



## SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL South Community Assembly Report

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**Report of:** South Community Assembly Manager

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**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012

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**Subject:** South Assembly Discretionary Budget

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**Author of Report:** Martin Hughes  
South Community Assembly Manager

[martin.hughes2@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:martin.hughes2@sheffield.gov.uk)

0114 205 3281

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### **Summary:**

The South Community Assembly Discretionary Budget 2012/13 was agreed at the Assembly Meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> 2012. Three of the projects funded were to be reviewed over the first quarter before the full 12 months funding was confirmed. This report provides a summary of the 2012/13 budget and recommendations in relation to those three projects.

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### **Reasons for Recommendations:**

The 2012/13 South Community Assembly Discretionary Budget will ensure activity takes place to address some of the priorities as identified in the South Community Assembly Plan. The continuation of the three projects referred to in the report will contribute to;

- Improve Parks and Open Spaces
- Improve the Streetscene
- Increase activities for Children and Young People
- Improve Local and District Shopping areas
- Reduce Crime and Anti-social behaviour
- Promote initiatives and projects that improve community cohesion in targeted areas
- Improve the health and wellbeing of older people
- Tackle Health Inequalities in targeted neighbourhoods

- Provide Increased Opportunity for people to access learning, skills and employment
- Contribute to the development of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector

**Recommendations:**

That the South Community Assembly:

- (1) Considers the information contained within this report and agrees the allocation of a further 9 months' funding to
  - Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team - £19,500
  - Community Engagement in LBJ - £28,000
- (2) Delegates authority to the Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Assembly and the Head of Highways, to negotiate and agree the continuation of the Lengthsperson service with the new Highways PFI provider (Amey) from the commencement of the PFI contract to – March 2013, and to take such steps as he shall consider appropriate regarding the continuation of the Lengthsperson service pending the commencement of the PFI contract, provided that the total value of Lengthsperson services from August 2012 to March 2013 does not exceed £18,700;
- (3) Authorises the Director of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services, to agree the terms on which all funding referred to in this report is made available and to enter into such funding agreements with recipients of the funding and any other related agreements or arrangements, and on such terms, that she considers appropriate.

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**Background Papers:** NONE

**Category of Report:** OPEN

## Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

<b>Financial Implications</b>
YES Cleared by: Liz Orme
<b>Legal Implications</b>
YES Cleared by: Andrew Bullock
<b>Equality of Opportunity Implications</b>
YES (South Community Plan EIA) Cleared by: Phil Reid
<b>Tackling Health Inequalities Implications</b>
YES
<b>Human rights Implications</b>
NO
<b>Environmental and Sustainability implications</b>
YES
<b>Economic impact</b>
NO
<b>Community safety implications</b>
YES
<b>Human resources implications</b>
NO
<b>Property implications</b>
NO
<b>Area(s) affected</b>
South Community Assembly area of Sheffield
<b>Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in</b>
Safer and Stronger Communities
<b>Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?</b>
NO
<b>Press release</b>
NO

## 1. Summary

The South Community Assembly Discretionary Budget 2012/13 was agreed at the Assembly Meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> 2012. Three of the projects funded were to be reviewed over the first quarter before the full 12 months funding was confirmed. This report provides a summary of the 2012/13 budget and recommendations in relation to those three projects.

## 2. What does this mean for people within the Central Community Assembly Area?

The allocation of the remaining 2012/13 South Community Assembly Discretionary Budget will ensure activity takes place to address some of the priorities as identified in the South Community Assembly Plan, namely to;

- Improve Parks and Open Spaces
- Improve the Streetscene
- Increase activities for Children and Young People
- Improve Local and District Shopping areas
- Reduce Crime and Anti-social behaviour
- Promote initiatives and projects that improve community cohesion in targeted areas
- Improve the health and wellbeing of older people
- Tackle Health Inequalities in targeted neighbourhoods
- Provide Increased Opportunity for people to access learning, skills and employment
- Contribute to the development of the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector

## 3. Outcomes and Sustainability

The funding identified in this report will contribute to the delivery of the priorities in the South Community Assembly Plan, thus benefiting residents in the South Community Assembly Area.

The projects and activity within this report contribute to all five of the key ambitions as indicated in the Sheffield City Strategy 2010-2020 (Sheffield 2020 – Where People Shape the Future) –

- **Distinctive**; using the immense sense of pride local people have in the city and South of Sheffield to bring local projects forward for funding.
- **Successful**; working with partners at a local level with joint employment and community projects and strategically through our formal partnerships.
- **Inclusive**; support projects that enable all sections of our community to benefit and join in new activities.
- **Vibrant**; support the community and voluntary sector in working to achieve the priorities for the area.

- **Sustainable**; ensure that future generations can enjoy the open spaces in our area and that the Assembly plays a key role in protecting our environment.

The funding also supports the City Council's priorities, values and outcomes as set out in the Corporate Plan 'Standing Up For Sheffield'. In particular:

#### Priorities

- Supporting and protecting communities

#### Values

- Spend public money wisely
- Long term view
- Enable individuals and communities

#### Outcomes

- Better Health and Wellbeing
- Safe and Secure Communities
- An Environmentally Responsible City

### 4. Full Proposal

The South Community Assembly Discretionary Budget for 2012/13 is £216,805. The budget has been calculated on an aggregated ward basis, using a £1 per head of population and an additional amount using the Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

Ward	ID Allocation	Pop Allocation	Total Allocation	%
Beauchief & Greenhill	£43,685	£18,872	£62,557	29%
Gleadless Valley	£55,624	£20,645	£76,269	35%
Graves Park	£19,746	£17,457	£37,203	17%
Nether Edge	£21,545	£19,231	£40,776	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£140,600</b>	<b>£76,205</b>	<b>£216,805</b>	<b>100</b>

At the Assembly meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012 Councillors agreed to allocate the budget as follows –

Priority	Project / Activity	Provider	Amount
Improving Parks and Open Spaces	<b>Improvements to Barbers Field</b> - improvements to steps and access routes	Parks and Countryside Service, SCC	£5,000
Improving the Streetscene	<b>Lengthspeople</b> - targeting 9 neighbourhoods - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Batemoor</li> <li>• Meadowhead</li> <li>• Lowedges</li> <li>• Greenhill</li> <li>• Chesterfield Road</li> <li>• Fraser estate</li> <li>• Newfield Green</li> </ul>	Streetforce (and then Highways PFI Provider)	£28,000

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abbeydale</li> <li>• Sharrow Vale</li> </ul> <p>Streetforce to be absorbed by new Highways PFI provider in August so the initial payment will be for 4 months work to allow time for discussions with the new provider.</p>		
	<p><b>Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team (NEAT)</b> – a review period after 3 months was agreed to allow Members to assess whether the throughput of trainees is sufficient</p>	Parks and Public Realm Service (SCC)	£26,000
Increase activities for Children and Young People	<p><b>Additional activities for Children and Young People</b> – grants targeted at activity in -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abbeydale</li> <li>• Heeley</li> <li>• Gleadless Valley</li> <li>• Woodseats</li> <li>• Lowedges</li> <li>• Batemoor &amp; Jordanthorpe</li> </ul>	<p>Various – dependent on successful applications</p> <p>Grant process to be managed by South CA Team</p>	£40,000
Improving Local and District Shopping Centres	<p><b>Floral Features</b> - in District and Local Centres across the area –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nether Edge</li> <li>• Broadfield Road</li> <li>• Heeley Green</li> <li>• Chesterfield Road</li> <li>• Newfield Green</li> <li>• Herdings</li> <li>• Woodseats</li> <li>• Meadowhead</li> <li>• Greenhill</li> <li>• Jordanthorpe</li> <li>• Lowedges</li> </ul>	Public Realm Service (SCC)	£10,000
Promoting initiatives and projects that improve community cohesion in targeted areas	<p><b>Community Pride budget</b> – to continue successful Weeks of Action programme and any targeted community cohesion work</p>	Managed by Community Assembly Team	£5,000
Improve the Health and Wellbeing of Older People	<p><b>Additional activities / services for Older People</b> – grants focused on tackling social isolation</p>	<p>Various – dependent on successful applications</p> <p>Grant process to be managed by South CA Team</p>	£20,000

Contribute to the development of the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector	<b>Small Grants pot for Graves Park and Nether Edge wards</b> – to provide an opportunity for smaller community groups to obtain funding. Groups in the Beauchief & Greenhill and Gleadless Valley wards are able to access Community First Neighbourhood Grants.	Managed by Community Assembly Team	£10,000
	<b>Community Engagement and supporting Service Delivery</b> - Supporting local Community Forums in Gleadless Valley and Lowedges, Batemoor & Jordanthorpe.  Staffing structure issues within LBJ Forum left a capacity issue. A review period after 3 months was agreed to allow Members to assess whether LBJ Forum were in a position to deliver the full programme.	Gleadless Valley Forum  Lowedges, Batemoor & Jordanthorpe Forum	£21,000  £34,000
Contingency Pot	That can be allocated to priorities / projects that emerge over next 6 months (e.g. Health, Employment & Learning, etc.) or be used to ‘top up’ identified projects above.		£17,805
<b>Total</b>			<b>£216,805</b>

Since the allocations were agreed the following activity has taken place -

- a) Barbers Field – waiting for full cost for construction of steps before raising order and issuing Service Level Agreement
- b) Lengthspeople – order raised for 4 months provision. Feedback from Streetforce is that there has been little negative impact following the reduction in service. Proposed that Community Assembly Manager meets with Amey with a view to continuing the service after July 2012, with a budget limit of £18,700.
- c) Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team (NEAT) – order raised for 3 months provision. Discussions have been ongoing between Parks & Public Realm, Lifelong Learning, Skills and Communities and the South Community Assembly Team to set up process for throughput of young people considered NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). Barriers to this now seem to have been overcome and progress was reported back at the last Partner Panel meeting. Proposed that this project receives the further 9 months’ funding.
- d) Additional activities for Children and Young People – Expressions of Interest submitted by potential providers assessed on 20<sup>th</sup> June and all the funding was allocated. List of successful organisations will be available at the Assembly meeting.

- e) Floral Features – order raised and floral features in the process of being installed.
- f) Community Pride budget - managed by the South Community Assembly Team. Small amount used to date for promoting Weeks of Action, etc.
- g) Additional activities / services for Older People – Councillors keen that this is targeted at social exclusion. Expressions of Interest to be sought in July 2012.
- h) Small Grants pot for Graves Park and Nether Edge wards – Assessment panel met on 15<sup>th</sup> June and all the funding for both wards was allocated. List of successful organisations will be available at the Assembly meeting.
- i) Community Engagement and supporting Service Delivery –
  - Project proposal received from Gleadless Valley Community Forum and funding agreement now in place.
  - Regular discussions have been taking place between LBJ Forum Trustees and the South Community Assembly Manager. Trustees have developed a new management structure, headed up by a ‘Development Officer’ that will focus more on volunteer recruitment as well as co-ordinate the delivery of community based services for Children & Young People, Older People, Adult Learning. They will also be responsible for management of the G&B Youth and Community Centre. Stronger links have also been established between the Forum and the LBJ Older People’s Services Project which will provide real opportunities for the Forum to be commissioned to provide services and become more sustainable. Proposed that this project receives the further 9 months’ funding.

## **5. Financial Implications**

The 2012/13 Discretionary Budget for the South Community Assembly is £216,805. This report proposes how the Assembly should allocate £66,200 of this budget to tackle a range of priorities from within the South Community Plan. This will be monitored in accordance with Sheffield City Council financial procedures.

It is proposed that delegations be given to the relevant officers by the Assembly to ensure that the grants can be distributed and managed in the manner that is proposed.

## **6. Legal Implications**

In implementing these proposals reliance can be placed on the new ‘general power of competence’ (the ‘GPC’) conferred on the Council by Section 1(1) of the Localism Act 2011.

(Section 1(1) came into force on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2012 and provides that, “A local authority has power to do anything that individuals generally may do.”



This is clearly a very broad power, but it must be noted that it is subject to existing or future statutory limitations.)

The procurement of any goods, works or services must be undertaken in accordance with all relevant provisions of Sheffield City Council's Constitution including the Council's Contracts Standing Orders and all applicable procurement rules.

## **7. Equality of Opportunity Implications**

The South Community Assembly Discretionary budget has been allocated to help address a range of needs in the area, as dictated by the Central Community Assembly Plan (which is supported by an Equality Impact Assessment).

## **8. Human Resource Implications**

Funding provided for Lengthspeople and NEAT team are likely to impact on the staffing resources within Street Force and the Parks and Public Realm Service.

## **9. Environmental and Sustainability Implications**

Funding provided for Lengthspeople and NEAT team will have a positive impact on the local environment

## **10. Mitigation of Risk**

The risks relating to this proposal have been considered by the South Community Assembly Team. These risks will be regularly reviewed and monitored.

Projects funded may not lead to noticeable improvement in the priority issue. The Assembly Team (and the Accountable Bodies Team which administers funding) will monitor the impact of activity throughout the coming year, to assess whether projects have been effective.

The Accountable Bodies Team will administer the distribution of funding and ensure agreed targets and outcomes are being met. They will do this through the receipt of monitoring forms from providers and by visiting projects / activity on the ground.

The Assembly Manager will ensure payments are made as per the project proposal form and are released on time as per Council rules. The projects need to be aware that all funding must be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 and no carry forward or extension is likely.

## **11. Alternative Options**

Councillors could choose not to provide further funding to the Lengthsperson service, the Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team or for Community Engagement in Lowedges, Batemoor and Jordanthorpe. Funding would then be reallocated at the Community Assembly meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October, along with the remaining Contingency Budget.

## **12. Reasons for Recommendations**

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**Martin Hughes**  
**South Community Assembly Manager**

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