



Author/Lead Officer of Report:
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Manager
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Report of: Community Services Manager
Report to: North East Local Area Committee
Date of Decision: 17th January 2023
Subject: Report of North East LAC proposed spending
2022-23

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? *(Insert reference number)*

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*“The **(report/appendix)** is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph **(insert relevant paragraph number)** of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”*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 £100,000 budget to address local priorities. This report sets out details of the spend in respect of this £100,000 that has been authorised by the Community Services Manager, in consultation with the LAC Chair and in accordance with the delegated authority granted in September 2021 and July 2022.

Recommendations:

That the North East Local Area Committee:

(i) Notes the expenditure against the £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the North East LAC in 2022/23, as detailed in the report.

(ii) Agrees that a new Cost of Living priority be added to the Community Plan, as described in the report, and that the contingency budget of £20,000 previously identified be allocated to this priority and used to fund grants for Welcoming Places, as described in the report, or other activities which address this priority.

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: Natalie Smith on behalf of Ann Hardy |
| | | Legal: Andrea Simpson |
| | | Equalities: Adele Robinson |
| <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 Fran Belbin |
| 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: 17 th January 2023 | | |

1. PROPOSAL

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.

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 the Community Plan. As the Community Plan was not finalised until late in the 2021/22 financial year very little of this budget was spent across the LACs and it was carried forward to the current financial year.

To enable decisions to be taken quickly and to respond to emerging issues, at the meeting of the North East LAC on 23rd September 2021, a decision was made which 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 £5,000, and
- A report detailing the delegated spending decisions taken by the Community Services Manager is presented to the next Local Area Committee meeting.

1.2 The North East Sheffield Local Area Committee (LAC) developed a Community Plan through consultation with residents, community groups and other stakeholders in North East Sheffield. At a meeting of the North East LAC held on 22nd March 2022, the LAC approved the Community Plan.

On 26th July 2022 the LAC was informed of proposed anticipated expenditure and set out budget allocations to address priorities and gave further authority to the Community Services Manager to make decisions on that expenditure.

An overview and details of priorities set out in the Community Plan showing expenditure and any proposed committed spend that has been agreed is given below.

Action: Improve and support new and existing businesses, support and improve digital inclusion and skills for employment for residents

Overview: This theme priority focuses improving local businesses and supporting residents across the North East LAC to develop the right skills to thrive. 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 the need for digital inclusion is and how skills can be enhanced and developed for employment.

Outcome / Impact:

- Improvement of local shopping areas and the provision of amenities
- Increase support to new and existing businesses
- Increase peoples access to digital inclusion and skills
- Improve people's skills for employment

Budget/Funding:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Budget allocation: | £4,000 |
| Actual spend to date: | £1,430 |
| Remaining budget: | £2,570 |

- Winter Market Ellesmere Green event by Ellesmere Business Forum held in December.

Priority 2: Health & Wellbeing

Action: Improving health and wellbeing of residents

Overview: The theme priority focuses on helping and supporting residents 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/Funding:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Budget allocation: | £8,000 |
| Actual spend to date: | £5,311 |
| Committed agreed spend: | £1,000 |
| Remaining budget: | £1,689 |

- A contribution to various Southey Community Events taking place

- from November through to March hosted by Steel City Choristers.
- Providing small grants to organisations to help them become a Welcoming Place.
- Sporting equipment for children to improve access to sports provided by Wildcats.
- Anticipated spend agreed to provide a small contribution to community buildings for the running costs of a defibrillator after installation.

Priority 3: Environment

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

Overview: The theme priority focuses on improving the and environment making it greener, cleaner, and safer for residents. The approach will be to work with services and partners to identify areas 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/Funding:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Budget allocation: | £16,000 |
| Actual spend to date: | £1,517 |
| Provisional committed spend: | £8,000 |
| Remaining budget: | £6,483 |

- Dog fouling campaign targeting a site in each ward delivered by Keep Britain Tidy.
- It is anticipated provisionally to provide funding for equipment and supplies for litter picking groups.

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 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/Funding:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Budget allocation: | £20,000 |
| Actual spend to date: | £7,347 |
| Committed agreed spend: | £10,000 |
| Remaining budget: | £2,653 |

- Longley 4 Greens family fun day which took place in October.
- Concord Lantern Parade which took place in November.
- Hartley Brook Festive Lights Switch On which took place in December.
- Dark Nights activities provided by SWFC and the hire of Vestry Hall.
- Provided funds for a Health Project for Headlice to help families.
- Contributed a small amount to the Youth Fund for October half term.
- Providing small grants to organisations to help them become a Welcoming Place.
- Anticipated agreed spend to provide small grants for inclusive and open activities over the Easter school holidays.

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 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/Funding:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Budget allocation: | £4,000 |
| Actual spend to date: | £2,075 |
| Remaining budget: | £1,925 |

- Dark Nights activities provided by SWFC and Firth Park Boxing Gym
- Purchasing personal alarms for Operation Duxford

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 and around the LAC area.

Outcome / Impact:

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

Budget/Funding:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Budget allocation: | £4,000 |
| Actual spend to date: | £0 |
| Provisionally committed spend: | £4,000 |
| Remaining budget: | £0 |

- It is anticipated provisionally to fund a good/bad parking scheme working with local schools.
- It is anticipated provisionally to fund an active travel/healthy journey project working with local schools.

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 across the North East LAC area. The approach used will be strength-based working with Parks & Countryside and SCC services to identify open spaces that could be better used and improved. We will ask residents 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/Funding:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Budget allocation: | £16,000 |
| Actual spend to date: | £130 |
| Provisionally committed spend: | £8,000 |
| Remaining budget: | £7,870 |

- Seeding for Carwood Improvement Project
- Anticipated agreed spend to support Friends of Groups.

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 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/Funding:

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Budget allocation: | £8,000 |
| Actual spend to date: | £4,500 |
| Remaining budget: | £3,500 |

- Community Information and Consultation Project carried out by SOAR
- Contributed to various Parson Cross/Southey Community Events taking place which took place in hosted by SheffCare, Colley Working Men's Club.
- Firth Park Festival contribution to event.
- Providing small grants to organisations to help them become a Welcoming Place.

This is a new priority not previously identified in the approved Community Plan but requested as an addition following a presentation on the cost of living crisis at the last meeting held 25th October 2022. At the meeting in July 2022 a contingency budget of £20,000 was reserved for the delivery of unforeseen priorities and activities. The LAC is now asked to formally agree that responding to the cost of living crisis be identified as a priority for the LAC and that the £20,000 contingency budget be reallocated to this priority.

The fund will be used to provide small grants to help organisations / groups provide a Welcoming Place in partnership with SOAR Let's Build Health grants. Applications will either be made to SOAR who already have an established process for this purpose. SOAR will refer applications that they support but have not funded to the LAC or new applications from organisations / groups will be made directly to the LAC. The Community Services Manager will make a decision to award a grant on consideration of the merits of the application and in consultation with the LAC Chair under the authority delegated to her by the LAC in September 2021 and will notify SOAR of the outcome. This ensures that groups cannot apply to and receive funding from both organisations and maximises use of available funding.

The grant recipients must be operating in the North East LAC Wards and be a local not for profit organisation with a bank account in the organisation's name and at least two signatories who are not related. To ensure the funds are spread out widely and evenly over the LAC area, we may meet to review and limit the amount that is awarded per organisation as applications are received.

Any remaining monies will be spent on other activities which address this priority. Decisions on expenditure will be made by the Community Services Manager under the authority delegated to her by the LAC in September 2021.

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' 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 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.

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.

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.

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.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA 916) was previously carried out in respect of the establishment of Local Area Committees.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

4.2.1 This report concerns expenditure of the LAC's approved budget of £100,000. This budget must not be exceeded.

Procurement of supplies and/or services 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, 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 £20,000 contingency fund remained unallocated to spend, other options such as using the funds to deliver lower priority actions in the eight priorities set out in the Community Plan were considered but the deliverable actions were not considered achievable within the remaining 3 months of 2022/23.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The North East LAC is asked to note the use of funding as per previous decision on 23rd September 2021.

To agree the allocation of the contingency budget to fund cost of living grants that will deliver projects and activities by organisations and groups to address key priority areas identified in the North East Community Plan.

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