

Agenda Item 10



Author/Lead Officer of Report:

Tania Bustamante, South West LAC Community Services Manager

Tel: 0114 474 3651

Report of: Community Services Manager
Report to: South Local Area Committee
Date of Decision: 26th September 2024
Subject: South West LAC Budget 2024-25

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? 2832				
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“The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”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 the proposed approach to funding allocated to the LAC for 2024/25.

Recommendations:

That the South West Local Area Committee:

- Approves the proposed allocated expenditure against the £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the South West LAC Community Plan in 2024/25.

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: 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	Head of Service who approved submission: Carl Mullooly
3	LAC Chair consulted: Cllr Andrew Sangar
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.
	Lead Officer Name: Tania Bustamante
	Job Title: South West LAC Community Services Manager
Date: 26th September 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.

1.1.2 Each LAC was allocated an initial budget of £100,000 under an executive decision by the Leader of the Council on 17th August 2021. This money was to be spent in line with their respective Community Plans. The South West LAC Community Plan was agreed in March 2022 and budget spent in line with the priorities in the plan. A refreshed community plan was drafted for 2023/24 and was agreed by the Committee at the SW LAC Public meeting 28th September 2023.

1.1.3 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.

1.2 2024/25 Budget Allocation

1.2.1 Full Council resolved at the budget meeting in March 2024 to create a LAC Budget amounting to £100,000 per LAC. This budget will be spent on projects benefiting all the wards in the South West LAC area.

1.2.2 Proposed expenditure and budget allocation for 2024/25 is given below.

Priority & Element	Anticipated Expenditure	Comments
Transport and Highways		
Community Speed Watch	Up to £1,000	Purchase of additional resources for operations: such as high vis, signage, communications campaign
Schools Good Parking / Bad Parking Project	£400	£100 book vouchers for each school taking part (1 each ward).
Funding for management of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) in the Area	Up to £1,200	Funding to manage the legacy SIDS in the area that are in disrepair
Local Environment		
Allocation of funding to support Environmental Groups activities in the area through grants.	£10,000	Supporting Community Environmental Groups such as Friends of Groups, and Litter Pickers.
SW LAC Eco Fair	£2,000	An event to inspire action towards Net Zero, increase awareness and advertise community activities and power/heating options
Greenhouses for schools	£3,600	Fund 2 Greenhouses for schools in the area
Bug Houses	Up to £1,000	Locally produced bug houses for residents – increase wildlife habitats
Thermal Imaging Camera	£2,000	To measure heat leakage from a home, bookable for residents to use
Support Litter Pickers with equipment	£1,000	Additional litter picking equipment to support community efforts
Community and Neighbourhoods		
Support Isolation and Loneliness and Cost of Living Activities	£20,000	Funding to support activities across the SW LAC
Community Cinema Event	£2,000	A community event SW

		LAC Hosted cinema screening
Support Unpaid Carers	£2,000	Unpaid carers event in each ward
Local Business Network Event and funding to support local businesses	£5,000	Event to highlight support options for small businesses. Small budget to bring businesses together such as festive lights
Events and Festivals	£4,000	Allocation of funding to support existing or new events and festivals in the SW area.
Engagement and Public meeting costs	£2,000	Allocation of funding for venue hire, stationary and related materials.
SW LAC Ward Funds		
SW LAC Ward Funds, to allocate to local projects	£40,000	Funding for each Ward to invest in local projects that deliver against the Community Plan Priorities.
Total		£97,200
<i>(Leaving a contingency of £2,800)</i>		

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 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 Have Your Say platform; a paper-based survey for those less digitally enabled and to target underrepresented groups and engagement activities 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.

Members of the South West LAC have further reviewed the Community Plan, including reflecting on the diverse range of community feedback that members received during the election period and from speaking to voluntary, community and faith sector organisations as appropriate.

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 2024/25 of £100,000.

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 All decisions on expenditure 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 West LAC is asked to approve the broad allocation of funding under the priority headings identified to assist its ability to monitor its budget, and to authorise the Community Services Manager to approve expenditure above the current delegated authority in certain circumstances so that delivery of the Community Plan is not delayed.

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