



Public Document Pack

Cambridge City Council

COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

To: Councillors Kerr (Chair), Kightley (Vice-Chair), Al Bander, Blackhurst, Brown, Moghadas, O'Reilly, Reiner, Todd-Jones,

Non Voting co-optees: Best, Dutton, Haywood and Harris

Despatched: Wednesday, 11 January 2012

Date: Thursday, 12 January 2012

Time: 1.30 pm

Venue: Committee Room 1 & 2 - Guildhall

Contact: Toni Birkin

Direct Dial: 01233 457086

AGENDA

13 DEVOLVING DECISIONS TO AREA COMMITTEES *(Pages 1 - 6)*

Report attached in separate agenda pack. *(Pages 1 - 6)*

Information for the public

Public attendance

You are welcome to attend this meeting as an observer, although it will be necessary to ask you to leave the room during the discussion of matters which are described as confidential.

Public Speaking

You can ask questions on an issue included on either agenda above, or on an issue which is within this committee's powers. Questions can only be asked during the slot on the agenda for this at the beginning of the meeting, not later on when an issue is under discussion by the committee.

If you wish to ask a question related to an agenda item contact the committee officer (listed above under 'contact') **before the meeting starts**. If you wish to ask a question on a matter not included on this agenda, please contact the committee officer by 10.00am the working day before the meeting. Further details concerning the right to speak at committee can be obtained from the committee section.

Filming Protocol

Filming, recording and photography at council meetings is allowed subject to certain restrictions and prior agreement from the chair of the meeting.

Requests to film, record or photograph, whether from a media organisation or a member of the public, must be made to the democratic services manager at least three working days before the meeting.

Fire Alarm

In the event of the fire alarm sounding (which is a continuous ringing sound), you should pick up your possessions and leave the building by the route you came in. Once clear of the building, you should assemble on the pavement opposite the main entrance to the Guildhall and await further instructions. If your escape route or the assembly area is unsafe, you will be directed to safe areas by a member of Cambridge City Council staff.

Appendix A

PRINCIPLES FOR DEVOLVING DECISIONS TO AREA COMMITTEES

1. Decisions should only go to one committee.
2. Decisions about policy will be taken by the relevant Executive Member and scrutinised centrally, to avoid the need for multiple reporting to each area committee.
3. The default position for non-policy decisions is that they will be delegated to area committees unless there is a good reason not to do so (e.g. they relate to a city-wide decision or fall into a category of decision that is evidenced to be of little interest to local people).
4. Devolved decisions will be taken by the relevant area committee within the centrally agreed policy framework.
5. The process of devolving decisions must not require any net additional resource and preferably require less net resource.
6. If all members of an area committee are inclined to support a decision then a vote should be taken as soon as possible to leave more time for debate about less consensual issues. However, residents must be given the option to raise questions to ensure a proper democratic process is maintained.

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SAFER CITY GRANT SCHEME

The Safer City grant scheme has been in operation since the 1997/98 financial year. It provides small (maximum £5,000) grants to community projects that will help tackle crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour in Cambridge. Applications can be made by any community group at any time, and the City Council endeavours to reach a decision within 5 weeks of the application being acknowledged.

The budget for this financial year is £41,000 (being £17,000 capital and £24,000 revenue). A bid to increase the pot to £50k to be used for either revenue or capital has been submitted for 2012/13. If the bid is successful the recommendation is to allocate the funds equally between the four area committees and one 'Citywide' pot. If the bid is not successful it is proposed to divide the available funds equally between the area committees and 'Citywide' pot.

The current criteria for approving Safer City Grants is:

- The application is submitted by a group with a clear structure, and not an individual;
- There is an identified need for the project, which is supported by evidence;
- The project involves working in partnership with the community or other organisations;
- The aims of the project are clearly defined;
- The project has been realistically costed;
- The project represents value for money when comparing the amount of grant requested with the benefits described;
- The project falls within one of the priority areas shown in the Cambridge Community Safety Plan 2011-14
- The ways in which the project will be monitored and evaluated have been considered; and
- The cost of the project is less than £5,000.

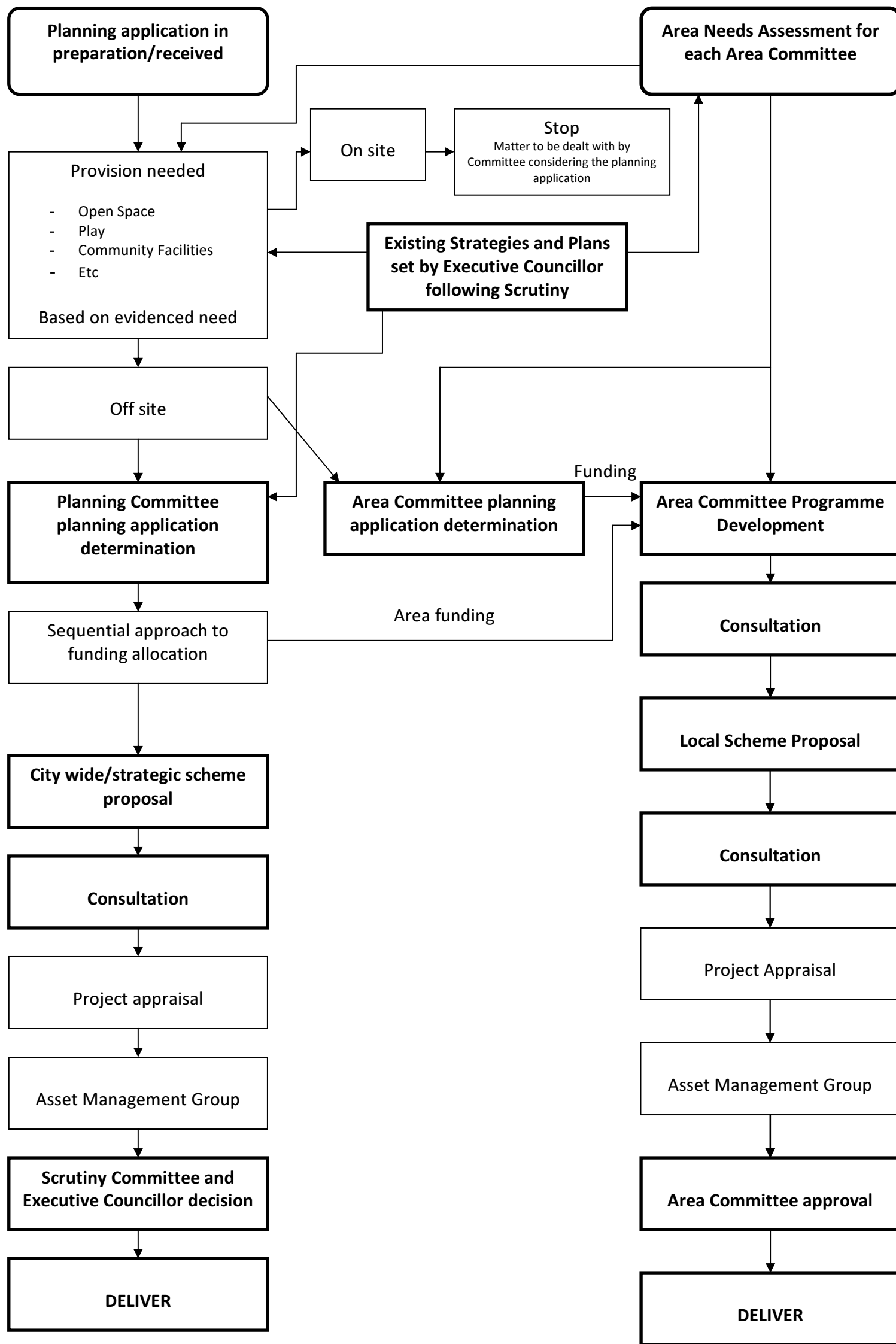
It is proposed to keep the criteria as it is with one amendment as follows:

- The project falls within one of the priority areas shown in the Cambridge Community Safety Plan 2011-14 and the recurrent neighbourhood policing priorities within the area.

Currently the process for approval of grants is as follows:

- The application is submitted to the Safer Communities Section and is examined to ensure it has been completed correctly and fully, and that all the necessary evidence has been provided;
- Application is acknowledged;
- Application is then assessed, liaising with any identified partners and obtaining any further evidence to support the project;
- Safer Communities Section draw up a report on the application, together with a recommendation whether to accept or reject it;
- Application and report is then submitted to the Executive Councillor for Community Development & Health for approval with a copy sent to opposition spokes for information.

APPENDIX C - DEVOLVING DECISION MAKING



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