

# Agenda Item 10



**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:** September 10<sup>th</sup> 2024  
**Subject:** North LAC Budget 2024-25

Has appropriate consultation been undertaken? Yes  No

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken? Yes  No

If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? 2736

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes  No

If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-

*“The (**report/appendix**) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (**insert relevant paragraph number**) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”*

## Purpose of Report:

Each Local Area Committee has a budget to address local priorities. This report describes the proposed approach to funding allocated to the LAC for 2024/25 and reports on delegated spending decisions.

**Recommendations:**

That the North Local Area Committee:

- Agrees the recommendations set out for use of the 2024/25 budget
- Notes the expenditure against the £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the North LAC as detailed in the report.
- 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 the grant funds proposed of up to £5,000.

**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> Jason Siddall   |
| 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><br>Dave Luck  |
|   | <b>Job Title:</b><br>North LAC Community Services Manager   |
| <b>Date: 10 September 2024</b>  |   |

## 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 2024/25 amounts to £100,000 per LAC (£25,000 per ward). Following consultation with North LAC Members it is proposed that this budget should be treated a whole North LAC budget of £100,000 to address issues identified in the North Community Plan.

1.1.4 The following areas of expenditure are proposed from the £100,000 budget:

- a) A £50,000 Great North grant budget for applications of up to £5000.  
Applicants will be invited to complete an application form setting out the benefits their proposed project would provide in meeting one of the North LAC Community Plan priorities of:
  - Improving local transport through practical Highways improvements and promoting better public transport

- Improving community safety
  - Improving community life
- b) A £25,000 NextGen North grant budget for applications of up to £5000 for projects working with children and young people in the North of Sheffield. This will involve £15,000 of the LAC budget and a further £10,000 provided by Youth Services

An application process for these funds will be developed by the LAC Manager in consultation with the LAC Chair. The intention is for applicants to complete an initial form and for eligible applicants to then present their project to a panel of Councillors. Where possible, young people's representatives for the North will be involved in the design and consideration of the NextGen fund.

Detailed eligibility will be developed for both funds with support from the Voluntary Sector Liaison Team but core criteria will include:

- Activity must take place in the North LAC area.
- The need for a clear evidence base for proposed activity
- Applicants with no track record of delivery in the North of the city will need to demonstrate a sound approach to how they develop a project in the North of the city.
- Applicants will need to demonstrate that existing funds are not already in place for the activity they are applying for.
- The fund will be open to not for profit organisations with a bank account in the organisation's name and at least two signatories who are not related.

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 as set out above, taking into account the views of the Councillor panel in respect of applications for the NextGen fund. Bids will be assessed by the LAC team and agreed. Applications will be shared with the relevant Ward Members for comment in advance of decisions being taken. Expenditure being reported to the next meeting of the LAC.

Should the fund have unallocated funds at the end of the calendar year, remaining funds will be reallocated to other projects that address priorities within the North LAC Community Plan.

- c) A £10,000 fund to support food poverty initiatives in the North. The LAC manager will develop a pro forma for existing initiatives to set out needs for 2024/25 with funds of up to £3000 allocated by the LAC Manager in consultation with the LAC Chair

- d) A £5000 operations budget for ongoing, practical LAC expenditure.

Together the proposed sums would total spend of £80,000 of the LAC budget.

- 1.1.5 As was the case for the grant funds established under the 2023/24 LAC budget, it is proposed that authority be 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 above grant funds proposed of up to £5,000 per application.

## 1.2 Spend to report

- 1.2.1 The items to note agreed under delegated powers since the last meeting are:

2023/24 LAC budget

| Item   | Cost  | Date chair consulted |
|--|-------|----------------------|
| Food Bank support – payments of £500 to the following North providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stannington Food Bank</li> <li>• Stocksbridge Food Bank</li> <li>• St Pauls Food Bank, Parson Cross</li> <li>• St Saviours Food Bank, High Green</li> <li>• High Green Campus Food Bank</li> <li>• Chapelgreen Community Fridge</li> </ul> | £3000 | 13/3                 |
| Advice provision at Stocksbridge Food Bank   | £1250 | 13/3                 |
| Benches for Fox Glen Park  | £1081 | 6/3                  |
| Ecclesfield Park bandstand handrail  | £670  | 6/3                  |
| Install costs for Stocksbridge noticeboards  | £184  | 6/3                  |

1.2.4 Funds from the 2024/25 LAC budget spent under delegated powers in are:

- Stocksbridge Mocam move £500 (agreed 5/3 but delivered in 24/25)
- Additional Bradfield Parish Council CCTV costs £1202 (agreed 22/5)

These sums in addition to the £80,000 set out above would lead to a total allocated spend of £81,702 and a balance of £18,298.

## **2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?**

2.1 This decision directly contributes to the following outcomes in 'Together we Get Things Done, the Sheffield City Council Plan 2024 - 2028:

- Great neighbourhoods that people are happy to call home – LACs work with communities to improve the places and spaces that make neighbourhoods great places to live and be active
- People live in caring, engaged communities that value diversity and support their wellbeing – LACs work with communities to build engagement into the way we work so that we listen better and work together to find shared solutions

## **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 2736) 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 2024/25 of £100,000 (£25,000 per ward).

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 The LAC could choose not to allocate budgets at this stage but this would delay local projects and facilities for local communities.

Decisions on grant awards 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 North LAC is asked to note the use of funding under delegated authority and agree the further expenditure outlined in the report to address the identified local priorities within the North LAC Community Plan.