

Grace Mary to Lion Farm

Big Local Plan

2020 - 2025

Gm²Lf

a formula for change

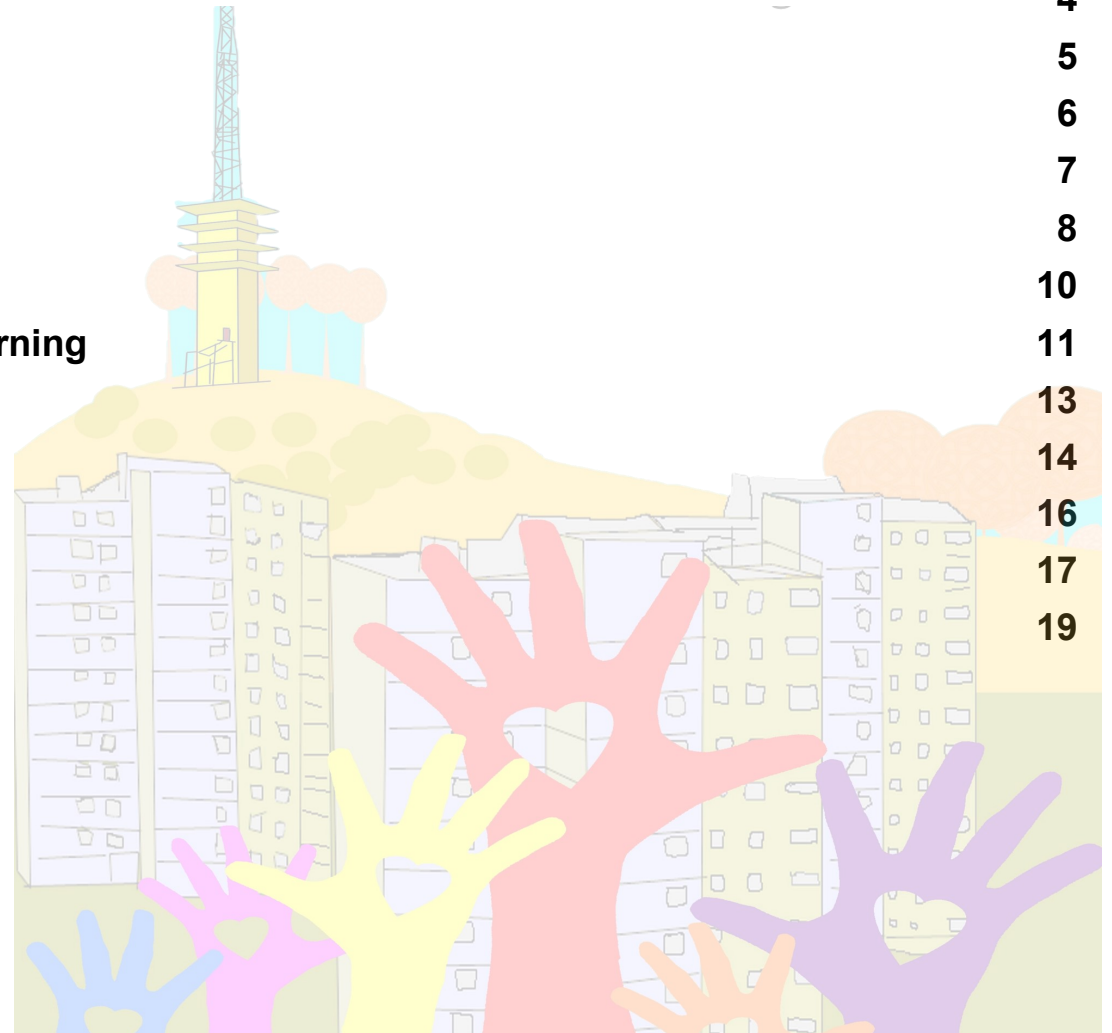


Local Trust | **Big Local**

 **COMMUNITY
FUND**

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Grace Mary to Lion Farm (GM2LF) area is one of 150 community-led groups throughout England and Wales who have been granted £1million to be spent over 10 years. The grant is used to support people living in a targeted geographical community and identify issues of concern, propose solutions and resource those ideas.

The overall national programme 'outcomes' are:

- Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them.
- People will have increased skills and confidence, so that they continue to identify and respond to needs in the future.
- The community will make a difference to the needs it prioritises.
- People will feel that their area is an even better place to live.

This five year plan covers the remaining period of potential funding and builds upon the priorities from our two earlier plans. It focuses on the post Grace Mary to Lion Farm (GM2LF) Legacy and the final steps to achieve this. It will be reviewed annually to ensure that the priorities continue to reflect the needs of the area.

This plan reflects the needs and aspirations of local residents as they seek to use the money to bring change and make a difference within our local community. Big Local is unlike other initiatives that have impacted the area as the programme is led and developed by local people. It seeks to capture as many views as possible from those that live, work and volunteer within the area and embolden people and organisations to reach their aspirations to improve their community.



MAKING IT HAPPEN

Our Partnership

The GM2LF Big Local Partnership is a community led partnership of local residents and people who work or volunteer in the area. Representatives from key organisations in the area include Wallace Youth Project, St James Church, Holy Cross Church and Oakham Church. The GM2LF Partnership is responsible for driving Big Local forward, making sure it remains resident led and enable local people to improve the area and achieve the long term vision.

We have recruited local people who work really hard voluntarily on our Partnership Board and through the various Theme Groups that we have established to deliver our Plan. With the mix of unique residents and organisations, the partnership brings together knowledge, skills and experience invaluable to Big Local.

To ensure that we continue to have the best possible balance of skills and experience on the Partnership Board, we have developed and will continually review our application process to ensure that membership is accessible to all sections of the community.

Whilst recognising that local residents are the driving force behind Big Local, we understand and recognise the importance of partnership working with private, public and voluntary organisations who work in the area.

Local Trusted Organisation

We acknowledge the invaluable support from Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), our Local Trusted Organisation. Their role is to hold and administer the funding, ensuring that as a partnership we are spending the funds in line with the plan and community needs identified in the area. SCVO will continue this role for at least another three years.

SCVO is a charitable organisation based in Sandwell which supports Sandwell's Voluntary and Community Sector, comprised of voluntary-run community groups, charities, not-for-profit businesses, faith communities and social enterprises.
visit: www.scvo.info

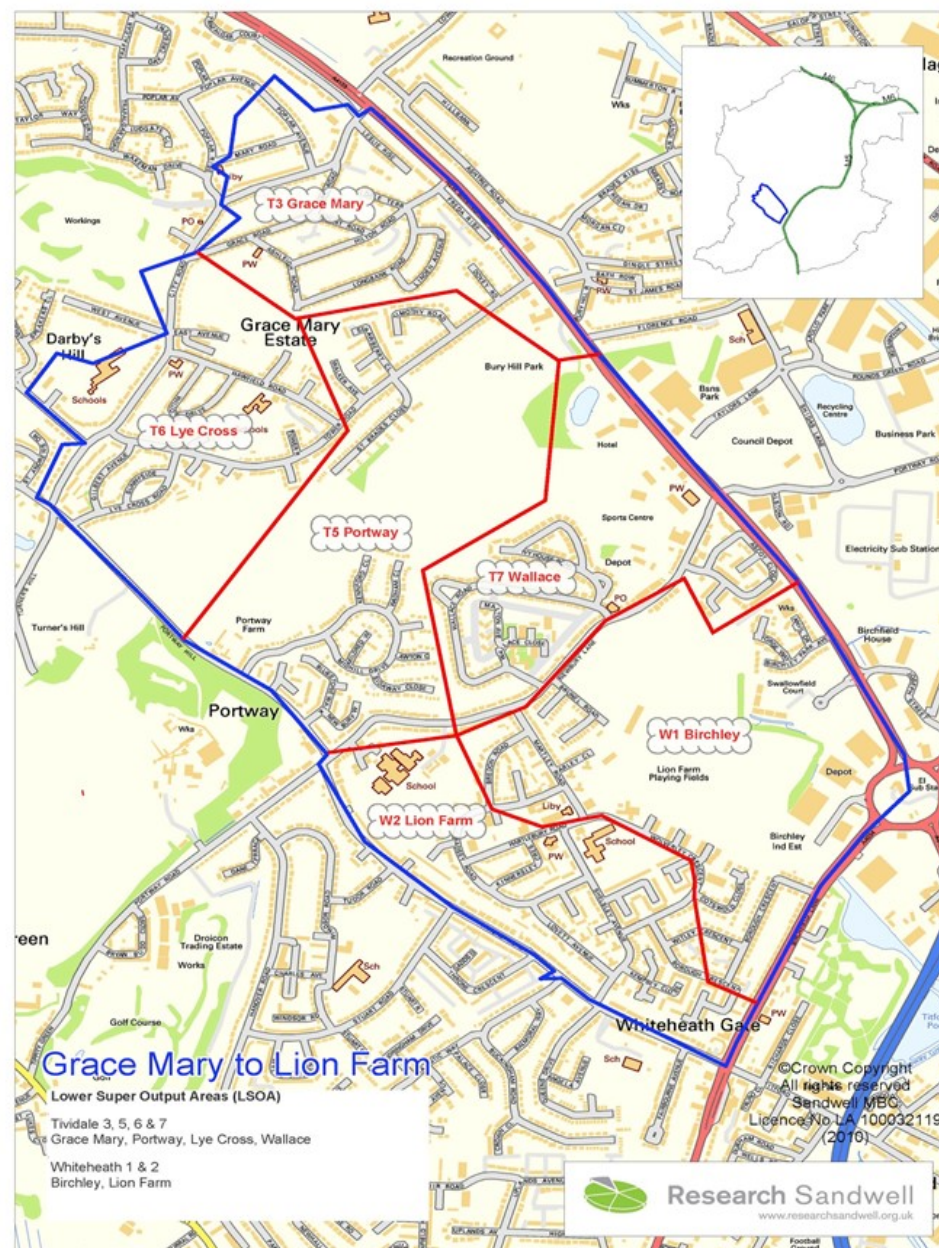
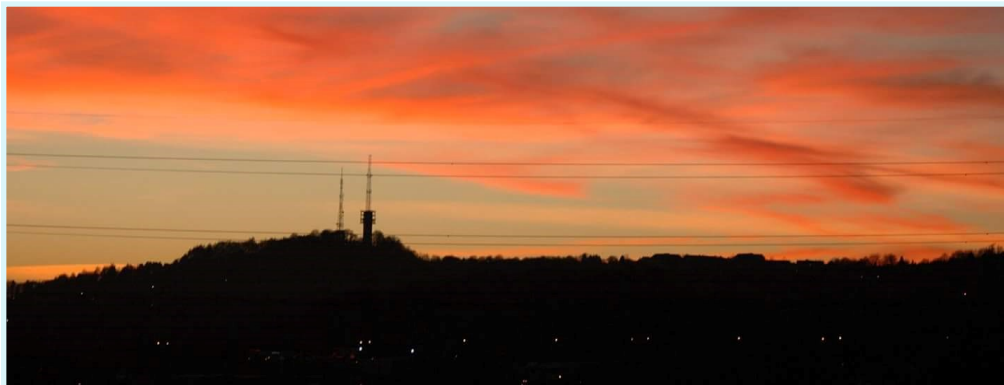


THE AREA

The GM2LF Big Local area is made up of 5 separate neighbourhoods across 3 council wards and 3 parliamentary constituencies. The area is a mixture of council and private housing, with the Grace Mary Estate built on a very steep hill.

There are a range of facilities in the area including three primary schools (St James, Oakham and Grace Mary), two libraries (Rounds Green and Oakham), a range of local shops and businesses, four churches (Oakham Evangelical, St James, Holy Cross and Rounds Green Methodist), three youth clubs (Wallace, Oakham and St James), a Community Centre (Lion Farm Action Centre), a leisure centre (Portway Lifestyle Centre), two GP surgeries and a range of voluntary and community groups which operate within the community hubs. The area includes three main green spaces Lion Farm Playing Fields, Rowley Hills and Bury Hill Park.

The area is very diverse, however Big Local has helped to develop exceptionally strong partnership work. This has been predominately led by voluntary and community organisations and churches, and has led to improved opportunities and enhanced services for people in the area.



THE PEOPLE

POPULATION

There are **11,508** people living in the Grace Mary to Lion Farm area of which **5689** are male and **5819** female

AGE

Local population age range:
23.8% 0-15
61.7% 16 to 64
14.6% 65 plus

HOUSING

Total of **4391** households of which:
51.1% owned
35.3% social rented from council
3.1% social rented/other
10.2% private rented
0.3% shared ownership (Part owned & part rented)

HEALTH

Health of residents
7.6% bad or very bad
15.6% Fair
76.7% Very Good or Good

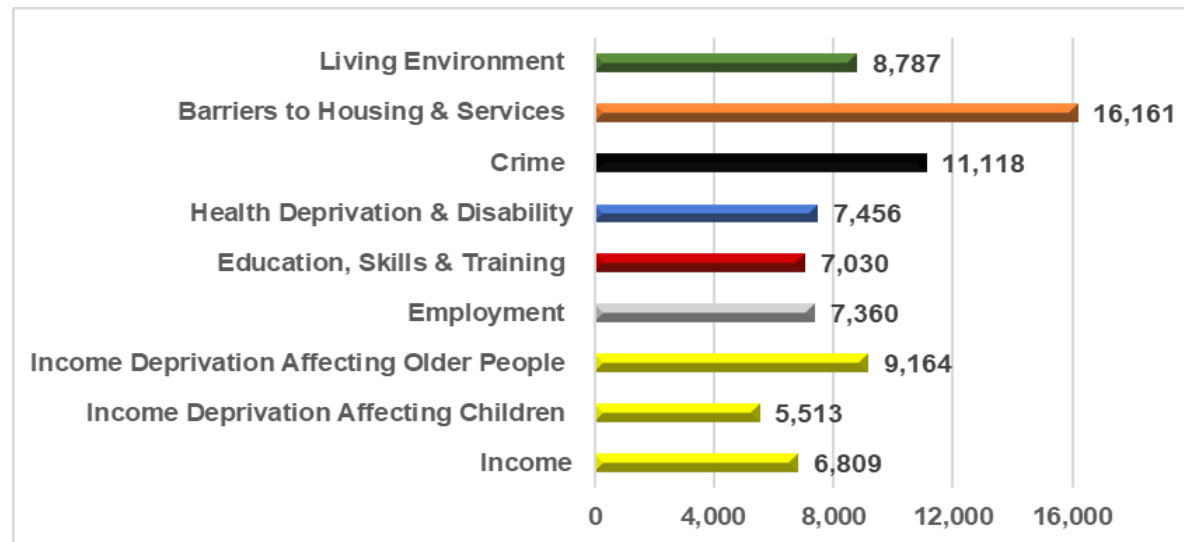
DEPRIVATION

The English Indices of Deprivation measure relative levels of deprivation in 32,844 small areas or neighbourhoods, called Lower-layer Super Output Areas, in England.

1st most deprived area **32,844th least deprived area**
The indices relatively rank each small area from most deprived to least deprived

There are 7 domains of deprivation which combine to create the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD2019) – **Income (with supplementary Income Deprivation Affecting Children and Older People), Living Environment, Barriers to Housing & Services, Crime, Health, Education, and Employment,**

The indices of Multiple Deprivation for 2019 for the Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local area are ranked below.



ETHNICITY

78.3% White British
3.4% White Other
3.6% Mixed Ethnic
5% Indian
1% Pakistani
0.2% Bangladeshi
1.6% Chinese or Other Asian
6.0% Black Africa/Caribbean/Black Other
0.9% Other Ethnic

QUALIFICATIONS

36.8% aged 16 and over with no qualifications compared with **27%** across the West Midlands

WORK

Residents aged 16-74:
36.5% full time
13.7% part time
4.6% self employed
33.7% economically inactive (looking after home or family, retired, students, long sickness, disability)
11.5% Unemployed or full time students

Sources: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2011 Census, The English Indices of Deprivation 2019 (IoD2019), Local Insight for LI - Local Trust (Big Local)
 Further information: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019



OUR VISION

Our formula for change is local people working together for a better life sustaining a community that is resilient, confident and enjoyable.

We developed our vision in 2014 for our first plan and carried this through to our second plan. This statement helped to shape our approach on how the GM2LF Big Local funding would be used.

Through our consultation over the previous five years, it is evident this vision remains key and the focal point for our third and final plan.

Priorities

The priority themes for our first and second plan were:

Priority 1: Developing our Programme Support

Priority 2: Supporting and Developing Project and Activities themed:

- Community
- Environment
- Finance
- Learning
- Wellbeing

(All themes had the focus on positive outcomes for people of all ages).

Priority 3: Developing Communications

The plan review conducted in 2019 with the local community and partners looked in-depth at the previous plan to clarify whether the priorities remained fit for purpose and had achieved their intended outcomes or whether in light of trying some of these ideas the level of take up or interest by the local community warranted continuation

Parallel to this we carried out extensive consultation with the local community to ascertain their views moving forward. It was concluded that the plan going forward could be condensed and the priorities would reflect the current needs of the community and reflect the legacy of the GM2LF Big Local.



Our priorities for this plan which will still encompass the priorities expressed in the previous plan in a congruent way are:

- **Programme Support**
- **Bringing the Community Together**
- **Strengthening the Community**
- **Investing in Future Generations**
- **Supporting the Community Affected by the Coronavirus / COVID - 19**

These priorities also reflect the national Big Local Outcomes listed on page 3.

OUR PRIORITIES

Programme Support

Managing the remaining five years of the Lottery Programme, supporting volunteers and developing an effective partnership will remain key to the remaining five years of the Lottery programme. The continuation of the employment of a Development Co-ordinator will remain intrinsic to provide support to the Partnership Board, manage delivery of the action plans and engage with residents, groups and organisations.

Imbedded in the programme support will be the continued development of communications. Our Big Local area has a lot going on that many people still do not know about.

Since 2014 we have developed a communications policy and created a Communications Steering group which oversees:

- **Newsletters**
Changing Times is produced three times a year, 4,000 copies are distributed to local residents, groups, organisations and agencies.
- **Website**
- **Facebook, Twitter and Instagram**
- Regular contributions made. Facebook competitions launched and engagement has increased.
- **E-distribution lists**
- Newsletters and information emailed to distribution list which has grown over the last five years.
- **Marketing and promotional materials**
- Investment has been made in new promotional materials such as pens, banners, bugs, leaflets, flyers and posters.

Keeping people informed about our Big Local and two-way communication with local residents, volunteers, groups, organisations and businesses will underpin all our activities.

Therefore, we still need to ensure:

- People know and understand what GM2LF Big Local is
- People are kept up to date where the programme is 'at'
- Success is celebrated
- Consultation and engagement is ongoing
- Big Local remains resident driven

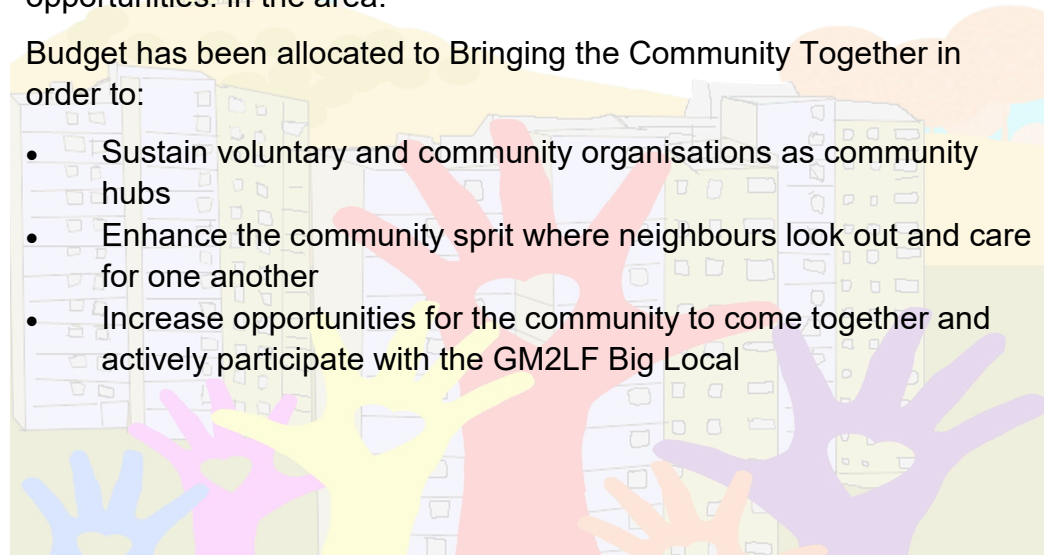
Bringing the Community Together

Since 2014, GM2LF Big Local has invested in developing community hubs in the area, primarily the three churches.

In three distinct locations each church offers a safe, friendly and welcoming environment, each hosting a wide range of activities for people of all ages. The lives of people in the Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local area have been enriched by these community hubs. We have listened to what local people have said and this plan focuses on retaining the key hubs so people can still access activities and opportunities in the area.

Budget has been allocated to Bringing the Community Together in order to:

- Sustain voluntary and community organisations as community hubs
- Enhance the community spirit where neighbours look out and care for one another
- Increase opportunities for the community to come together and actively participate with the GM2LF Big Local



OUR PRIORITIES

Strengthening the Community

Big local is an opportunity to focus on supporting and developing activities which will make the area better and people happier.

Strengthening the community is about building on what is already great the people, places and areas.

The plan includes work with local individuals, voluntary organisations and statutory agencies to enhance and continue work to date, make the area and residents feel safer, and to have the knowledge and support.

The budget allocated to Strengthening the Community aims to:

- Improve community safety and the environment
- Strengthen and sustain new and existing activities
- Increase the financial resilience of residents
- Improve networks organisations and increase partnership working
- Find and develop a central resource and community hub to improve support for people
- Increase and improve outdoor spaces, community spaces and play areas.

Investing in the Future Generations

Work with local people will be an intrinsic part of this plan. We believe our most important asset in the Grace Mary to Lion Farm area is local people. People have a wealth of talents, skills and knowledge. Through GM2LF Big local people have become more connected, groups have formed, and partnership working has increased across the area.

We want to continue to invest in people, to provide the opportunities

and the learning in order for people to be empowered, have the knowledge and ambition to both generations now and at a later date. Big Local Little Voices will also be an intrinsic part to the future of both the area and the GM2LF Big Local.

Investing in the Future Generations aims to:

- Work with children and young people to increase their confidence and skills to shape their own community
- Increase the support and training for residents in the area

Supporting the Community Affected by the Coronavirus / COVID - 19

In March 2020, there was an unprecedented outbreak of a virus known as Coronavirus/COVID-19 across the UK. Government told people to stay at home in the hope to reduce the spread of the virus and protect the National Health Service. The measures meant that supermarkets, key workplaces and medical facilities remain open, but the vast majority of non-essential organisations and businesses closed.

We are in uncharted territory and there is great uncertainty about how long the measures will be in place and how this will affect local people and the organisations and groups that operate within the area. People and organisations may also continue to face increasing issues and challenges way beyond the pandemic.

Budget has been allocated to Supporting the Community Affected by the Coronavirus / COVID – 19 in order to:

- Increase the support for families and individuals
- Increase the support for groups and organisations

Please see page 14 - 15 for a summary of the planned expenditure for our priorities.

IT'S GOOD TO TALK

This plan and what we should focus on for the next five years is based on what local people have told us and what we have learned from our previous five years work.

In the last 3 years the consultation which informs this plan includes:

- **3 x Annual General Meetings and community consultations** - (145 people attended, 99 consultation forms completed)
- **Red Carpet Awards Event** – (102 attended, 59 consultations completed)
- **Wallace Party in the Park** - (19 surveys completed)
- **Annual Community Litter Picks** - (120 people got involved)
- **Crime Prevention Programme and workshops** (200 people accessed)
- **Job and Volunteering Fairs** - (70 people attended)
- **GM2LF Big Local investment and development of churches as community hubs** which provides continuous interaction with the community
- **GM2LF Community Grants Programme** which supports with addressing needs and enhancing access to opportunities
- **Big Local Little Voices (BLLV)** - the voice of children and young people in the area. 12 members engaged in a workshop to say the ways in which the community could be improved and the issues that concern them
- **Financial Engagement Worker** which supports with identifying needs in the area and monitoring trends of impact
- **Development Co-ordinator** which works and engages with local people and organisations, forming a continual dialogue of changes in the community, identifying priorities and the areas in need of change and/or improvement
- **Social Media** – Facebook (15 surveys completed)



Our Big Local Mannequin Video Challenge

Celebrating 25 years of the National Lottery Community Fund at our Red Carpet Awards event in 2019

Visit our website: www.gm2lf.org

Like us on Facebook Grace Mary to Lion Farm Big Local (GM2LF)

Follow us on Twitter: @GM2LF_Official

Big Local Little Voices (BLLV)


Facebook: Big Local Little Voices Printing and Merchandise

Twitter: @BLLV_GM2LF



BIG LOCAL JOURNEY - OUR HIGHLIGHTS, OUTCOMES & LEARNING

Since 2014 and for each theme listed below, we have focused on the outcomes and the activities which impact against these.

PRIORITIES	2014	----->				2019	OUTCOMES MET
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	ESTABLISHED A STRONG PARTNERSHIP BOARD	CREATED TERMS OF REFERENCE AND DEVELOPED POLICIES & PROCEDURES	IN 2016, APPOINTED A DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR	OVER 400 PEOPLE ATTENDED 5 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS	PRODUCED 14 NEWSLETTERS, SENT OUT TO OVER 4000 RESIDENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MANAGING THE PROGRAMME AND FUNDINGPROVIDING SPACE(S) TO MEET RESIDENTS, ORGANISE AND DELIVER ACTIVITIES.DEVELOP EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS	
COMMUNITY	DEVELOPED 3 CHURCHES AS COMMUNITY HUBS	67 COMMUNITY GRANT AWARDS TO 17 COMMUNITY GROUPS TOTALLING £170, 344.06			AWARDED A GRANT OF £4,500 TO SET UP AND DEVELOP BIG LOCAL LITTLE VOICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT NEIGHBOURHOODS AND AGES KNOW EACH OTHER BETTERTHERE IS INCREASED VOLUNTARY ACTIVITY.PEOPLE HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE TO VOICE CONCERNS AND KNOW HOW TO TAKE ACTION	
ENVIRONMENT	HELD 3 DUMP YOUR JUNK PROJECTS INVOLVING OVER 500 RESIDENTS	OVER 300 PEOPLE HELPED OUT WITH COMMUNITY LITTER PICKS	OVER 300 RESIDENTS ACCESSED THE CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMME	INSTALLED A 6-PEICE GYM ON THE LION FARM ESTATE	HELD 5 BIG LOCAL IN BLOOM COMPETITIONS WITH OVER 400 RESIDENTS ENTERING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">PEOPLE ARE TAKING MORE PRIDE IN THE AREAMORE SAFE SPACES AND COMMUNITY CLEAN UP DAYS	
FINANCE	WORKED WITH 6 TOWNS CREDIT UNION TO HELP PEOPLE OPEN BANK ACCOUNTS	IN 2018, APPOINTED A FINANCIAL ENGAGEMENT WORKER	3 COMMUNITY EVENTS ON BUDGETING, UNIVERSAL CREDIT AND DIGITAL MONEY	12 CLASSROOM SESSIONS & 1 ASSEMBLY ON THE VALUE OF MONEY, SPENDING & SAVING FOR THE FUTURE	SAVED RESIDENTS £192,422.52. AVERAGING TO £652.24 PER HOUSEHOLD PER MONTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">THERE IS A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF MONEY MANAGEMENTDEBT AND BENEFITS ADVICETHERE IS LESS FAMILY DEBT	

BIG LOCAL JOURNEY - OUR HIGHLIGHTS, OUTCOMES & LEARNING

PRIORITIES	2014 - - - - - → 2019					OUTCOMES
LEARNING	ONE TO ONE CV SUPPORT PROVIDED TO OVER 40 RESIDENTS	OVER 90 RESIDENTS ACCESSED 16 TRAINING WORKSHOPS	ONLINE TRAINING COURSES ACCESSED BY OVER 30 RESIDENTS	2 SCHOOLS VISITED AND LEARNT ABOUT THE ROWLEY HILLS CREATING UNIQUE PIECES OF ARTWORK & PRODUCING AN EXHIBITION	HOSTED 4 LOUDMOUTH PRODUCTIONS ABOUT KNIFE CRIME, BULLYING AND KEEPING SAFE IN 3 SCHOOLS, TEACHING OVER 600 CHILDREN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> THERE IS INCREASED ACCESS TO LEARNING FOR ALL THERE IS MORE ONE-TO-ONE SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PEOPLE ARE WORK READY THERE IS AN INCREASE IN 'INFORMAL' LEARNING THAT SUPPORTS LITERACY AND NUMERACY
WELLBEING	WORKED WITH OTHER AGENCIES TO INCREASE PROVISION IN THE AREA AROUND KEEPING FIT AND EATING HEALTHILY.	HELD 4 CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS EVENTS, AWARDING 96 VOLUNTEERS	OVER 500 RESIDENTS ACCESSED 24 COMMUNITY EVENTS	6 SCHOOL IMPACT GRANTS AWARDED TO 3 SCHOOLS TO INSTALL A TRIM TRAIL, GAMES AREA AND SHELTER AREAS	RESIDENTS TOOK PART IN ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS SHARING PHOTOS AND LIFE STORIES AS PART OF THE LIVING MEMORY PROJECT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALL AGES ARE EATING MORE HEALTHILY AND EXERCISING MORE PEOPLE FEEL THEY ARE LESS ISOLATED AND MORE CONNECTED WITH THEIR NEIGHBOURS THERE IS INCREASED SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS
SOCIAL INVESTMENT	WORKED WITH 6 TOWNS CREDIT UNION TO HELP PEOPLE OPEN BANK ACCOUNTS	LAUNCHED A YOUNG SAVERS MONEY SAVING SCHEME	SUPPORTED THE FORMATION OF THE WRESTLING FOR CIC	£10,000 FIRST STEPS ENTERPRISE FUND AWARDED TO WRESTLING FOR CIC	£336.64 DONATED TO GM2LF FROM WRESTLING FOR CIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BUSINESS SUPPORT SET UP AND ENTERPRISE ACHIEVE SOCIAL IMPACT AND A FINANCIAL RETURN ON FUNDING

Over the past 5 years there has been good partnership working with voluntary organisations, statutory agencies and private companies across the GM2LF area. We have developed strong relations to ensure that the expertise and opportunities that these organisations bring are maximised.

We have worked in partnership with a wide range of organisations including Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations, Sandwell MBC, Tipton Litter Watch, Portway Lifestyle Centre, CAB Sandwell, Rounds Green Library, Oakham Library, Grace Mary Primary School, St James Primary School, Oakham Primary School, Just Finance, Job Centre, , Rowley and Oldbury Police, Rowley and Oldbury Fire Service, Loudmouth Education & Training, Mytime Active, The Albion Foundation, Public Health and the Living Memory Project.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS - INSPIRING NEW GENERATIONS

Big Local Little Voices (BLLV) was set up in 2018 by the GM2LF Big Local Partnership board members Tracy Lowe and Jennie Jones.

Over the last 5 years GM2LF has supported and carried out a wide range of activities for children and young people in the area, including youth clubs, after school clubs and parent and toddler groups. With that been said there was no formal way for children and young people to voice their views, share concerns and be able to influence and shape decisions which affect their lives and community. Therefore, Tracy and Jennie formed BLLV, this included consulting with children and young people from across the area, recruiting members, developing the group's governance and arranging regular meetings.

In such a short space of time, BLLV have gone from strength to strength. The work they have carried out and what they have achieved is remarkable. Since 2018 they have:

- **Created a poem and then produced their own video**, raising awareness about a range of community issues in the area including knife crime, mental health, theft, alcohol and drugs. This is an excellent fun resource which raises awareness and educates people on what they can do to improve their lives and that of others. The video was used by Local Trust - Visit: <https://localtrust.org.uk/news-and-stories/blog/we-are-big-local-creating-lasting-change/>
- **Presented their poem at the GM2LF Big Local AGM**, where over 100 people attended
- **Designed their own logo and t-shirts**
- **Set up their own enterprise in printing.** All the money that they raise is invested back into sustain the group and regenerate the community. Facebook: Big Local Little Voices Printing and Merchandise'
- **Attended a national Local Trust conference in Nottingham.** The event was attended by 100s of people from various Big Locals across the country. Three members of BLLV delivered a workshop on what people think affects young people in society today.
- **Provided the catering for a Local Trust event** which was held in the GM2LF Big Local area.



The group continue to meet regularly and are continually coming up with new ideas and initiatives for the area.

BLLV are an incredible group of hard working, committed and passionate people aged 8-16. They inspire not only young people to get involved and take action on things that matter to them, but they inspire everyone else in the GM2LF area and beyond.

Investing in Our Future

Since 2018, GM2LF Big local has awarded two grants to BLLV, totalling £4,500. This covered their set up and running costs for the group and start up equipment for the enterprise.

Engagement with children and young people is embedded in the work of the GM2LF Big Local and we will continue to invest and support BLLV. BLLV forms part of the GM2LF legacy as these people are our future. These young people have the ability to inspire and mobilise new generations and help to make the area an even better place to live for everyone. **(See page 17 for our Legacy Statement)**

PLANNED EXPENDITURE

Summary of planned expenditure for year 6, 7 and 8. (Please see page 16 for our Costed Vision and funds thereafter)

Priorities	Description/ Activity	2020/21 Year 6	2021/22 Year 7	2022/23 Year 8	Total
Programme Support					£137,000
Capacity development.	Big Local Development Co-ordinator and associated costs and resources.	£38,000	£39,000	£40,500	£117,500
Partnership running costs.	Administration, photocopying, printing, running costs/AGM Setting up as a CIO.	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000	£9,000
Communications	Newsletter (3 a year) Promotional and marketing material Website and social media development Consultations	£3,500	£3,500	£3,500	£10,500
Bringing the Community Together					£79,500
Sustain the VCS organisations as community hubs. Enhance the community spirit, where neighbours look out and care for one another	Grant programme available (grants of up to £5,000)	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000	£75,000
Increase opportunities for the community to come together and actively participate in GM2LF	Events and workshops	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£4,500
Strengthening the Community					£136,600
Improve community safety and the environment (work with the police, fire service etc)	Work with Tipton Litter Watch - annual Dump your Junk/Litter picks Initiatives with Police/Fire Service	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000	£9,000
Strengthen and sustain new and existing activities	Grant programme available (grants of up to £2,000)	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£30,000

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PLANNED EXPENDITURE

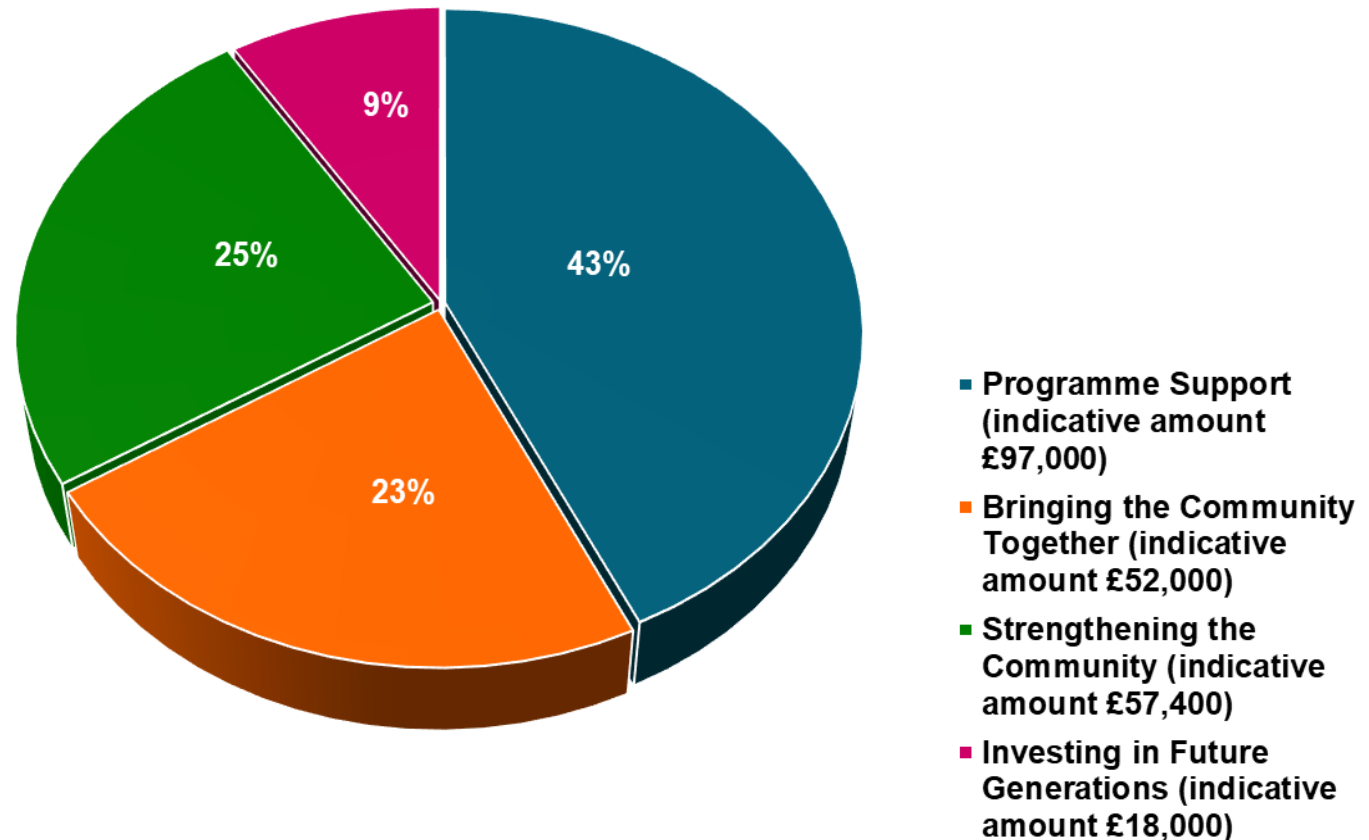
Priorities	Description/ Activity	2020/21 Year 6	2021/22 Year 7	2022/23 Year 8	Total
Strengthening the Community (Continued)					£136,600
Increase the financial resilience of residents	Financial Engagement Worker and programme of support on money matters	£13,000	£13,600	£14,500	£41,100
Improve networks of organisations and improve partnership working	Forums, workshops, collaborative working across the area	£500	£500	£500	£1,500
Find and develop a central resource and community hub to improve support for people	Community Hub - land/building/refurbishment			£25,000	£25,000
Increase the physical signs of Big Local (e.g. outdoors spaces, community spaces and play areas)	Play equipment, gym and open spaces		£30,000		£30,000
Investing in Future Generations					£27,000
Work with children and young people to increase their confidence and skills to shape their own community	Youth Enterprise Fund. Children and young people training	£6,000	£6,000	£6,000	£18,000
Increase the support and training for residents in the area	Training programme CV support On line training	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000	£9,000
Supporting the Community Affected by the Coronavirus / COVID - 19					£50,000
Increase the support for families and individuals	Addressing physical and mental health issues	£25,000			
Increase the support for groups and organisations	Addressing capacity and skills issues	£25,000			
TOTAL OUTGOINGS		£156,500	£138,100	£135,500	£430,100

COSTED VISION

The costed vision looks at allocating the remaining funds after years 6, 7 and 8. We will continue to review our planned expenditure and priorities annually, in line with our regular consultation with local residents.

The costed vision provides the opportunity to use all the Big Local funding awarded and to ensure we still achieve our priorities before the end of the nationally funded programme in 2026.

Our costed vision below illustrates in a broad sense the allocation of the remaining funds. Given the unknown funding level in three years time, due to underspend, bringing in additional funding and resources etc., we have assigned our remaining funding as a percentage across each theme (except that relating to COVID-19).



OUR LEGACY

The GM2LF Big Local's overarching legacy is to increase the skills and knowledge of local people, for people to be able to identify and address their own local priorities. We will aim to upskill and empower young people to become community leaders and to make the most of our assets as community hubs through both strengthening and building their capacity to react to community needs.

A significant legacy is that we have provided opportunities for residents to become involved in the GM2LF Big Local Partnership Board to learn new skills, increase their confidence and gain experience on how to make a difference in accordance with the main aim of the Big Local programme. This has been supported by training workshops and events to improve their skill set and many Board Members have gained greatly from this. We will continue to support and upskill local residents, developing leadership skills and empower them to make decisions in a confident and thoughtful way.

We are also delighted that our activity has facilitated the setting up of Big Local Little Voices (BLLV) to continue to champion children and young peoples' wishes complimentary and independently of the GM2LF Big Local. The work of BLLV will continue to:

- Put young people at the centre of their work
- Celebrate the contribution young people can make in their community and the wider society
- Work with other organisations to provide more opportunities and support for young people
- Listen to young people to hear what they really need and want and to support their development
- Involve young people and engage in decision-making and in service delivery
- Share knowledge, information, resources, jointly identifying needs

and support for community capacity building

BLLV is a considerable asset and enterprise to the area, they provide a range of regular activities by not relying solely on GM2LF Big Local funding.

There is also a strong legacy provided by our GM2LF funding and investment decisions which have included:

Developing and enhancing voluntary and community hubs including three churches (St James Church, Oakham Evangelical Church and Holy Cross Church), Wallace Youth Project and the Lion Farm Action Centre. The funding has supported to strengthen and improve the facilities of the hubs. Each hub has demonstrated a substantial increase in community use and resident engagement. New groups have also started operating within the hubs including a martial arts club and a parent and toddler group. Each hub also offers opportunities to volunteer, develop skills, make friends and enjoy improved physical and mental health. The hubs are located across the GM2LF Big Local area and will remain fundamental places for community activity.

People of all ages and from different neighbourhoods getting to know each other better including the annual pantomime held by the Rowley Community Group. Residents have been able to experience something new at an affordable price, the pantomimes are a great way of introducing local residents to the theatre, and in particular for children may be the first show they have seen. Friendships are formed and the community come together. The pantos provide a memorable experience and one which generations to come will no doubt benefit from too. The success of the annual panto and income generation from the tickets sales help to make the panto sustainable for the future.

OUR LEGACY

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Within Living Memory Project, a 3-year project based around the exploration, professional archiving and public sharing of hidden photographic archives and family album collections from across the Black Country, including the GM2LF Big Local area. These collections span at least eight decades and represent material from all aspects of life that have been taken or assembled by enthusiasts, local historians, photographers and everyday family and community members.

Local residents have taken part in oral history interviews and community celebrations, to share their photographs and associated life stories. The legacy of this will remain not only from the continual learning and sharing but also via the collection of photos and stories which are captured on DVD and in a book.

Making Memories, part of the Living Memory Project included focus work with the Friends of Rowley Hills, Grace Mary Primary School and St James School. Children were able to learn about the history of a fascinating part of the Black Country landscape, the Rowley Hills. The children also created unique pieces of artwork inspired by the hill's views, historic photo's, wildlife and geology. This work was developed into a pop-up exhibition. The Friends of Rowley Hills plan to now work with other residents within the community.

The legacy of this will include the learning gained by people about the place where their family and friends live now and will continue to live in the future. Providing a better and deeper understanding for them of the area they call home. Home – historically, that place where people fitted into and still fit into today. A place where people respect and look after the community, environment and each other. Encouraging each generation, as individuals or as a group such as ourselves to bring about projects that offer the real possibility of leaving a lasting legacy.

There are more safe spaces and play areas including the installation of a 6 piece outdoor gym in Lion Farm, a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and forest school at St James Primary School, a trim trail at Grace Mary Primary School and playground enhancement shelters at Oakham Primary School. These will continue to be beneficial to hundreds of people for many years to come.

People have a greater understanding of money management. A programme of support that is delivered by the GM2LF Financial Engagement Worker. Through this work people have both saved money by reducing bills and increased their household income by reviewing their benefits. For residents who have accessed this support we expect this to continue.

Through our First Steps Social Enterprise Fund we invested in Wrestling For CIC. This will continue to achieve social impact and provide financial return on our funding.

A key part of our exit strategy for managing the end of the GM2LF Big Local programme, and to be achieved within the next 5 years is to formalise the group as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This will enable GM2LF Big Local to become GM2LF Charity, a legal and sperate entity. Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations will continue to be our Locally Trusted Organisation and a key partner through our transition. The GM2LF Charity will have an increased access to a wide range of opportunities and a greater ability to sustain the work for the benefit of the community beyond the next five years. The residents of the GM2LF area will remain at the heart of everything we do.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE GM2LF AREA

