



Author/Lead Officer of Report: Jayne Foulds
South East LAC Community Services Manager
Tel: 01142

Report of: Community Services Manager
Report to: South East Local Area Committee
Date of Decision: 29th March 2024
Subject: LAC Budget 2023-24

Has appropriate consultation been undertaken?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? 2149				
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-				
<i>“The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”</i>				

Purpose of Report:

Each Local Area Committee has a budget to address local priorities. This report Describes funding allocated to the LAC for 2023/24 and sets out proposals for its allocation and expenditure for 2023/24 in line with the South East LAC Community Plan.

Recommendations:

That the South East Local Area Committee:

- Notes the expenditure against the £100,000 project budget to address local priorities in the South East LAC as detailed in the report.
- Notes the expenditure from the £22,459 South East Cost of Living fund as detailed in the report.
- Authorises the following expenditure from the £100,000 project budget for the purposes described in the report:
 - (a) £30 000 towards the Environmental Stewardship project for the SE Area;
 - (b) £10,000 for a biodiversity project in the Shirebrook Valley;
 - (c) £7,000 to establish an Environmental Grant fund.
- Authorises the Community Services Manager, in consultation with the Local Area Committee Chair, to finalise the eligibility criteria and make decisions, following engagement with the relevant Ward Members, on the award of Environmental Grants of up to £1,000.

Background Papers:

Lead Officer to complete:-			
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.		
	Finance: Liz Gough		
	Legal: Andrea Simpson		
	Equalities: Louise Nunn		
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>			
2	Head of Service who approved submission: Carl Mullooly		
3	LAC Chair consulted: Cllr Kurtis Crossland		
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the Head of Service indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.		
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Lead Officer Name: Jayne Foulds</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Job Title: South East LAC Community Services Manager</td> </tr> </table>	Lead Officer Name: Jayne Foulds	Job Title: South East LAC Community Services Manager
Lead Officer Name: Jayne Foulds	Job Title: South East LAC Community Services Manager		

Date: 29th February 2024

1. PROPOSAL

1.1 Background

Local Area Committees (LACs) were established by Full Council in May 2021. Their Terms of Reference are set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution and include:

- To agree a Community Plan setting priorities for the area of the committee, monitor delivery of that plan and keep it under review; and
- To make decisions relating to funding as delegated from time to time by the Council to fit with the priorities set out in the Community Plan and following engagement with the community.

1.2 To enable decisions to be taken quickly and to respond to emerging issues, in September 2021 the South East LAC granted delegated authority to the Community Services Manager to make decisions on expenditure from any budgets allocated to the Local Area Committee provided that:

- The decision is taken in consultation with the Local Area Committee Chair
- Spending is in line with any specific purposes of the allocated budget
- The decision may not approve expenditure of more than £5,000 per item.
- A report detailing the delegated spending decisions taken by the Community Services Manager is presented at the Local Area Committee meeting.

Spending decisions made under this delegation have been reported to the LAC at each meeting.

1.3 2023/24 budget allocation

Funding delegated by the Council to LACs in 2023/24 amounts to £100,000 per LAC (£25,000 per ward) plus a total sum of £400,000 for Cost of Living related work, allocated to LACs by Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) so that the South East LAC's share is £ £44,918. These budgets will be spent on projects benefiting all the wards in the South East LAC area.

1.4 Following consultation with the local community the priorities in the Community Plan were revisited. At its meeting of October 5th 2023 the South East LAC agreed to treat the four ward budgets of £25,000 as a single LAC budget of £100,000 and to allocate this budget to projects under the revised priorities as follows:

- Crime and Community Safety theme: £50,000
- Children and Families and Health and Well being theme: £30,000

- Environmental Theme: £ 17,000

The table below details allocation of the money to the specific projects.

	Amount Allocated	Paid (p)or committed(c)
Theme 1: Crime and community safety	£50,000	
Projects:		
Air Drone for SYP	£4,440	paid
Environmental Stewardship Team	£30,000	committed
Crime prevention supplies	£3,600	paid
Mobile CCTV camera	£9,500	committed
Additional airtime	£2,477	paid
Total	£50,017	
Theme 2: Children and Families/health and well being		
Projects:	£30,000	
Community events grant funding	£5,000	committed
Supporting services	£2,250	paid
Youth provision	£10,000	committed
Celebration event	£3,000	paid
Equipment for community events	£4,000 for PA system £2,000 for Gazebos	committed
Life skills training	£3,750	committed
Total	£30,000	
Theme 3: Environmental		
Projects:	£17,000	
Bio diversity project Shirebrook Valley	£10,000	committed
Environmental grant funding	£7,000	committed
Total	£17,000	
Administration costs		
Public meetings Equipment General meetings Public events	£3,000 £2,083	Paid

Total	£2,083	
Final Total	£100,000	

1.5 Expenditure decisions of no more than £5,000 per item have been made by the Community Services Manager under the authority delegated to her by the LAC in September 2021. Any items of expenditure of more than £5000 must be approved by the LAC.

Therefore approval is sought for the following projects:

- Environmental stewardship project £30,000 – total cost of project is £66,000, to be funded by £28,000 underspend in fly tipping budget, £8,000 neighbourhood CIL (£2,000 per ward), leaving a balance of £30,000 to be funded from the LAC project budget.
- Biodiversity project £10,000 - this project will help species stacking in the Shirebrook valley, The project will enable the stacking of **ecosystem services** for multiple benefits. The project will focus on creating and enhancing habitats for **priority species** such as harvest mouse, reptiles, amphibians, birds such as skylark, kingfisher and barn owl.
- Mobile CCTV camera £9,500 – to be used in highlighted areas across the South East.
- Establishing an Environmental Grant fund of £7,000 – local environmental groups to be able to bid for grants of up to £1,000 for local environmental improvements. It is proposed that the Community Services Manager, in consultation with the LAC Chair, is authorised to finalise the eligibility criteria and make decisions on expenditure relating to the grant applications received.

1.6 At its meeting of October 5th 2023, the LAC also agreed the use of the £44,918 LAC Cost of Living 2023/24 budget as described in the report then presented: 50% of the South Easts allocation (£22,459) was awarded as a grant to Citizens Advice Sheffield (CAS) to support its city-wide freephone advice line; the remaining £22,459 was used to create a new South East Cost of Living fund providing support to people in South East Sheffield with cost of living related issues, such as providing food and practical items, providing advice, operating a welcome place. The following spend has been agreed from the remaining £22,459:

Group/Organization	Amount requested	Paid /Committed	Remaining Budget
Now Church-Woodhouse	£1,500	paid	£20,459
S12 Community Pantry	£1,377	paid	£19,582

New Hope Church	£1,500	paid	£18,082
BVDT	£1,000	paid	£17,082
DAWS gym	£1,500	paid	£15,582
Mosborough Methodist Church	£1,500	paid	£14,082
S20 Foodbank	£1,500	paid	£12,582
Total	£9,877		£12,582

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

- 2.1 Local Area Committees directly support the Communities and Neighbourhoods and Our Council commitments in the 'Our Sheffield: One Year Plan' and contribute to the priorities in 'Together we Get Things Done, the emerging Sheffield City Council Plan 2024 - 2028, but to be effective they need to have the capability to respond quickly to emerging local issues.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 The Community Plan has been developed through community consultation that has comprised of an online survey through the Council's Citizenspace platform; a paper-based survey for those less digitally enabled; engagement activity with representative organisations and in-person meetings.

Partner organisations and Council departments that have been identified as offering potential solutions to some of the issues identified have also been consulted, to establish whether suggestions can be realistically implemented.

Further online and in person consultation took place in summer 2023 in order to give Members information to inform decisions about spending against new priorities at the October 2023 meeting.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

- 4.1.1 Decisions need to consider the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty contained in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

This is the duty to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA 2149) has been developed to reflect the ongoing allocation of the LAC's budget, assessing the range of groups of people and interests likely to be impacted in equality terms. This has identified positive impacts associated with the protected characteristics of age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief; and other areas of inequality associated with health, poverty and financial inclusion, and social cohesion.

The overall impact of this decision is likely to be positive and not disproportionate from an equality, diversity and inclusion perspective. In developing a Community Plan, local communities have been given the opportunity for a greater say in local decision making for services which impact their daily lives.

The devolution of responsibilities will improve inclusion for local people and the work of the Sheffield Equality Partnership will support and enhance the approach from a citywide and underserved communities' perspective.

However, in order to ensure this approach takes into account people who share protected characteristics under the Public Sector Duties the Local Area Committee Community Plan will be supported by appropriate equality monitoring of budget.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 This report concerns expenditure of the LAC's allocated budgets in 2023/24 of £100,000 plus a Cost of Living budget of £44,918. These budgets must not be exceeded.

Procurement of supplies and/or services and the award of grant aid will be carried out in line with the Council's Contracts Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 The LAC must operate in accordance with its Terms of Reference, approved as part of the Council's updated Constitution, (namely pursuant to Part 3 para 3.3,) reflecting the committee system of governance, by Full Council at its Annual Meeting on 18th May 2022. In accordance with the provisions of section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Constitution provides that a Committee may delegate to a Council Officer.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Decisions on any expenditure above the existing authority to the Community Services Manager could be reserved to the LAC but this would inevitably delay delivery of priority actions to address specific issues identified in the Community Plan.

All decisions on expenditure to support Community Plan priorities could be delegated to officers. However, this would restrict and undermine the LAC's ability to monitor its delegated budget and delivery of the Community Plan.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The South East LAC is asked to note and approve the allocation of funding under the priority headings identified to assist its ability to monitor its budget, and to support delivery of the Community Plan.

This page is intentionally left blank