



**Author/Lead Officer of Report:** Diane Owens,  
South LAC Community Services Manager

**Report of:** Community Services Manager  
**Report to:** South Local Area Committee  
**Date of Decision:** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
**Subject:** South 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? 2368 (Appendix A)				
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) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (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 for 2023-24 to address local priorities as outlined in its Community Plan, this report:

- Provides an update on expenditure since the last meeting (28<sup>th</sup> November 2023) in line with delegated powers (expenditure up to £5,000); and
- Puts forward proposals for expenditure over £5,000, in line with priorities in the South LAC Community Plan.

**Recommendations:**  
 That the South Local Area Committee:

- Notes the further expenditure up to the £5,000 delegated authority limit.
- Agrees the further project expenditure over £5,000, as detailed in the report:
  - (a) £6,300 for work with the Lowedges community.
  - (b) £10,000 is proposed to support Heeley City Farm with their plan to revitalise and re-build its dementia garden;
  - (c) £6,700 is proposed to support the revitalisation of Highfield Play area.

- Agrees the reallocation of £14,000 underspend from the 2022-23 budget to £3500 per ward to support local street art projects as outlined in the report.

### Background Papers:

- EIA 2368 South LAC Community Plan – Appendix A

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: 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	<b>Head of Service who approved submission:</b> Carl Mullooly
3	<b>LAC Chair consulted:</b> Cllr Simon Clement-Jones
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> Diane Owens
	<b>Job Title:</b> South LAC Community Services Manager
<b>Date:</b> 26/2/24	

## 1. PROPOSAL

### 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.

An updated Community Plan for 2023/24 was agreed at the South LAC meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023. This includes specific actions in terms of providing support for local businesses and shopping districts and supporting communities in terms of the cost of living. The revised Community Plan will form the basis of ongoing LAC funding decisions.

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 LAC 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 LAC meeting.

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

## **1.2 2023/24 budget allocation**

1.2.1 Each LAC has a budget allocation of £100,000 for 2023-24. At the October 2023 meeting the South LAC agreed to treat the overall LAC budget of £100,000 as four ward budgets of £25,000, to be spent in line with South LAC Community Plan priorities.

The South LAC also carried forward £31,930 from its 2022-23 budget. Proposals for spending this money were agreed by the LAC at its meetings in July, October and November 2023 and a further proposal is outlined in this report. This relates to reallocating £14,000 for street art projects, as the proposed mobile CCTV camera project is no longer viable. If approved, this reallocation of £14,000, would mean the underspend is fully accounted for.

A total sum of £400,000 for Cost of Living related work was also allocated to LACs by Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) so that the South LAC's share is £59,610. The LAC agreed proposals for the allocation of this budget in October 2023.

1.2.2 In terms of spend since the last public meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 several decisions have been made under the LAC's delegated authority, these are outlined in the report. Further proposed expenditure over £5,000 is also outlined in this report for approval by the LAC.

1.2.3 Expenditure up to £5,000 since the last meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Under the South LAC Community Plan priority "Communities" and the linked outcomes below.

Outcome: Increase in community events and activities

#### Nether Edge & Sharrow Ward

- Around 15 voluntary and community sector organisations have received small grants of £300-£500 to support a wide range of community activities and events, total allocation £6,985

Under the South LAC Community Plan priority “Environment & Green Spaces” and the linked outcomes below.

#### Outcome: Cleaner / more attractive environment & Reduced levels of litter across the LAC area

#### Nether Edge & Sharrow Ward

- New benches will be installed in both Chelsea Park and Highfield Park, total allocation £2,400

Under the theme “Crime & Community Safety”

#### Outcomes: Reduced levels of crime / ASB & Increased feelings of safety

#### Nether Edge & Sharrow Ward

- CCTV cameras for The Stables, Mount Pleasant which is occupied by Shipshape Health & Wellbeing, to help deter anti-social and criminal activity, total allocation £2,000

#### Outcome: Reduce levels of speeding & Safer roads

#### Nether Edge & Sharrow Ward

- Speed surveys have been undertaken at Ashland Road and Nether Edge Road, total allocation £300

### 1.2.4 Proposed expenditure, over £5,000

Under the South LAC Community Plan priority “Communities” and the linked outcomes below.

#### Outcome: Increase in community engagement and capacity

#### Beauchief & Greenhill Ward

- £6,300 is proposed to work with the Lowedges community to co-design and deliver a project that will help understand local capacity in the voluntary, community and faith sector and support with future planning.

#### Outcome: Increase in community events and activities

#### Gleadless Valley Ward

- £10,000 is proposed to support Heeley City Farm with their plan to revitalise and re-build its dementia garden. The garden will provide a tranquil and inclusive place for those experiencing dementia and their families and friends to come and visit. The

space will also be used for small community events and activities.

#### Nether Edge & Sharrow Ward

- £6,700 is proposed to support the revitalisation of Highfield Play area in Sharrow with new play and gym equipment. The funding will support ongoing efforts to regenerate the park, led by Sharrow Community Forum.

These items of expenditure do not fall within the authority delegated to the Community Services Manager and require approval from the LAC.

#### 1.2.5 2022-23 Budget - Underspend

##### Outcome: Reduced levels of graffiti

#### All 4 Wards

- £3,500 has been allocated to each ward to support new or ongoing street art projects aimed at addressing graffiti hot spots. This funding was originally allocated to fund a mobile CCTV project but as plans developed it was felt the project would not be viable and so it is proposed to reallocate the funds, total allocation £14,000

1.2.6 The financial spend outlined, along with the proposed expenditure, means a remaining balance of around £6,600 for Nether Edge & Sharrow Ward from the 2023-24 budget. The remaining three wards have fully spent their allocations.

## 2. **HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?**

2.1 Local Area Committees directly support Communities and Neighbourhoods and Our Council commitments in the 'Our Sheffield: One Year Plan' and contribute to the priorities in 'Together we Get Things Done, the emerging Sheffield City Council Plan 2024 - 2028, 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 and to target underrepresented groups and engagement activities 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.

Members of the South LAC have further reviewed the Community Plan,

including reflecting on the diverse range of community feedback that members received during the election period and from speaking to voluntary, community and faith sector organisations as appropriate.

This has resulted in two key changes to the plan for 2023-24. The “Employment & Skills” theme has been amended to include business “Employment, Skills & Business” and an additional action has been included which relates to supporting local businesses and shopping districts.

Under the “Communities” theme an action has been added which links to supporting communities in terms of the financial challenges people are experiencing due to the cost of living, with a specific focus on the upcoming winter months.

## **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 The overall impact of the proposals and decisions outlined in this report is likely to be positive and not negatively disproportionate from an equality, diversity and inclusion perspective.**

However, in order to ensure this approach takes into account people who share protected characteristics under the Public Sector Duties priority projects from the Local Area Committee Community Plan is supported by and EIA and appropriate equality monitoring of budget.

#### **4.1.3 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA 2368) has been created and remains a live document. The EIA focusses on the current agreed and proposed projects that could be supported through the 2023-24 South LAC budget. The South LAC will not lead on delivery of most of these projects, its role is usually as a funder, facilitator, or partner. The EIA**

reflects this position.

The EIA has identified a potential disproportionate and positive impact on the following groups: age, both younger and older people and disabled people. This is due to projects focussing on providing extra seating in parks, supporting the development of a local dementia garden and providing further play equipment local young people in a local play area. The EIA has also identified positive impacts in terms of health and cohesion.

The EIA has identified several actions for the South LAC Team to follow up with lead organisations. These mainly relate to communications, engagement and accessibility and inclusion.

The EIA will remain a live document, and so as new projects are identified or agreed the EIA will continue to be reviewed and updated.

#### 4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 This report concerns expenditure of the LAC's allocated budgets. £100,000 has been allocated for 2023-24 (based on £25,000 per ward) and £31,930 which was carried forward from 2022-23. These budgets must not be exceeded.

Procurement of supplies and/or services and the awarding 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 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 The LAC could choose not to allocate budgets at this stage and through its delegated authority, but this would delay local projects and facilities for local communities.

### 6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The South LAC is asked to note the use of funding under its delegated powers and agree the further expenditure outlined in the report, which will help to address local priorities within the South LAC Community Plan.

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