

Details of Leadership Team meeting or (in the case of individual Lead Member or Executive Director decisions) by whom and the <u>earliest</u> date the decision will be taken	Leadership Team meeting Date of report: 29 June 2021 Date of decision: 7 July 2021	 THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA
Forward Plan ref:	KD05941/21/K/A	
Report title	Grenfell Housing Legacy Fund	
Reporting officer	Dan Hawthorn	
Key decision	Yes	
Access to information classification	Public	
Wards	Notting Dale	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report outlines a proposal for a new £1m Grenfell Housing Legacy Fund for residents living in Council owned properties or placed by the Council in Temporary Accommodation in Notting Dale Ward. This Fund will support projects designed and selected by residents through a participatory budgeting process on an estate-by-estate basis. This is part of the Council's commitment to establishing a long-term legacy from the Grenfell tragedy that is meaningful to local people in the area that has been most directly impacted by the tragedy.
- 1.2. The Leadership Team committed to establishing a Grenfell Housing Legacy fund as part of the Grenfell Recovery Resourcing Framework, agreed by the Council in December 2020 [05767/20/K/A]. This report seeks to formalise the key parameters for the fund, the principles for budget allocation and the next steps for engagement with residents.

- 1.3. The proposal and next steps outlined in this report are informed by consultation and engagement with local residents. Following initial engagement with local residents' associations in early 2021, a wide-ranging consultation took place with all eligible residents from 29 March to 9 May 2021. We asked residents about the key themes for the fund and their ideas for how it would work best. Over 121 responses were received in total. This report and the appendices provide details of the feedback we heard through this process and how it has shaped the proposals set out here.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Leadership Team is being asked to agree the proposal for the Grenfell Housing Legacy Fund, specifically:
 - the parameters of the fund, including the key themes and principles informed by resident feedback which are set out in sections 5.4 and 5.5.
 - the indicative allocation of the total £1m fund, with funding envelopes allocated to individual estates/groupings of property on the basis of size, as set out in sections 5.10-5.13
 - the next steps for the fund, including plans to support residents to develop ideas and submit proposals and a localised participatory budgeting process for selecting projects, as set out in the table under 5.9.
- 2.2. While this report seeks approval for the overall approach, we anticipate that formal decisions to allocate funding to individual projects will be made following the participatory budgeting process by either the Executive Director for Housing and Social Investment or the Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Grenfell, Housing and Social Investment, depending on the amounts involved.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. The Leadership Team is being asked to agree the proposal for the Grenfell Housing Legacy Fund as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting local residents in the immediate area and to developing a long-term sustainable legacy from the Grenfell tragedy which is meaningful to local people.
- 3.2. The Leadership Team committed to establishing a Grenfell Housing Legacy Fund as part of the Grenfell Recovery Resourcing Framework in order to use the funding previously allocated to the costs of temporary accommodation in a way that benefits a wider group of residents. This proposal thus reflects the commitments made in the Resourcing Framework to increase the reach of Grenfell Recovery initiatives.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1. The Grenfell tragedy exposed a range of Housing issues for residents, especially Council tenants. The Council has set out plans to address these issues through changes to its mainstream Housing and Housing Management services under the umbrella of an overarching Housing Strategy. However, it is equally clear that Housing is an important Grenfell legacy issue for local residents, and that Housing is a vital underpinning for long-term recovery, especially in Notting Dale, the area most directly impacted by the tragedy.
- 4.2. Up until March 2021, Grenfell Recovery funding for Housing for the wider community was focused on the costs of support and temporary accommodation for a small number of residents in Temporary Accommodation who fall under the Wider Grenfell Rehousing Policy. The majority of these households have now moved into permanent homes and the costs for the remaining households have been met from mainstream budgets from 1 April 2021. As part of the Grenfell Recovery Resourcing Framework, agreed by the Leadership Team in December 2020, the Leadership Team agreed that the remaining funding in future years should be used to support Housing legacy projects to benefit a wider group of residents.
- 4.3. As part of this, £1m of this funding was set aside for the creation of a new Housing Legacy Fund for residents living in Council-owned properties in Notting Dale over the next three years. The Resourcing Framework committed to enabling more collaboration and partnership working with the communities we serve, by creating more opportunities for communities to be able to influence and shape the elements of the programme that are relevant to them as we know that communities want to be more involved in shaping and controlling their own recovery and that people's needs are changing. We also committed to engaging with residents and residents' associations about the parameters and workings of this fund.
- 4.4. Following initial engagement with interested residents and residents' associations, a six-week consultation with all eligible residents took place from 29 March to 9 May 2021. Residents were asked to share their views about the key themes for the fund and their ideas for how it would work best. Council officers wrote to all eligible residents and held drop-in events on estates within the ward. Officers also held an online drop-in session for residents to provide feedback. The survey was available online and sent by post to all residents of the Notting Dale Ward living within eligible property types. We received 121 survey responses.

5. OPTIONS, ANALYSIS AND PROPOSALS

Proposal

5.1 The Grenfell Housing Legacy Fund is based on the following key drivers:

- Contributing to a long-term sustainable Housing legacy for a larger group of residents in the local area most directly impacted by the tragedy.
- Providing measurable impact for a wider group of people.
- Ensuring meaningful engagement and participation from residents to give residents more control over the support they receive.

5.2 Based on these key drivers, and early engagement with interested residents and residents' associations, we established the following key initial principles:

- The fund will be made available to residents living in properties owned by the Council or those placed in Temporary Accommodation by the Council within the Notting Dale Ward (including pitches in Stable Ways). This is in recognition of our unique duty to these households as landlord and the concentrated impact of the tragedy on this local area.
- The key criteria and parameters for the fund would be established through consultation and engagement with eligible residents. These would act as a framework for the types of projects that the funding can be used to support.
- Residents would be asked to put forward ideas for projects that fall within this framework and could then be voted for through a localised participatory budgeting process.
- Funding would be allocated on a per property basis, with budgets grouped together by estate. For those living in street properties (excluding Stable Ways), the per property budget will be grouped in with the household's nearest estate.
- Projects would be voted on by residents on an estate-by-estate basis. Estates would have the option to combine their funding with other estates/groupings to develop wider projects. This flexible model would ensure we can support both targeted projects for specific estates whilst allowing estates to pool together resources to use their funding collectively to support larger, more wide-reaching goals if that is supported by their residents.

5.3 Following a six-week consultation with local residents, we received a range of feedback.

- Residents expressed support for all the proposed themes, with the most popular approval ratings being for projects that 'increase economic opportunities for residents' (70%) and 'community safety projects' (67%).
- Residents had ideas for other themes, including a focus on green spaces and opportunities for children and young people
- People asked for support in developing pitches and writing proposals.
- Residents expressed a preference for an online voting system but had concerns about people who did not have access to technology.
- Residents raised a range of issues which fall outside the scope of the fund, including increasing housing stock and refurbishing existing stock. Housing Management will ensure this is communicated to the relevant teams across the Council.

In incorporating this feedback, we have established further key elements of the proposal summarised in sections 5.4. – 5.6. We have also noted feedback from both this consultation and Year One of the Grenfell Projects Fund around voting mechanism for participatory budgeting. This project will therefore include longer periods for submission and voting. Voting will take place over a period of four weeks rather than a one day live voting event, giving residents submitting proposals time to develop their proposals and those voting time to consider the merits of all projects before casting their vote.

Key Themes

5.4 Key themes were co-created with residents based on both initial conversations with residents' associations and feedback from a public consultation. Amendments to the themes were made to include projects for Children and Young People and specific reference to green spaces. Having incorporated this feedback, residents will now be able to put forward proposals for their localised budget, if they fall under one of the following themes:

- Projects that increase economic opportunities for residents.
- Projects that focus on sustainability, the environment, and green spaces.
- Projects that focus on community safety.
- Projects that promote inclusion and accessibility.
- Projects that promote residents having their own voice.
- Projects that provide opportunities and support for Children and Young People.

Principles for the Fund

5.5 We committed to ensuring that the fund is resident-led, and that residents have the opportunity to put forward their ideas and to make decisions about which projects receive funding. In order to ensure that we honour these commitments, the key drivers and values behind the project and the feedback we have heard so far, proposals for projects submitted under the Fund, must fulfil the following criteria:

1. Housing Legacy projects must be clearly linked to Grenfell and focused on:
 - (a) addressing its impact; and/or
 - (b) building a positive legacy for local residents.
2. Projects must show longevity of project outcomes and achieving long term sustainable, lasting change for residents.
3. Projects must fall under at least one of the listed themes and can be wide ranging including physical projects and improvements such as enhancements to existing underutilised spaces or the creation of new green spaces. It could also include other services or initiatives such as training programmes that show long term benefits.
4. The project must be workable in practice. This will be determined during the review process for submitted proposals.
5. Projects must not conflict with or duplicate other projects in the area and/or resources.
6. Projects cannot cost more than the allocated estate budget unless:
 - (a) match funding capability is proven
 - (b) the proposal is expected to show ward wide benefit and is requesting to be put out to vote on multiple estates.

Housing Management will review projects that may require any ongoing revenue costs and will work with residents to address these costs to factor them in to the budget or secure agreement that they could be met from mainstream resources.

7. Proposals must be new projects to the area. This means they:
 - (a) Cannot be used to fund existing initiatives run by organisations currently funded by the Council and/or the Grenfell recovery budget.
 - (b) Cannot be used to fund initiatives that would fall under the criteria for funding by mainstream services such as a physical improvement to an estate that would ordinarily fall under the Council's estate improvement budgets.

8. Projects must show that they are inclusive in both their approach and their outcomes.
- 5.6 Where opportunities exist to align projects with other Council initiatives, and/or take advantage of other potential sources of funding, Housing Colleagues will work with the resident(s) submitting the proposal and colleagues across the Council to identify and facilitate this where possible. This will maximise the potential impact of proposed projects, and the number of projects that can be approved by utilising existing resources, while minimising duplication and overlap. For instance, proposals submitted under the theme of economic opportunities could align with work being undertaken by the Council's economic development team; it will be the job of the Housing Management team to ensure that these connections are made.

Support for residents

- 5.7 We were clear that once the key parameters were agreed, residents would be asked to put forward ideas for projects that could be funded through the Housing Legacy Fund. Through the consultation, we heard clearly that residents wanted support from an experience person and/or Council officer to help with idea development and proposal writing. This support will be provided by Housing Management, with support from Grenfell Partnerships and other exiting sources (such as existing arrangements with voluntary and community sector organisations). Residents will be offered targeted support available on an estate basis, which will include:
 - Online and in person events for residents who would like to hear more about the Fund, need help developing their ideas or support completing the submissions form.
 - Guidance widely published about expectations for projects based on the parameters set out in sections 5.4 and 5.5.
 - Regular meetings with residents' associations and interested residents on individual estates.
 - Offline support from the Housing Management and Grenfell Partnership teams.
- 5.8 Where residents have ideas for proposals that match the criteria but do not want to lead them or need help in developing them, officers will work with interested residents to develop these proposals and put them forward for the Housing Legacy Fund or help residents in finding alternative funding sources across the Council or elsewhere.

Next steps: Project Submissions and Voting Process

5.9 Indicative timescales for the project are detailed in the table below.

<p>July 2021</p>	<p>Fund open for submissions of proposals for projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Targeted comms with residents and residents' associations. (b) Dedicated in person drop ins and online meetings to support residents in both the development of their proposals and provide guidance around completing the submissions form. (c) Meetings with interested residents and residents' associations to develop ideas based on needs of estates.
<p>Autumn 2021</p>	<p>Review of submitted proposals</p> <p>Housing Management will work with residents to review proposals before they are put out to public vote to ensure they meet fulfil the requirements set out in sections 5.</p> <p>Voting open for a period of four weeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) This will be organised on an estate basis (b) Will include a hybrid model of voting, allowing residents to vote online or through paper ballots.
<p>Winter 2021/22</p>	<p>Formal decision to allocate funding taken on individual projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Decision to be taken by Executive Director for Housing and Social Investment or the Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Grenfell, Housing and Social Investment. (b) Housing Management will work to implement successful projects with interested parties.

Budget Allocation

5.10 The £1m budget will be allocated on a per property basis, with budgets grouped by estate. Estates will receive a collective budget based on both the number of properties within them and any additional properties located nearest them (as per 5.11). All costs associated with the projects must be met from the allocated budget per estate. There are approximately 2100 eligible properties within Notting Dale. This would indicate a per property allocation of approximately £476.

5.11 During the course of the consultation, those living in non estate based properties were asked to indicate whether they preferred their per property allowance to be grouped with their nearest estate or to have a separate budget on their own. Response rates to this question were too low to form the basis for a conclusive recommendation, as seen in Appendix A. Through post code analysis of these properties, it is deemed possible for these households to benefit from the wider estate budgets, with relative ease in accessing services on the estates themselves. As such, it is deemed appropriate that estate budgets surrounding non estate-based properties. For the purposes of this fund, estates are as listed as follows and all non estate based properties will be grouped with the nearest estate:

- Allom & Barlow
- Bramley House
- Eastry & Foreland
- Henry Dickens Court
- Hesketh & Runcorn
- Lancaster West
- Nottingwood
- Silchester
- Whitchurch & Blechynden House
- Stable Way

5.12 Given the nature of the settlement within Stable Way, as a distinct community that may have its own additional needs, it has been identified as an 'estate' for the purposes of this initiative, and will therefore be allocated an individual budget, as separate from its nearest estate

5.13 In addition to the above, to support the development of wider, more inclusive proposals, estates will be able to combine their funding, if supported by their residents, pooling their collective resources to support larger, more wide-reaching goals.

6. CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

6.1 Extensive consultation and engagement has taken place on this project to shape the proposal set out in this report.

6.2 Throughout January and February, the residents' associations in Notting Dale ward were approached and informed of the council's intention to create a fund, and consulted with on how the fund should be

6.3 From the 29th of March 2021 to the 9th of May further consultation was undertaken. This included:

- All residents of RBKC housing in Notting Dale, and those from Notting Dale in temporary accommodation being written to with details of the fund, and a survey questionnaire.
- All residents with emails address know to the council were emailed, with links to the online version of the survey.
- Two advertised 'drop in' sessions were held, one on Saturday 17th of April of in the forecourt of Henry Dickens estate, and another on Tuesday the 27th of April on Waynflete square on the Silchester estate, at which over 100 residents attended.
- An online zoom drop-in session was held on the 21st of April.
- Consultation material was translated in Arabic and Somali as two languages spoken by a high number of our residents.
- 121 responses were received to the survey.

6.4 The full consultation report accompanies this report as Appendix A. The key highlights are summarised in the table below:

Themes	<p>Residents showed broad agreement for the proposed themes and made additional suggestions. In incorporating the feedback from the consultation, the following amendments to themes have been highlighted in blue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Projects that increase economic opportunities for residents - Projects that focus on sustainability, the environment, and green spaces. - Projects that focus on community safety - Projects that promote inclusion and accessibility - Projects that promote residents having their own voice - Projects that provide opportunities and support for Children and Young People.
Decision-making	<p>Some residents were keen to see online voting, while others highlighted concerns around digital inclusion. Based on this feedback, we will use hybrid online and paper voting process with a summary of the different proposals for residents to choose from being made available online and through a paper booklet alongside this.</p>
Support	<p>Those who chose to answer this question said they would like support from an experienced person and/or Council officer to help with idea development and proposal writing. Targeted support will be made available on an estate basis to address this and officers will work with Communities colleagues to look for existing resources and incorporate learnings from other participatory budgeting projects across the Council, such as the Grenfell Projects Fund.</p>

6.5 Following the consultation, all residents were written to with the outcome via a You Said, We Will flyer (attached as Appendix B) and an invitation to attend a zoom meeting with officers on July 6th to discuss next steps.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. The Council is seeking approval to agree the proposal for the Grenfell Housing Legacy Fund of £1m. The Legacy Fund, to be held by the Council, intends to allocate funding on a per property basis, with budgets grouped together by estate, to projects designed and selected by residents through a participatory budgeting process on an estate-by-estate basis.

- 7.2. The Council has the power to award funding under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 subject to sections 2 - 4, in that, it is permitted to do anything that individuals generally may do.
- 7.3. Based on the contents of this report it appears that appropriate formal consultation and engagement has been undertaken with the local resident community and other relevant stakeholders.
- 7.4. Any mechanism to assess Project proposals must ensure that approved Projects are compliant with the criteria set out in section 5.6 of this report.
- 7.5. At allocation stage, the Council will release funding to pay for the delivery of the Projects. The mechanism for payment will be dependent on the nature of the approved Projects and will therefore be determined on a case by case basis.
- 7.6. If the funding is to be granted directly to external parties via a grant/funding agreement, the Council must undertake all appropriate due diligence, including consideration of any subsidy control implications. Moreover, funding awarded (by way of a funding/grant agreement) to an external body/party in excess of the value of £50,000 shall require approval from at least the relevant Lead Member in accordance with the Constitution. Award of grant funding below this threshold shall be Executive Decision.
- 7.7. Any such funding arrangements must ensure the funding can only be utilised for the project in question, there is the ability for the Council to claw back such funding if it is not being utilised appropriately, appropriate obligations for the recipient are in place and that the agreement contains relevant monitoring and review provisions. The Council should also seek to align any funding payments to applicable monitoring and review provisions.
- 7.8. At allocation stage, if the funding is to be granted to external parties via a contract, the Council should consider any applicable implications of the Council's Contract Regulations and approval of any contract award should be in accordance with these Regulations.
- 7.9. Legal input should be sought to prepare and/or review the documentation for the funding arrangements.

Legal comments supplied by Christina Worrell, Solicitor (Contracts), Bi-Borough Shared legal Services

8. FINANCIAL, PROPERTY, IT AND ANY OTHER RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. Corporate Finance have been consulted and confirm that £1m has been set aside from the ringfenced Grenfell Recovery budget for the creation of a new Housing Legacy Fund, as set out in the Grenfell Recovery Resourcing Framework.

8.2. The allocation by property in 5.11 above fully utilises the £1m budget. Projects will need to consider any ongoing revenue costs and plans will need to factor these in to the overall costs or secure agreement for them to be met from existing resources. Where support to residents is offered, this support will be met by existing sources, including Housing Management and Grenfell Partnerships teams.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 A completed EQIA accompanies this report as Appendix C. The EQIA considers equalities implications for the proposal and the consultation as well as ongoing engagement with residents as this project continues to be residents led. Indicative data suggests demographics to be broadly in line with that of the wider borough. It is not therefore expected that the project in principle will have any negative equalities implications. This ward does face higher socio economic deprivation as compared to others in the borough and additional resource in this area could lead to a positive impact for residents, particularly when considering the themes themselves cover projects that would increase access and inclusion, increase economic opportunities, and create more resources for Children and Young People.

9.2 The project increases access to £1m of ringfenced funding to a greater number of residents (as previously used to support only a small number of households), this honours the commitments made in the Grenfell Recovery Resourcing Framework to ensure a larger percentage of the wider community is able to benefit from Grenfell Recovery initiatives. This thus presents an opportunity for a positive impact.

9.3 However, it is not yet possible to determine the equalities impact of the projects themselves as these will be submitted by residents and decided amongst them. A further EQIA may be necessary to assess the impact of the projects themselves once these have been chosen. Officers will however, as part of the review process assessing submissions against the criteria set out in 5.5, ensure that projects are as inclusive as possible.

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Mandatory clearance requirements for all Key and Executive Decision reports

Cleared by Corporate Finance

LS

Cleared by Director of Law (officer's initials)

CW

Cleared by Communications

KT