



	Cabinet Member Report
Date:	9 June 2021
Subject:	Approval of Expenditure from the Ward Budget of Maida Vale
1. Summary	
1.1 This report seeks approval for the expenditure of £15,000.00 from the Maida Vale Ward Budget in order to commission:	
(a) Catch-up Funding – Essendine Primary School	
Recommendation	
That the Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration approves the release of funds in the amount of £15,000.00 in respect of the above proposal, from the ward members of Maida Vale ward, as detailed in the report.	



City of Westminster

Cabinet Member Report

Cabinet Member:	Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration
Date:	9 June 2021
Classification:	For General Release
Title of Report:	Approval of Expenditure from the Ward Budget of Maida Vale
Report of:	Head of Cabinet Secretariat, Member and Committee Services
Wards involved:	Maida Vale
Policy context:	Ward Budget Programme
Financial summary:	The proposed expenditure of £15,000.00 from the Maida Vale Ward Budget leaves £43,660.03 remaining for allocation in the current financial year.
Report Author:	Clare O'Keefe, Member Services Officer
Contact details	This matter is being handled by: Clare O'Keefe, Member Services 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 £15,000.00 will fund a Catch-up Funding project for Essendine Primary School.

It is undeniable that Covid and lockdown has an enormous impact on children, more so on children that are disadvantaged and vulnerable. Essendine Primary plan to use the funding in a way that suits their cohort and circumstances and plan to use this funding for specific activities which will help pupils catch up on missed learning. Essendine will particularly focus on the disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils as they know they have been most affected.

Essendine Primary envisage funding would enable them to employ an additional staff member for:

- Additional support and focus on basic core skills. Dependent on needs as identified through ongoing assessment.
- Additional time to practice basic skills. This again will be dependent on need of children in order to re-establish good progress in the essentials (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and mathematics) and there will be flexibility on timetables to allow this.

Over 200 children will benefit from this project and success will be measured through: ongoing assessments termly, pupil voice, teacher's assessments, reports of children attendance.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Expenditure and approvals in process from the Maida Vale budget to date total £125,339.97 leaving **£58,660.03** to be allocated.

- 3.2 The proposals for expenditure in this report amount to **£15,000.00** and leaves **£43,660.03** available for future allocation.
- 3.3 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 Catch-Up Funding has been drawn up by the Member Services Officer with Essendine Primary School, 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 Maida Vale** 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.