



Author/Lead Officer of Report: Adeel Zahman
Central - Community Services Manager
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Report of: Community Services Manager
Report to: Central Local Area Committee
Date of Decision: 14th March 2024
Subject: Central 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“The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”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>				

<p>Purpose of Report:</p> <p>Each Local Area Committee has a budget to address local priorities. This report describes funding allocated to the LAC for 2023/24 and reports on delegated spending decisions.</p>

Recommendations:

That the Central Local Area Committee:

- Notes the expenditure against the 2023/24 £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the Central LAC Community Plan as detailed in the report.
- Notes the expenditure against the £31,852 Central LAC Cost of Living fund as detailed in the report.

Background Papers:

The Central Community Plan is published at:

[PowerPoint Presentation \(sheffield.gov.uk\)](https://www.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: Adrian Hart
		Legal: Andrea Simpson
		Equalities: Louise Nunn
<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 Brian Holmshaw
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: Adeel Zahman	Job Title: Central LAC Community Services Manager
	Date: 14 March 2024	

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.

The Central LAC Community Plan was agreed in March 2022.

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 Local Area Committee Chair and Committee
- Spending is in line with any specific purposes of the allocated budget
- The Community Services Manager may not approve expenditure of more than £5,000 per individual item.
- 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 meetings of the LAC.

1.2 2021/23 budget

1.2.1 In 2021 each LAC was allocated an initial budget of £100,000 to be spent in line with their Community Plan..

Up to March 2023 the total spend for 2021/23 was £86,868.04, as reported to the LAC at its meeting in October 2023.

1.2.2 An overview of the 2021/23 committed spend £86,868.04 is provided below, broken down by LAC Priority:

Priority	Committed Spend
Transport and Highways	£2,518
Environment	£8,596.17
Community and Neighbourhood	£62,637.87
Community Safety and Crime	£6,116
Business, Employment and Skills	£7,000

The remaining budget of £13,131.96 has been carried forward to 2023/24.

1.3 2023/24 budget allocation

1.3.1 Each LAC has a budget allocation of £100,000 for 2023-24. This budget will be spent on projects benefiting all wards in the Central LAC area.

1.3.2 At its meeting on 3rd October 2023 the Central LAC agreed to use this budget, together with the £13,131.96 underspend carried forward from 2022/23, to create a Central Local Area Committee Fund for 2023/24 for each ward, Awarding grants for projects that contribute to the LAC priorities:

- Transport and Highways
- Environment
- Business and Employment
- Community and Neighbourhoods
- Community Safety and Crime

Ward Members are consulted on the proposal for their ward and decisions on expenditure are made by the Community Services Manager in accordance with the 2021 delegated authority.

1.3.3 Total expenditure of £62,546.24 from this budget was reported to the meeting of the Central LAC in November 2023 leaving remaining funds of £50,585.72 to be used to address priorities in the Community Plan.

1.3.4 Since the last LAC meeting in November 2023, there has been additional spend of £41,238.08. The updated figure for each priority is as follows:

Priority	Committed Spend
Transport and Highways	£16,491.18
Environment	£15,311.41
Community and Neighbourhood	£63,016
Community Safety and Crime	£3,761.96
Business, Employment and Skills	£5,203.77

A detailed breakdown of total spend in 2023/24 will be presented to the first LAC meeting in the new municipal year.

Total Spend in 2023/24: £103,784.32

Remaining Budget: £9,347.64 to address priorities in the Community Plan

1.4 Cost of Living Spend

1.4.1 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 Central LAC's share is £63,704. The LAC agreed proposals for the allocation of this budget in November 2023.

At its meeting of 29th November 2023, the Central LAC agreed the use of the 2023/24 LAC Cost of Living budget (£63,704) as follows: 50% of the Central allocation (£31,852) is awarded as a grant to Citizens Advice Sheffield to support its advice line with the remaining 50% (£31,852) used to create a new Central Cost of Living fund.

1.4.2 The projects funded through this were as follows:

Organisation	Project	Funding agreed
S6 Foodbank	Food parcels x 3 LAC Wards	£3,591
Rivelin & Co	Subsidised Art Classes Share / Repair sessions	£4,250
RIVA	Cost of Living Support	£500
ZEST	Key Worker Costs	£4,500
Trinity Methodist Church	Cost of Living Support	£500
Winn Gardens	Cost of Living Support	£1,000
Zest	Cost of Living Consultations	£3,100
ISRAAC	Extension to FGM Sessions	£1,000
Hannover TARA	Coffee Mornings	£750.00
Zest	IT equipment	£1,563
Unity Gym	Food Parcels / Hot Meals	£1,500
Zest	Staffing – Community Compass	£3,900
Somali Homework Club	Running Costs	£1,000
TOTAL		£27,154

1.4.3 The remaining funds of £4,698 will be committed to support Cost of Living projects across Central LAC areas.

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' 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; engagement activity with representative organisations and in-person meetings. Further consultation has been taking place over the summer in community settings.

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 in person and online consultation is taking place in order to give Members information to consider any changes required to the LAC and Ward priorities at the next LAC Meeting in 2024/25.

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 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.

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 £100,000 (£25,000 per ward) and £63,704 (cost of living) in 2023/24. 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, 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 Decisions on any expenditure above the existing authority to the Community Services Manager could be reserved to the LAC but this would inevitably delay delivery of priority actions to address specific issues identified in the Community Plan.

All decisions on expenditure to support Community Plan priorities could be delegated to officers. However, this would restrict and undermine the LAC's ability to monitor its delegated budget and delivery of the Community Plan.

6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The use of funding described in this report is in line with the LAC decisions of October and November 2023 regarding expenditure of its 2023/24 budgets and helps to address identified local priorities.

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