

Agenda Item 5



Author/Lead Officer of Report: Central LAC
Adeel Zahman Community Services Manager

Tel: 07854040301

Report of: Community Services Manager
Report to: Central Local Area Committee
Date of Decision: Thursday 3rd October 2024
Subject: Central 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? 2601				
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"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."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 Central Local Area Committee:

1. Agrees the approach set out for use of the 2024/25 budget to address local priorities in the Central LAC Community Plan as detailed in the report.
- 1.2. Authorises 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 and Committee members
 - Spending is in line with any specific purposes of the allocated budget
 - The decision may not approve expenditure of more than £10,000
 - A report detailing the delegated spending decisions taken by the Community Services Manager is presented to the next Local Area Committee meeting.

Background Papers: The Central LAC Community Plan is published at:
[PowerPoint Presentation \(sheffield.gov.uk\)](http://sheffield.gov.uk)

Lead Officer to complete: -							
1	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">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.</td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">Finance: Adrian Hart</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Legal: Andrea Simpson</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Equalities: Louise Nunn</td> </tr> </table> <p><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></p>	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
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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: Adeel Zahman	Job Title: Central LAC Community Services Manager
Date: Thursday 3rd October 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.

The Central LAC Community Plan was agreed in March 2022.

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 expenditures from any budget allocated to the Local Area Committee provided that

- The decision is taken in consultation with the Local Area Committee Chair and Committee
- 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 Funding delegated by the Council in 2024/25 amounts to £100,000 per LAC to address issues in the Central LAC Community plan. Following consultation with Central LAC Elected Councillors it is proposed that this budget should be allocated so that £25,000 is spent per ward to address the priorities in the Central LAC Community Plan.

1.2.2 The Central LAC has five priorities which

1. Transport and Highways
2. Environment
3. Communities and Neighbourhoods
4. Community Safety, and Crime
5. Business, Employment and Skills

1.2.3 There may be projects or schemes proposed within any priority theme for which the anticipated expenditure is more than £5,000. To enable financial decisions to be made, given the delays caused by the two pre-election periods (local election and general election) it is recommended that the level of expenditure that can be approved by the Community Services Manager in consultation with the LAC Chair and Committee members under the delegated authority described above in 1.1.2 is raised to sums of up to £10,000. All other conditions would remain the same.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

2.1 The 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 the 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.

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.

The Equality Act 2010 identifies the following groups as a protected characteristic: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation.

4.1.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA 2601) has been developed to reflect the allocation of the LAC budget. 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, to ensure this approach considers 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 LACs 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 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 The LAC could choose not to allocate budgets at this stage, but this would delay local projects and facilities for local communities.

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

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Central LAC is asked to approve the approach to the 2024/25 budget outlined in the report to address the identified local priorities within the Central LAC Community Plan.