying expenditure. Further, there are no legal decision-making powers available, at present, for individual non-Cabinet members, although limited powers in relation to ward matters, as set out in section 236 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, will come into force in due course, at which point these arrangements will be reviewed. In the meantime, it is necessary to ensure that the ultimate authorization of expenditure rests with the Executive Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environment, having sought and obtained the concurrence of the relevant ward members. However the presumption is that projects will be approved unless basic Ward Purse requirements are not met.

Local Area Agreement Outcomes

The outcome framework for the Local Area Agreement is attached towards the back of these guidance notes. Ward Councillors should use this outcome framework when considering projects they wish to support through their Ward Purse.



- Programme coordinator facilitates meeting of Ward Members to discuss Ward Purse and identify who needs to be consulted and potential proprieties for the fund.
- Assessment of projects against LAA outcomes
- Four weeks to consult with partners, local groups, community forums and neighbouring ward members if appropriate.
- Select projects to be supported
- Prioritise projects
- Maximum 3 projects per ward
- Complete application forms returned to programme co-ordinator
- Applications submitted to Executive Director Housing, Regeneration and Environment for agreement.
- Payment processing and funding dispatched.
- Ward Members prioritise projects that have not been allocated funding for reserve list.
- Members visit projects to monitor progress.
- Programme co-ordinator completes project evaluation report in consultation with Ward Members and submits report to the Executive Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environment

The Communities and Neighbourhoods team will process payments. Project proposals that do not link with LAA outcomes will be returned to the Members for reconsideration and not processed further. The Executive Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environment will ultimately arbitrate in cases of dispute and his/her decision will be final.

5. Members' support and useful contacts

Assessing local priorities is a potentially challenging task, however a number of

potential sources of information exist to help you. These include:

- Lambeth Local Area Agreement
- Lambeth Sustainable Community Strategy
- Lambeth Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Census data
- Web links to local organisations, societies and self-help groups
- Safer Neighbourhood Panels
- Projects supported by the Communities and Neighbourhoods team

The Communities and Neighbourhoods Team is able to provide assistance in accessing the above. In addition, Members may want to also work with officers, Council departments and other public agencies for the identification of local priorities and to develop proposals.

For specific enquiries please contact the Neighbourhood Development Officer for your area:

Ward	Neighbourhood Development Officer	Contact details
Bishops		
Princes		
Oval		
Stockwell		
Vassall		
Larkhall		
Clapham Town		
Clapham Common		
Ferndale		
Coldharbour		
Brixton Hill		
Herne Hill		
Tulse Hill		
Thornton		
Streatham Hill		
Thurlow Park		
St Leonards		
Streatham Wells		

Ward	Neighbourhood Development Officer	Contact details
Streatham South		
Knights Hill		
Gipsy Hill		

Vision	Lambeth is a diverse, dynamic and enterprising borough at the heart of London						
Sustainability	Economic Well-Being		Social Well-Being				Enviro Well
Universal Issues	Community Cohesion, Equalities, Sustainability and Culture						
Sustainable Community Strategy 2020 Outcomes	Lambeth is a great place to do business with higher levels of investment and business growth	Greater wellbeing for households through higher numbers of residents in employment	Even more children and young people are on the path to success through the provision of good quality education, training and jobs which reduces the risk of exclusion and offending	Safe and cohesive places where people are empowered and have the confidence to play active roles in their communities	Improved health and wellbeing of people which enables them to live active and independent lives	Lower levels of poverty and social exclusion in Lambeth by helping more of our socially excluded adults in employment, education and training	Mixed sustainable communities, an increasing number of supply homes, existing and a high physical environment
Lambeth Local Area Agreement Priority Areas for Improvement 2008 - 2011	Increasing the overall employment rate Increasing VAT registration rate for new companies	Increasing the number of working age people with a Level 2 qualification or higher Increasing the number of 19 year olds with Level 2 qualifications Reducing the number of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training Increasing migrants English language skills and knowledge Reducing working age people claiming out of work benefits	Improving the emotional health of children Reducing obesity in primary school children Improving the stability of placements for looked after children Reducing the under 18 conception rate Reducing the gap in achievement between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers at Key Stage 2 and 4 Reducing the rate of permanent exclusions from school	Increasing the percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality Increasing overall satisfaction with the local area Building resilience to violent extremism within Lambeth Increasing young people's participation in positive activities Increasing take-up of formal childcare for low income working families Reducing serious violent crime Reducing serious acquisitive crime Tackling perceptions about drug use and drug dealing Tackling concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police Increasing the numbers of volunteers registering (local PI)	Reducing mortality rates from all circulatory diseases for people under 75 Increasing the number of clients receiving self-directed support Increasing the number of vulnerable people living independently Increasing carers' needs assessments undertaken	Reducing the proportion of children in poverty Increasing the number of adults with learning disabilities in employment Increasing the number of adults in contact with secondary mental health services in employment Increasing young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training Increasing offenders under probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or licence	Increasing the number of affordable deliveries Reducing the number of households with temporary accommodation Reducing carbon emissions from local authorities Improving and environmental cleanliness of graffiti and detritus posting Reducing percentage decaying (loc
Our new way of working	Neighbourhood Working – Where appropriate we will deliver services at the neighbourhood level						