

Grant Panel Decision Making Process

The panel uses a four-phase process to provide some objective criteria in making the decision whether or not to (i) fund Community Chest applications and (ii) pursue Big Ideas. **NB: Submissions will only be considered at all if they will benefit people of the West End in some way. This is a prerequisite for consideration.**

Phase One

This phase consists of making a YES/NO decision as to whether the proposal aligns to WEM's goals (listed below), as detailed in the action plan. A NO decision means zero alignment with our goals and means the application will be rejected at this stage. A YES decision means the application does have the potential to advance WEM's goals in some way. Such proposals will then advance to Phase Two.

- More and better pathways to work
 - Identification of support for local organisations
 - greater opportunity for residents to access employment outside of the West End.
 - Existing skills development support for adults and promotion
 - projects developed to fill any gaps in provision
- A stake in the local environment
 - Improved green spaces – more people using them and in different ways.
 - Better understanding of the issues around absentee landlords
 - effective relationships developed with those able to improve the built environment
 - residents feeling that their immediate environment looks and feels better.
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- Taking action to improve own health and wellbeing
 - Residents telling WEM that they feel positive about their community.
 - Existing work around affordable quality food and fuel supported
 - gaps in provision identified with partners.
 - Residents supported to influence decisions made around them
- Shared vision and values
 - An engagement strategy that understands and takes account of diversity
 - More networking with and between the range of residents
 - Greater understanding of need that WEM can, at least in part, address.
 - Providing opportunities for the community of West End to celebrate

Phase Two

This phase involves awarding points according to set criteria. These criteria have been drawn from the priorities given to us by the community at our drop-in consultation event. Priorities have been grouped according to their rough percentages of community agreement. Proposals that are awarded three points or more will be funded/pursued. Proposals that are only awarded one or two points will then advance to Phase Three.

Six points

- Crime and anti-social behaviour
- Food poverty

Five points

- Children and young people
- Health and mental wellbeing

Four points

- Litter and dog mess
- Poor state of physical environment

Three points

- Access jobs and training
- Drug and alcohol recovery
- Schools and education
- Parks and green space

Two points

- Rent and housing
- Local business and enterprise
- Local shops
- Sports business and social activity

One point

- Travel and local transport
- Festival and arts

Phase Three

Proposals will be scrutinised to see if they include additional positive features which persuade us to fund/pursue them even though they are in areas of lower priority to the community. These additional positive features were drawn from our large project form which will be used by organisations who respond to our tenders or are commissioned by us. This phase is more subjective than the previous two phases but will allow us still to fund/pursue exceptional projects that are unable to meet the Phase Two criteria. In considering these additional aspects the decision will be made by panel consensus.

- Experience
- Innovation
- Matched funding or in-kind contributions
- Evidence of need
- Community led
- Value for money
- Monitoring
- WEM PR/promotion
- Impact
- Sustainability
- Volunteer led

Phase four

- A. All Big Ideas projects that the panel feel should be pursued will be referred to the Partnership Board to discuss how they should be taken further.

- B. All Community Chest projects we have agreed to fund (in either phase three or four) will then be scrutinised to see whether the panel feels the amount asked for is justified for that specific project. This will result in one of three decisions being made:
 - 1. The full amount requested being awarded
 - 2. A partial amount being offered. This would involve some dialogue with the organisation who might decline to accept the lower award.
 - 3. A decision that the project is worthwhile but could require more money than has been requested. In such cases a recommendation will be made for a larger amount to be awarded. This recommendation would then be referred to the partnership board for ratification of any final decision.