



MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL

# Targeted Support Funding for Abbey Hey, Manchester

March 11

**Angela Corf and Peter Wallroth**  
Manchester City Council

# Targeted support funding

£8,800 received to:

- Deliver 2 community conversations in the Gorton North ward, with a focus on Abbey Hey to identify future priorities within the ward.
- Deliver 1 “U Decide” event and fund a number of community based projects to help improve the local area
- Train ward staff in delivering a community conversation which can be used as an ongoing dialogue with residents.

# Purpose of community conversations

- Create a modern civic engagement forum
- examine views, attitudes and understanding within communities
- pose questions and solutions to the issues facing communities
- encourage citizens to discuss and make decisions on complex issues.

# What are community conversations?

The model is based on appreciative inquiry and asks 4 key questions:

- What do you like about .....?
- What do we need for the future?
- What skills and resources do we need?
- What can I do?

# How?

- Invite residents to have a conversation
- set up 4 tables with one question on each
- split attendees into 4 groups and assign to a table
- ask attendees to begin a conversation on the question at their table
- write down thoughts on a table cloth
- after about 20 minutes ask them to move to the next table and begin the process again.

# Tables

What do  
you like  
about...?

What do we  
need for the  
future?

What skills /  
resources  
are  
needed?

What can I  
do?

# Dotmocracy - Prioritising

Improvements to park	* * * *
Hanging baskets	* * *
Activities for young people	* * *
Improvements to community centre	* * *
Healthy living events	* * * *
More police presence	* *
Improved transport links	* *

# Key themes

- **Sense of community**
  - more community events,
  - more community ownership
  - promoting achievements
- **Community facilities**
  - activities for older and young people
- **Environmental improvements**
  - notice boards, dog bins, picnic benches

# U Decide

- Residents given opportunity to put forward project ideas to improve local neighbourhood
- individual groups / residents could bid for up to £1,000
- joint bids could be put forward up to £2,500
- residents invited to U Decide event 9<sup>th</sup> Dec

# Outcome / Impact

- 9 projects put forward for U Decide to value of £12,200.00
- 42 people attended “U Decide” event
- 7 projects funded
- Ability to influence decisions increased from 9%-80%
- 88% said projects would help to improve local area
- 94% said they would attend future events.

# Projects funded

- New benches for Vine Street Park £2,500.00
- New plaque for War Memorial £2,500.00
- Luncheon Club at Community Centre £500.00
- Replanting barrels and planters £700.00
- Allotment Society Sow, Grow Eat project £1,100.00
- Equipment for junior and senior youth club  
£1,000.00
- Art Project, Café Morning and Trips £800.00
- 3 blocks of 12 week exercise classes for over 50's  
£900.00

# Feedback from residents

- “bringing people together and making our own decisions”
- “being consulted and meeting people”
- “community participation”
- “it included people who do not usually come to meetings”
- “bringing the community together”