



**Author/Lead Officer of Report:** Dave Luck  
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**Report of:** Community Services Manager  
**Report to:** North Local Area Committee  
**Date of Decision:** March 5<sup>th</sup> 2024  
**Subject:** North 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 (<b>report/appendix</b>) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (<b>insert relevant paragraph number</b>) 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 reports on delegated spending decisions.

**Recommendations:**

That the North Local Area Committee:

- Notes the expenditure against the £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the North LAC as detailed in the report.
- Notes the expenditure against the £18,550 North LAC Cost of Living fund as detailed in the report.

**Background Papers:**

<b>Lead Officer to complete:-</b>	
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: Adrian Hart
	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	<b>Head of Service who approved submission:</b> Carl Mullooly
3	<b>LAC Chair consulted:</b> Cllr Alan Hooper
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.
	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> Dave Luck
	<b>Job Title:</b> North LAC Community Services Manager
<b>Date:</b> 5 March 2024	

## 1. PROPOSAL

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 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.

An updated community plan was agreed at the September 2023 North LAC meeting.

1.1.2 To enable decisions to be taken quickly and to respond to emerging issues, in September 2021 the 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 to the next Local Area Committee meeting.

1.1.3 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 North LAC's share is £37,100.

1.1.4 At its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 the LAC agreed to use part of its budget of £100,000 to establish two grant funds of £25,000 each: the Greatest Need fund to support work amongst those in demonstrable need, and the Big Idea fund to support new approaches to meeting the priorities of the North LAC.

1.1.5 At the same meeting the LAC agreed the use of the £37,100 LAC Cost of Living budget as follows: 50% (£18,550) awarded as a grant to Citizens Advice Sheffield to support its advice line; the remaining 50% (£18,550) used to create a new North Cost of Living fund providing support to people in North Sheffield with cost of living related issues, such as: support to Welcoming Places operating in the area; providing activities and advice; and practical food donation support or other items.

1.1.6 Authority was delegated to the Community Services Manager, in consultation with the LAC Chair, to finalise the eligibility criteria and make decisions, following engagement with the relevant Ward Members, on the award of the grant funds proposed of up to £5,000.

1.1.7 Successful applications to the Greatest Need fund (totalling £25,027) and Big Idea fund (totalling £25,190) were reported to the meeting of the LAC on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023. The report noted in both cases that the excess above £25,000 was met from the wider LAC budget; that both funds were oversubscribed; that applicants for the Greatest Need fund were also able to be signposted to the Cost of Living Fund; and that as the Big Idea fund had a greater volume of bids a second round would be run with up to £25,000 being allocated in January 2024. The Community Services Manager, in consultation with the LAC Chair, was again given delegated authority to finalise the eligibility criteria and make decisions, following engagement with the relevant Ward Members, on the award of the grant funds proposed of up to £5,000.

**1.2 Spend to report**

1.2.1 The successful applications are set out below. Where funds exceeded £25,000 these costs were met from the wider budget.

1.2.2 Big Idea fund round 2 awards:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Funds Agreed</b>
Rivelin Co	Community events and development	£4764
Stannington Library	Community information screen	£1600
Stocksbridge British Legion	Development of community website	£4550
Westwood	Local heritage & history events	£4588
Food Matters	Development post	£5000
SLC	Funds to operate a community minibus.	£5000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£25,502</b>

1.2.3 The further items to note agreed under delegated powers since the last meeting are:

Item	Cost	Date chair consulted
Big Idea round 2 additional costs	£502	26/01/2024
Half term activity costs, Stocksbridge Leisure Centre	£900	17/01/2024
Advice worker costs, Food Matters	£2500	27/11/2023
ANPR project costs	£2161	20/12/2023
Stocksbridge noticeboards	£1900	06/02/2024

1.2.4 The costs previously reported for the Bolsterstone speed survey (£150) will now be met via the Highways budget. On this basis, funds allocated are £93,077 and funds remaining for the LAC would be £6923.

This figure of £93,077 is comprised of:

- Big Idea rounds 1 and 2: £50,692
- Greatest Need fund: £25,017
- Spend under delegated powers: £17,358

A further report will be provided at the first public meeting of the LAC in 2024/25 to outline use of these funds.

### 1.3 Cost of Living spend

At its meeting of September 26<sup>th</sup> 2023, the North LAC agreed to create a Cost of Living fund with £18,550 available for applications of up to £2500 to address cost of living issues in the North of the city. The projects funded through this were as follows:

Organisation	Project	Funding agreed
Stannington Food Bank	Fuel/ Grocery vouchers and food parcels	£2500
St Pauls Church	Weekly coffee drop in's	£1,000
The Hygiene Bank Sheffield and Barnsley	Provide Hygiene products within the North LAC area, buy 10 donation boxes	£2,500

Stocksbridge Leisure Centre	Run and promote sessions relating to Cost of Living	£1,300
Friends of Ecclesfield Library	Cost of utilities and refreshments to run as Warm Space	£2,500
Ecclesfield & Montenev TARA	Buy new utensils (Mugs, Cups, kettle etc) and run the coffee morning twice per week	£369.39
Brightholmlee Social Club	Monies to help launch a lunch club	£2,500
Cornerstone Café (Christian Centre)	Utility bills for running of social cafe	£2,310
HGDT	Energy Vouchers	£2,500
Stannington Library	Establish new social café	£350
Chapelgreen Community Hub	Purchase of air fryers & guides for healthy eating	£965.86
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£18,795.25</b>

The additional sum of £245 was met from the wider LAC budget.

## **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 agree the new community plan that was agreed at the September 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

##### **4.1.2 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.

##### **4.1.3 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 (£25,000 per ward) plus a Cost of Living budget of £37,100. 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 This report is in line with the previous decision of September 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 regarding expenditure below £5000 and the North Community Plan agreed on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2023.

## **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The North LAC is asked to note the use of funding under delegated authority to address the identified local priorities.