



**Author/Lead Officer of Report:** Dave Luck  
North LAC Community Services Manager  
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**Report of:** Community Services Manager  
**Report to:** North Local Area Committee  
**Date of Decision:** 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
**Subject:** North LAC Budget 2023-24

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? 2149				
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 (<b>report/appendix</b>) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (<b>insert relevant paragraph number</b>) 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

- Sets out details of the spend in respect of the initial budget of £100,000 for 2022/23 that has been authorised by the Community Services Manager, in consultation with the LAC Chair and in accordance with the delegation granted in September 2021.
- Describes funding allocated to the LAC for 2023/24 and sets out proposals for its allocation and expenditure for 2023/24 in line with the North LAC plan.

**Recommendations:**

That the North Local Area Committee

- Notes the expenditure against the £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the North LAC in 2022/23, as detailed in the report.
- Agrees the use of the 2023/24 £100,000 LAC budget as described in the report.
- Approves the establishment of two new grant funds of £25,000 each from 2023/24 funds, one to address work with those in greatest need and one to encourage innovative ways of working, as described in the report.
- Authorises the Community Services Manager, in consultation with the Local Area Committee Chair, to finalise the eligibility criteria and make decisions, following engagement with the relevant Ward Members, on the award of grants of up to £5,000 from the two funds,

**Background Papers:**

The North Community Plan is published at:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/community-plans/north-local-area-committee.html>

<b>Lead Officer to complete:-</b>	
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: Kerry Darlow
	Legal: Andrea Simpson
	Equalities: Bev Law
<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	<b>Head of Service who approved submission:</b> Carl Mullooly
3	<b>LAC Chair consulted:</b> Cllr Alan Hooper
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.
	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> Dave Luck
	<b>Job Title:</b> North LAC Community Services Manager

**Date:** 27 June 2023

## 1. PROPOSAL

### 1.1 Background

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.

In 2021 each LAC was allocated an initial budget of £100,000 to be spent in line with their Community plan. The North Lac Community Plan was agreed in March 2022 and the unspent portion of the £100,000 budget was carried forward to 2022/23.

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
- 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. The following spending decision has been taken under the delegation since the previous LAC meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023:

Category	Item	Cost	Date chair consulted
Highways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crossing ahead sign, Stannington Road</li></ul>	£569	28/02/23

Previously reported spend to that meeting was £98,295 leaving a balance of £1705. With this spend a final balance was left of £1136.

## 1.2 2023/24 budget allocation

Full Council resolved at the Budget Meeting in March 2023 that “*additional spending amounting to £25,000 per ward, overseen by ward councillors and delivered through the Local Area Committees process, is provided as an additional spend for 2023/24*”. The LAC may agree that this total £100,000 may be spent across the LAC area as a single budget, or apportion it to benefit each ward, or in some other way (for example, setting aside a share for each ward and pooling the remainder for activities across the LAC area).

Following preliminary conversations with individual North LAC Members it is recommended that this fund is treated as a single LAC wide budget of £100,000. This would enable a strategic approach to spend across the whole LAC area, enabling greater flexibility in responding to need across the area both through LAC wide projects and those targeted at specific geographic areas of need within the LAC.

The following spending decisions, totalling £1580, have been taken by the Community Services Manager under his delegated authority in the 2023/24 financial year:

Category	Item	Cost	Date chair consulted
Highways	• Haggstones Rd ‘slow’ marking.	£697	06/06/2023
	• Wharnccliffe Side site visit	£183	06/06/2023
Environment	Repairs to Loxley valley tapping rail	£700	06/06/2023

## 1.3 2023/24 expenditure

It is proposed to develop two new grant funds of £25,000 each to be allocated in 2023/24 from the total LAC budget of £100,000.

The first grant fund is the ‘North LAC Greatest Need fund’. This contributes to the LAC priority of vibrant community life and the goal in the Community Plan of the North becoming a connected place where people can access what they need to play an active part in their community – within this the fund supports the North LAC’s commitment to supporting those in greatest need.

Grants of up to £5000 will be awarded for those proposing projects that address needs facing residents in the North in areas such as

- Areas of deprivation – the North has a number of pockets in poverty in areas such as High Green and Stocksbridge
- Cost of Living
- Social isolation – the area has a higher than average proportion of

older people and issues with people accessing services due to the distance from the centre of town

- Healthy living
- Community safety

The intention would be to launch the fund in July 2023 with funds awarded between September and December 2023.

Should the fund have unallocated funds at this point, remaining funds will be reallocated to other projects that address priorities within the North LAC plan.

The second fund is the 'North LAC Big Idea Fund'. Grants of up to £5000 will be awarded for those proposing projects that contribute to addressing one of the three LAC priorities:

- Safe roads and effective transport links
- Clean and attractive environment
- Vibrant community life

Applicants should demonstrate new approaches to developing community projects in the North in areas such as:

- Connecting people in the North
- Raising aspirations
- Building community life

As before, the intention would be to launch the fund in July 2023 with funds awarded between September and December 2023 via monthly assessments of applications received as long as funds remain.

Detailed eligibility will be developed for both funds with support from the Voluntary Sector Liaison Team but core criteria will include:

- Activity must take place in the North LAC area.
- The need for a clear evidence base for proposed activity
- Applicants with no track record of delivery in the North of the city will need to demonstrate a sound approach to how they develop a project in the North of the city.
- Applicants will need to demonstrate that existing funds are not already in place for the activity they are applying for.
- The fund will be open to not for profit organisations with a bank account in the organisation's name and at least two signatories who are not related.

It is proposed that the Community Services Manager, in consultation with the LAC Chair, is authorised to finalise the eligibility criteria and make decisions on expenditure relating to the grant applications received as set out above. Bids will be assessed by the LAC team and agreed. Applications will be shared with the relevant Ward Members for comment

in advance of decisions being taken. Expenditure being reported to the next meeting of the LAC.

Should the fund have unallocated funds at the end of the calendar year, remaining funds will be reallocated to other projects that address priorities within the North LAC plan.

Should these funds be agreed committed spend for 2023/24 will be £51,580 leaving a balance of £48,420.

## **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.

Further online and in person consultation is taking place in June and July in order to give Members information to consider any changes required to the LAC and Ward priorities at the September LAC meeting.

## **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 allocated budgets of £100,000 prior to 2023/24 and an additional £100,000 in 2023/24. This budget must not be exceeded.

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, reflecting the committee system of governance, by Full Council at its Annual Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> 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 This report is in line with the previous decision of September 30th 2021 regarding expenditure below £5000 and the North Community Plan agreed on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2022.

Members have the option to consider the budget as four ward budgets of £25,000 but have indicated they do not believe this is a strategic and flexible approach to the budget. Funds will be tracked during the year to ensure a fair approach to meeting need across the whole LAC area with the funds remaining, which give scope for further initiatives, particularly when the community plan is refreshed in September 2023.

An alternative option was not to allocate the level of funding to the two new funds proposed. However, these funds give opportunity for partners to help address key LAC priorities and if suitable bids are not received fund will be able to be reallocated.

## **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The North LAC is asked to note the use of funding as per the previous decision of September 30th 2021 and agree further expenditure to address the identified local priorities.

The approach to the 23/24 budget and new funds proposed provides a strategic and flexible approach to meeting the needs of the North in line with the North community plan.

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