

The background of the slide features the official coat of arms of the City of Vancouver. It is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a sailing ship on the water. The top-right quadrant depicts a beaver. The bottom-left quadrant shows a grizzly bear. The bottom-right quadrant features a fish. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. A banner at the bottom of the shield contains the motto "A NE FOR A".

Agenda Item 9

Community Choices

Falkirk Council

Title: Community Choices
Meeting: Executive
Date: 5 October 2021
Submitted By: Director of Corporate and Housing Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for changes to Community Choices following the completion of the first phase of the Small Grants and Place Based Capital programmes.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Executive agrees to –**

(1) The creation of a Falkirk wide project category within the capital programme

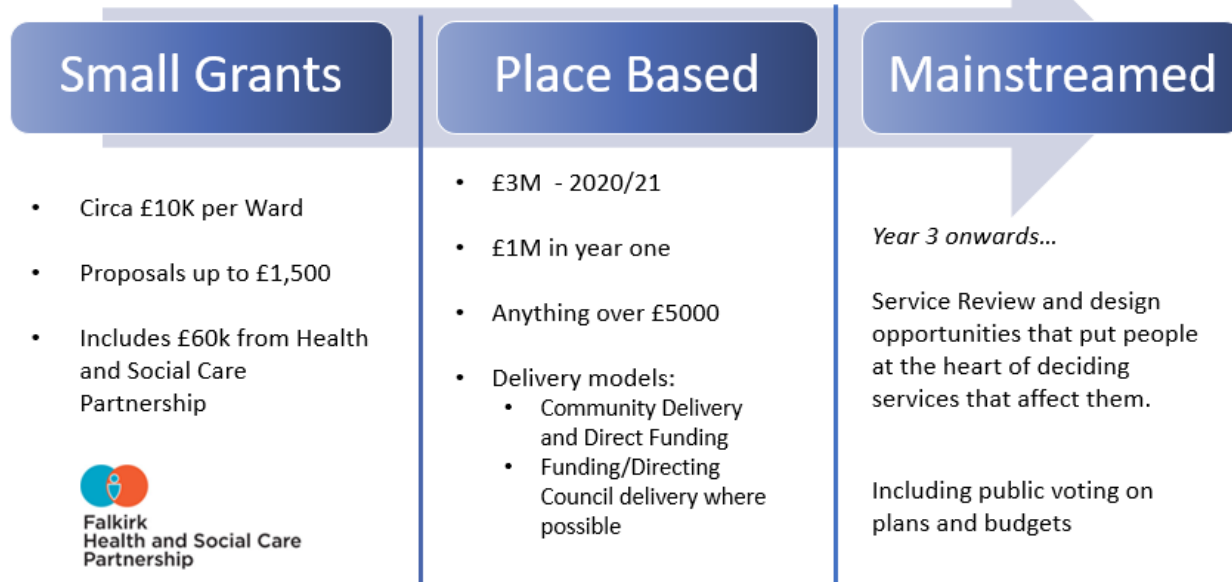
(2) Reduce each ward's capital funding allocation by 10% to fund the Falkirk wide category.

(3) Limit Capital applications at 60% of a ward's total allocation.

3. Background

- 3.1 In October 2020, The Executive approved implementation of a small grants programme and a place-based capital programme, alongside working with services to mainstream Community Choices across budgets.
- 3.2 In partnership with the Health and Social Care Partnership and CVS Falkirk, we set up an advisory panel including Council Officers, 9 community members and 4 third sector organisations. This panel assisted with supporting and reviewing the process from a range of perspectives.
- 3.3 An evaluation of Phase 1 was carried out including interviews with community groups, a focus group with advisory panel members and a surveys to applicants and elected members. The recommendations of the evaluation were tested with applicants and elected member and the results are included in Appendix 1.

Three Approaches



4. Changes for Phase 2

4.1 Based on the evaluation of Phase 1, we propose the following changes for the next phase:

Create a Falkirk Wide category

- 4.1.1 Phase 1 Capital funding was allocated across the 9 wards, with votes cast on a ward basis. Voters were only accepted from people living within that ward. Whilst this benefitted small local organisations it disadvantaged larger organisations that operate across more than one ward and communities of interest.
- 4.1.2 It is therefore proposed that a 10th Falkirk wide category is included in the Phase 2.
- 4.1.3 Each member of the public receives three votes to cast in their ward. They will be able to cast 1 of these votes in a 'Falkirk Wide' category.
- 4.1.4 To fund this, we would take 10% off of the total allocation which equates to £200,000, leaving £1,800,000 to be distributed across wards by child poverty rates resulting in the amended breakdowns below:

| Ward | % children in relative poverty (2018/19) | No children in poverty | Year 1 | Year 2 |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|
| Bo'ness & Blackness | 18 | 485 | £95,042 | £171,076 |
| Grangemouth | 23 | 611 | £119,733 | £215,520 |
| Denny & Banknock | 18 | 629 | £123,261 | £221,869 |
| Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst | 14 | 566 | £110,915 | £199,647 |
| Bonnybridge and Larbert | 13 | 408 | £79,953 | £143,915 |
| Falkirk North | 26 | 984 | £192,828 | £347,090 |
| Falkirk South | 19 | 480 | £94,062 | £169,312 |
| Lower Braes | 14 | 376 | £73,682 | £132,628 |
| Upper Braes | 17 | 564 | £110,523 | £198,942 |
| Total | NA | 5103 | £1,000,000 | £1,800,000 |
| Falkirk | NA | NA | NA | £200,000 |
| Overall total | NA | NA | £1,000,000 | £2,000,000 |

Limit total project funding at 60% of total ward/category allocation

- 4.1.5 In Phase 1, several larger applications were received, requesting most of the available funding. If successful, this would significantly limit funding for other projects.
- 4.1.6 A cap would ensure a wider distribution of the funds across a ward. It may however reduce the likelihood of funding larger projects. This could include establishing community owned buildings to create and develop hubs and anchor organisations. Such projects may then be required to find match funding if successful, and being unable to progress if further funding is not secured. Supporting and investing in the development of community anchor organisations is a key element of Falkirk Council's enabled communities approach.
- 4.1.7 As each ward has a different allocation of funding, a limit of not more than 60% of each ward's total allocation is proposed.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The above recommendations are based on the findings of our evaluation which included a range of stakeholders who participated in the Community Choices Programme, including the public, community organisations, advisory panel, officers and elected members.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 This report proposes a reallocation of funding that has already been allocated to Community Choices and therefore has no budget implications.

Resources

- 6.2 None

Legal

- 6.3 None

Risk

- 6.4 There is a risk we will not allocate the 1% budget for community choices if the rules restrict the awarding of funds.
- 6.5 There is reputational and relationship risk in not responding to feedback from stakeholders.
- 6.6 There is risk to the success of Community Choices if we do not adapt the programme based on learning from the pilots.

Equalities

- 6.7 An equality impact assessment on Community Choices was carried out.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.8 We have reviewed the environmental impact of the project and are amending the application to ensure this is considered by applicants and we can assess the impact across the programme.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Evaluation of phase 1 of Community choices highlighted a couple of aspects we could change that will improve the programme. This report seeks approval to implement these changes in line with feedback from communities.

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Director of Corporate and Housing Services

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Date: 21 September 2021

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Consultation on Recommendations from Phase 1

List of Background Papers:

None

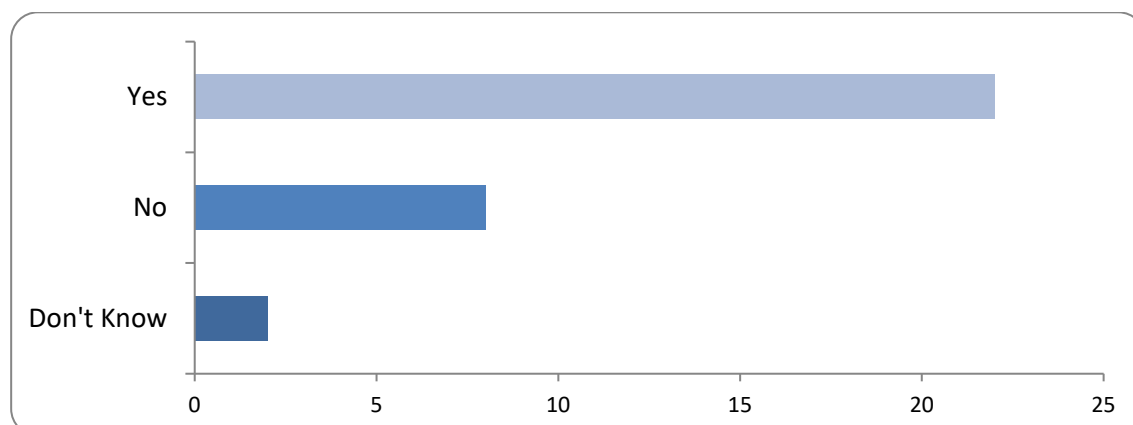
Community Choices - Pilot Phase 1 Evaluation Consultation on Recommendations

<https://say.falkirk.gov.uk/corporate-housing-services/a909afc2>

This report was created on Thursday 10 September 2021 at 17:00

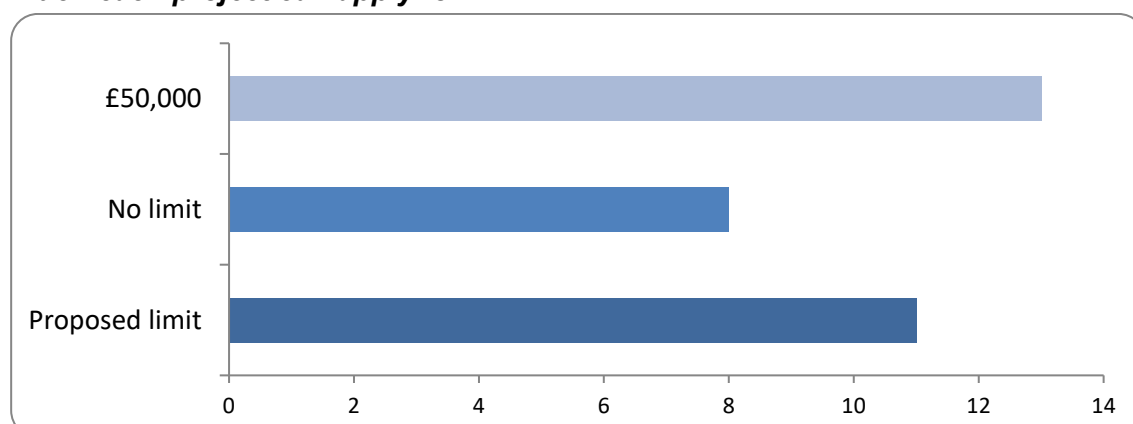
Responses to this survey: 32

Question 1: In pilot Phase 1, votes were cast on a Ward basis. This means voters could only vote on projects in Wards where they lived. For pilot Phase 2, should we introduce a Falkirk-wide voting category, for projects which aim to benefit people from across the Council area?



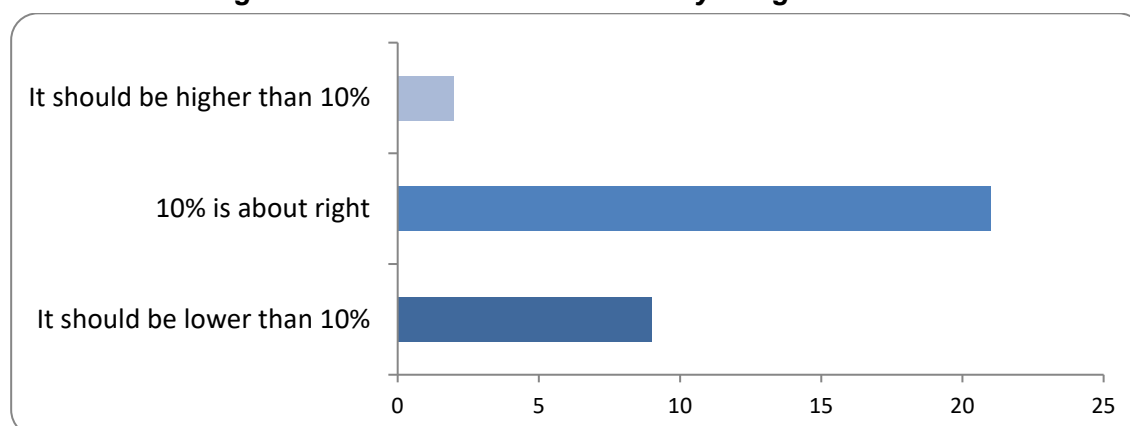
| Option | Total | Percent |
|--------------|-------|---------|
| Yes | 22 | 68.75% |
| No | 8 | 25.00% |
| Don't Know | 2 | 6.25% |
| Not Answered | 0 | 0.00% |

Question 2: In the Place-Based Capital programme, should there be a limit on how much each project can apply for?



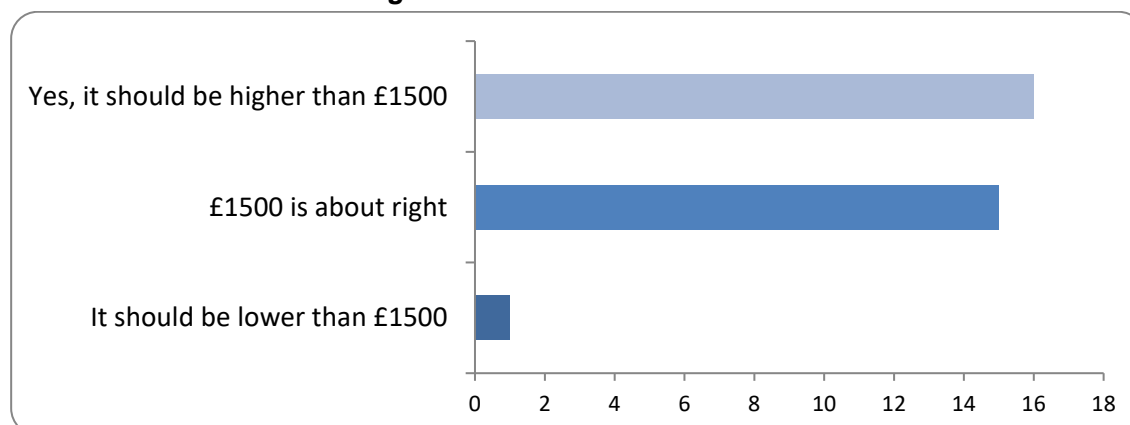
| Option | Total | Percent |
|----------------|-------|---------|
| £50,000 | 13 | 40.62% |
| No limit | 8 | 25.00% |
| Proposed limit | 11 | 34.38% |
| Not Answered | 0 | 0.00% |

Question 3: In pilot Phase 1, for bids to be successful, they had to secure a minimum of 10% of the eligible votes cast in that Ward. Do you agree with this limit?



| Option | Total | Percent |
|------------------------------|-------|---------|
| It should be higher than 10% | 2 | 6.25% |
| 10% is about right | 21 | 65.62% |
| It should be lower than 10% | 9 | 28.12% |
| Not Answered | 0 | 0.00% |

Question 4: In pilot Phase 1, the limit for bids in the Small Grants Programme was £1500. Should this be changed?



| Option | Total | Percent |
|-------------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Yes, it should be higher than £1500 | 16 | 50.00% |
| £1500 is about right | 15 | 46.88% |
| It should be lower than £1500 | 1 | 3.12% |
| Not Answered | 0 | 0.00% |