

Agenda Item 6



Author/Lead Officer of Report:
Lindsey Hill, North East LAC Community Services
Manager
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Report of: Community Services Manager
Report to: North East Local Area Committee
Date of Decision: 8th October 2024
Subject: North East LAC Budget 2023-24

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? (2448)

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*“The (**report/appendix**) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (**insert relevant paragraph number**) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”*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

- Notes the expenditure made in 2023/24 and agrees the recommendations set out for use of the 2024/25 budget to address local priorities in the North East LAC as detailed in the report.
- 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
 - 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 North East Community Plan is published at:

[North East Local Area Committee Community Plan \(sheffield.gov.uk\)](http://sheffield.gov.uk)

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: Lou 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 Safiya Saeed
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: Lindsey Hill	Job Title: North East LAC Community Services Manager
Date: 8 th October 2024		

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 North East LAC Community Plan was agreed in March 2022. Following the LAC meeting on 20th June 2023 the Community Plan priorities were reviewed through further consultation. No revisions were proposed.

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.

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

1.2 Proposal

1.2.1 Funding delegated by the Council to LACs in 2024/25 amounts to £100,000 per LAC (£25 000 per ward). Following consultation with North East LAC Members it is proposed that this budget should be treated a whole North East LAC budget of £100,000 to address issues identified in the North East Community Plan. The following areas of expenditure are proposed from the £100,000 budget, and the approach to be taken for delivery of the priority theme, are set out below in 1.2.2.

1.2.2 **Priority 1: Business, Employment & Skills**

Action: Support new and existing businesses, help develop business forums and improve local shopping areas and surrounding areas.

Overview: This theme priority focuses on improving local businesses and shopping areas for residents in all wards across the North East LAC. The approaches used will be working with local businesses to identify their needs and further support required, build a solid network foundation of businesses forums, identify where and what residents want from their local shops.

Outcome / Impact:

- Improvement of local shopping areas and the provision of amenities
- Increase support to new and existing businesses and forums
- Improve opportunities for training and employment

Budget spend and allocation:

Spend 2023/24 budget £14,540

Spend to date 2024/25 budget £5,850

Total budget allocation for 2024/25: £7,000

Project proposals to be delivered in 2024/25:

- Local Businesses and Shopping Areas Support Project, focusing on improving areas most in need and create business forums and support existing ones to be successful.
- DWP Work Placements and Supporting the Sector Routeways project, to help provide work experience opportunities.
- Upskilling and Job Prospects Event, working with other partners and services seeking ways that can help people prepare for the working world.

Priority 2: Health & Wellbeing

Action: Improving health and wellbeing of residents

Overview: The theme priority focuses on helping and supporting residents in the wards across the North East LAC to live happy and healthy lives through providing more support and raising awareness, joining up services and promoting them and communicating activities in the area that help resident live healthy lifestyles. The approaches used will be to assess the need of residents and identify the gaps in support and services by working and holding conversations with partners, residents, and services across the area.

Outcome / Impact:

- Increased awareness of support available
- Increased support to carers
- Increased activities and facilities for residents

Budget spend and allocation:

Spend 2023/24 budget £949

Spend to date 2024/25 budget £5,584

Total budget allocation for 2024/25: £7,000

Project proposals to be delivered in 2024/25:

- Provide First Aid Training for community groups and residents, LAC team and members.
- Proposal to deliver and provide Community Sports & Equipment Project, to help local community sports groups and provide play equipment.
- Proposal to deliver Community Accessibility Project, helping community spaces become more accessible to all.
- Proposal to deliver Men's Mental Health Campaigns, to raise awareness working with Andy's Mans Club and Movember Campaign.
- Proposal to deliver Pops Project helping to bridge the gap between younger and older men who may be socially isolated or disconnected from the community.
- Proposal to deliver Community Health Project, working with local nurses to provide blood pressure monitors in community spaces, looking for other health initiatives that can be delivered.

Priority 3: Environment

Action: Clean up and regenerate hot spot areas across the North East LAC

Overview: The theme priority focuses on improving the environment and making it greener, cleaner, and safer for residents. The approach will be to work with services and partners to identify areas in the wards across the North East that require enhancement and regeneration. We will then deliver pilots/projects on improving street scene, supporting volunteers, carrying out educational and awareness campaigns on recycling/environmental friendliness and environmental health. We will explore rolling out some of the good practices being delivered by the Page Hall Neighbourhood Project.

Outcome / Impact:

- Reduced levels of litter and fly tipping
- Cleaner / more attractive environment
- Increased use of area by local community
- Increase in environment health and living standards

Budget spend and allocation:

Spend to date 2023/24 budget	£5,067
Spend to date 2024/25 budget	£919

Total budget allocation for 2024/25: £5,000

Project proposals to be delivered in 2024/25:

- Environmental Project, looking for solutions to issues raised, through Community Action Groups and Green Network implementing initiatives.
- Litter Pickers and Volunteers Project, providing litter picking equipment and tools to support volunteers.
- Little Pickers Project, working with local primary schools to educate on litter and recycling.

- Create a Green Network, supporting and working with local Friends of Groups, Litter Picking Volunteers and Allotment Societies.
- Proposal to support a citywide Volunteering Celebration Event.

Priority 4: Children, Young Residents & Families

Action: Review activities, provision and support for children, younger residents and families and identify their needs/requirements

Overview: This theme priority focuses on the current activities, provision and support that children, younger residents (youths) and families have in the area and identify gaps in the wards across the North East LAC that prevents children and younger residents thriving. The approach will be to work with Youth Services, Family Hubs, partners and voluntary, community and faith sectors to try and ensure that the provision is targeted and meets the needs of young people. Also ensuring they have the best opportunities and skills to become successful adults.

Outcome / Impact:

- Increase activities and provision and ensure they are meeting needs
- Improve the aspirations and positive role models for younger residents
- Increase in life skills and support provided for parents and families

Budget spend and allocation:

Spend 2023/24 budget	£500
Spend to date 2024/25 budget	£0

Total Budget allocation for 2024/25:	£2,000
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Project proposals to be delivered in 2024/25:

- Proposal to deliver a NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) Traineeship and Aspirations Project, working on initiatives to support younger people identified as NEET.
- Deliver another Youth Conference.
- Set up roadshows with schools and academies, to engage younger people and a younger person’s newsletter is to be developed.

Priority 5: Community Safety & Crime

Action: Community safety

Overview: This theme priority focuses on residents’ safety and their perception of this and safer communities, that supports vulnerable residents and victims. The approach is to seek to gather information and further consultation to identify ways to increase residents’ confidence in policing and tackle anti-social behaviour. The North East LAC will align priorities to ensure we deliver joined up services, raise awareness of how to be safer and carry out intervention and prevention initiatives.

Outcome / Impact:

- Increase visibility of Police and partners working in community safety
- Align the priorities with the Community Safety Plan
- Increase support to vulnerable residents and victims of crime and abuse

Budget spend and allocation:

Spend 2023/24 budget	£3,200
Spend to date 2024/25 budget	£0

Total Budget allocation for 2024/25: £15,000

Project proposals to be delivered in 2024/25:

- Proposal to deliver Dark Nights activities across the area, providing small grants to groups and organisations working with the Police and Safer Neighbourhoods.
- Delivered the People Keeping Safe Project, working with the Police to equipment and items to help them feel safer, such as personal alarms and burglary deterrent equipment etc. as part of the Help Protect Vulnerable People Project.
- White Ribbon Campaign, support the campaign and promote awareness in the community.

Priority 6: Transport & Highways

Action: Tackle poor parking, unsafe roads and the way people travel

Overview: This theme priority focuses on tackling speeding and improving road safety, including parking, improving the way people can travel and the lifestyles they lead. The approach is to work with Transport & Highways, services, Police, voluntary, community and faith sectors and residents to identify which roads are unsafe and how we can promote safer and healthier travel in the community. The project will develop initiatives to tackle unsafe roads, poor parking, active travel and consult on transport links in and around the LAC area.

Outcome / Impact:

- Improve road safety
- Increase active travel
- Improve poor parking

Budget spend and allocation:

Spend 2023/24 budget	£1,788
Spend to date 2024/25 budget	£0

Underspend surplus from 2023/24: £2,212
Total Budget allocation for 2024/25: £3,788

Project proposals to be delivered in 2024/25:

- Deliver the Good/Bad Parking Project, working with primary schools to promote safety and good parking.
- Proposal to deliver Bike Events, helping young people be active, use the park facilities, have a working bike and learn how to ride.
- Parking project, helping address hot spot areas in the community and investigate solutions to address bad parking.

Priority 7: Parks and open spaces

Action: To improve park, green and open spaces

Overview: This theme priority focuses on the enhancement, regeneration and to improve parks and open spaces in the wards across the North East LAC area. The approach used will be strength-based working with Parks & Countryside and Council services to identify open spaces that could be better used and improved. We will ask residents in continuous consultation for ideas on how to deliver the priority and what they would like to see us deliver.

Outcome / Impact:

- Increase use of the area by the local community
- Increase use of parks and open spaces and the offer of facilities and activities
- Protect heritage and wildlife in open spaces and parks

Budget spend and allocation:

Spend 2023/24 budget	£12,111
Spend to date 2024/25 budget	£3,749

Total Budget allocation for 2024/25: £9,000

Project proposals to be delivered in 2024/25:

- Friends of Group Project, supporting with the groups and linking to the Green Network to address needs and solutions to issue raised.
- Local Parks Information Project, seeking initiatives to better communicate and improve what's happening and consult with residents.
- Community Unloved Pockets of Land Project, look for opportunities to develop small plots of land and transform them in a variety of ways.

Priority 8: Our Community and Your Home

Action: Community capacity building

Overview: This theme priority focuses on building capacity and infrastructure within the North East LAC. The approaches used will be based on the needs of the communities in the wards across the area and could include, community planning, investing in community leaders and volunteers, supporting community led activities, developing community assets, and improving community engagement, linked to voice and

influence. The project will use a strength-based approaches to working with local people and organisations.

Outcome / Impact:

- Increase community engagement and capacity
- Increase in community events and activities
- Increase in community assets

Budget spend and allocation:

Spend 2023/24 budget	£13,572
Spend to date 2024/25 budget	£2,000

Total Budget allocation for 2024/25: £27,250

Projects delivered and funded:

- Proposal to support Festivals and Events held across the area funding and supporting their delivery.
- Community Information Project, following on from the consultation carried out last year delivering some of the recommendations.
- Proposal to support and deliver various, Culture and Diversity Events across the area, celebrating the areas diversity and heritage.
- LAC Communication Project, looking at ways to promote the LAC and encourage residents and groups to be more involved and engaged.
- VCF (Volunteer, Community & Faith) Network and Support Project, helping connect organisations and deliver to the community in a more joined up approach, celebrating their success and appreciation to their dedication.

Priority 9: Cost of living

Action: To help people affected by the Cost of Living

Overview: The theme focuses on helping to provide projects that helps support and advice to people across the area affected by the cost of living crisis and support existing and new Welcome Places. The approach is to seek to gather information and further consultation to identify ways to help residents' with support and advice. The North East LAC will align priorities to ensure we deliver joined up services and provision, raise awareness of the help available and prevention of debt initiatives.

Small grants scheme to help them become a Welcoming Place in partnership with SOAR Let's Build Health grants, as in previous years.

Budget spend and allocation:

Spend 2023/24 budget	£0
Spend to date 2024/25 budget	£0

Total Budget allocation for 2024/25: £8,500

Project proposals to be delivered in 2024/25:

- Provide small grants to organisations to help them become a Welcoming Place.
- Proposal to provide Comfort Packs to support older residents and those who struggle with fuel poverty during the winter months.
- Community Connectors Pilot, working to improve residents front line customer experience at a local level, bringing together and raising awareness with businesses, healthcare, VCF providers, council services, etc in the community.
- Cost of Living Advice and Support Guidance, produce a brochure with localised advice and support that is available to signpost people to the right help they need.

1.2.3 **Cost of Living budget**

Funding was delegated by the Council to LACs in 2023/24 amounts to £100,000 per LAC 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 East LAC's share is £90,000. At the meeting held on 19th September 2023, the LAC agreed that half of the £90,000 LAC Cost of Living 2023/24 budget (£45,000) would be given as a grant to Citizen Advice Sheffield to support its advice line. Workshops were held and investigatory work carried out to determine what delivery was required with the remaining 50% allocation (£45,000) and at the meeting held on 22nd November 2023 the LAC agreed proposals to deliver cost of living initiatives and projects in the North East and to create a small grants scheme to help to those providing support to people in the North East Sheffield with cost of living related issues, such as providing food and practical items, providing advice and support, and operating as a welcome place.

Budget spend:

Spend cost of living small grants scheme	£38,400
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1.2.4 The budget allocation leaves £15,462 contingency that will be unallocated, further consultation will take place to determine how this money will be spent on projects that will meet the needs of the community in line with the priorities outlined in the plan.

1.2.5 There may be projects or schemes proposed within any priority theme for which the anticipated expenditure is more than £5,000. In order to enable financial decisions to be made more quickly, 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 under the delegated authority described above at paragraph 1.1.2 is increased to sums up to £10,000. All other conditions would remain the same.

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 in person and online consultation has taken place in order to give Members information to consider any changes required to the LAC and Ward priorities.

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 2448) 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 budget £100,000 for LAC.

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, (namely pursuant to Part 3 para 3.3) originally approved as part of the Council's updated Constitution, reflecting the committee system of governance, by Full Council at its Annual Meeting on 18th May 2022 and subsequently updated. 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 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 the LAC's ability to monitor its delegated budget and delivery of the Community Plan.

6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 The North East LAC is asked to note the expenditure and to agree the further expenditure and proposed use of funding under delegated authority outlined in the report to address the identified local priorities within the North East LAC Community Plan.