



Author/Lead Officer of Report: Dave Luck
North LAC Community Services Manager
Tel: 07795637875

Report of: Community Services Manager
Report to: North Local Area Committee
Date of Decision: 21st November 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“The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”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 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 as detailed 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 the grant funds proposed of up to £5,000 per project.

Background Papers:

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: Liz Gough
	Legal: Petra Der Man
	Equalities: Ed Sexton
<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 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.
	Lead Officer Name: Dave Luck
	Job Title: North LAC Community Services Manager
	Date: 21 November 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. A new community plan has been drafted for 2023/24 and will be presented at this meeting – once the plan has been agreed this will be the basis for future LAC funding decisions.

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.

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”*. Though not the intention, the effect of this resolution was that these monies were designated Ward Pot budgets. The intention to create LAC budgets has now been put into effect by a decision of the Finance Committee on 11th September 2023 to agree a virement of the full £700,000 into the LAC budget, amounting to £100,000 per LAC. This budget will be spent on projects benefiting all the wards in the North East LAC area.

At its meeting of September 26th 2023 the North LAC Members agreed to treat the four ward budgets of £25,000 as a single LAC budget of

£100,000. The North LAC agreed to establish two new grants funds – the ‘Greatest Need’ fund to address demonstrable needs faced by people and communities in the North and the ‘Big Idea’ fund to enable new approaches to meeting the priorities in the North LAC. Both funds were for an initial £25,000 with bids invited of up to £5000.

The successful applications are set out below. Where funds exceeded £25,000 these costs were met from the wider budget.

Greatest Need fund awards

Group	Project	Funds Agreed
Westwood	"Footsteps" an initiative to train individuals to become volunteer activity leaders to build community activity and alleviate social isolation	£2400
St Pauls, Parson Cross	Funds to support the operation of the Food Bank	£1900
Upper Don Community Energy	Community Warming - project to help the most disadvantage homes stay warmer for cheaper – support for 50 households	£5000
Stocksbridge TARA	New baby & toddler group at the Christian Centre	£2869
High Green Development Trust	Fund weekly toddler group for SEND Children	£2858
Christian Centre, Stocksbridge	Funds to continue the Social Cafe	£5000
Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care (SCCCC)	Volunteer befriender programme across the North	£5000

Big Idea fund awards

Group	Project	Funds Agreed
Sheffield City Trust	Indoor recreation and play session at Stanwood Methodist Church aimed at 5–18-year olds	£5000
Greave House Farm Trust	Create a promotional video to for crowdfunding scheme to build a new barn to support work as a care farm	£1630
Friends of Grenoside Park	Funds towards a concept and landscape plan for Grenoside park	£5000
High Green Development Trust	Pilot "The High Green Hopper" community Mini bus	£4810
Active Regen Community Foundation Ltd	Holiday activity programme and club in High Green, working with 8–13-year-olds	£5000
SLC	To train volunteer drivers to operate a community minibus	£3750

Both of these funds were oversubscribed but in the case of the ‘Greatest Need’ fund we were also able to signpost people towards the new £18,550 ‘Cost of Living’ fund also agreed at the September 26th LAC meeting based on separate funds allocated to the North LAC.

As the ‘Big Idea’ fund also had a greater volume of bids it is proposed to run a second round of the fund allocating a further £25,000 with funds allocated in January 2024.

As before, 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.

The further items to note agreed under delegated powers since the last meeting are:

Item	Cost	Date consulted	chair
• Fox Glen install costs	• £1500	• 14/9	
• Greatest Need additional costs	• £190	• 10/10	
• Big Idea additional costs	• £26	• 10/10	
• Additional youthwork costs	• £1445	• 19/10	
• Bolsterstone speed survey	• £150	• 31/10	

To note the following costs have increased:

- Ops budget £3500
- Tree Guards £1536
- Wharncliffe site visit £274

On this basis, funds allocated are £85,018 and funds remaining for the LAC would be £14,892.

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 took place in summer 2023 in

order to give Members information to agree a new community plan at the September 26th 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.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA 2149) 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.

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.

Another 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 in 2023/24 of £100,000 (£25,000 per ward). These budgets 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, (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.

Pursuant to the Equality Act 2010, ["the Act"] the Council must in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not,
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic those who do not.

There may be relevant equalities implications arising from each determined award.

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 September 26th 2023.

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.

This page is intentionally left blank