

Agenda Item 10



Author/Lead Officer of Report:

Jayne Foulds South East LAC Community Services Manager

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Report of: Community Services Manager
Report to: South East Local Area Committee
Date of Decision: September 12th 2024
Subject: South East LAC Budget 2024-25

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? 2736				
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“The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”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 the proposed approach to funding allocated to the LAC for 2024/25.

Recommendations:

That the South East Local Area Committee:

- Agrees the recommendations set out for use of the 2024/25 budget to address local priorities in the South East 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.
- 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 £10,000
 - A report detailing the delegated spending decisions taken by the Community Services Manager is presented to the next Local Area Committee meeting.

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: 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 Gail Smith
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: Jayne Foulds	Job Title: South East LAC Community Services Manager
Date: 12 September 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.

An updated Community Plan was agreed at the September 2023 North LAC meeting.

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
- 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 Proposal

1.2.1 Funding delegated by the Council to LACs in 2024/25 amounts to £100,000 per LAC (£25 000 per ward). Following consultation with South East LAC Members it is proposed that this budget should be treated a whole South East LAC budget of £100,000 to address issues identified in the South East Community Plan. The following areas of expenditure are proposed from the £100,000 budget.

1.2.2 **Crime and Community Safety theme:** £50,000 allocated for projects and schemes that address crime and community safety. This also includes the opportunity for community groups and local residents to submit applications for local small scale grants from this theme allocation. Applicants will be invited to complete an application form setting out the benefits their proposed project would provide in meeting the Crime and Community Safety theme for the South East LAC.

- 1.2.3 **Environmental theme:** £17,000 allocated for projects and schemes that address environmental projects and issues in the SE area. This will also include the opportunity for local community groups and local residents to submit applications for small scale grants from this theme allocation. Applicants will be invited to complete an application form setting out the benefits their proposed project would provide in meeting the Environmental theme for the South East LAC.
- 1.2.4 **Health and Well Being:** £15,000 allocated for projects and schemes that address health and well being issues within the SE area. This will include the opportunity for local community groups and local residents to submit applications for small scale grants from this theme allocation. Applicants will be invited to complete an application form setting out the benefits their proposed project would provide in meeting the Health and Well Being theme for the South East LAC.
- 1.2.5 **Children and Families:** £15,000 allocated for projects and schemes that address children and families issues within the SE area. This will include the opportunity for local community groups and local residents to submit applications for small scale grants from this theme allocation. Applicants will be invited to complete an application form setting out the benefits their proposed project would provide in meeting the Children and families theme for the South East LAC.
- 1.2.6 **Administrative cost:** A £3000 operations budget for ongoing, practical LAC expenditure.

Together the proposed sums would total spend of £100,000 of the LAC project budget. Should any allocated theme have unallocated funds at the end of the calendar year, remaining funds will be reallocated to other projects that address priorities within the South East LAC Community Plan.

- 1.2.7 An application process for grants from these funds will be developed by the LAC Manager in consultation with the LAC Chair. The intention is for applicants to complete an initial form and for eligible applicants to then present their project to a panel of Councillors. Core criteria for each fund will include:
- Activity must take place in the South East LAC area.
 - The need for a clear evidence base for proposed activity
 - Applicants with no track record of delivery in the South East of the city will need to demonstrate a sound approach to how they develop a project in the South East of the city.
 - Applicants will need to demonstrate that existing funds are not already in place for the activity they are applying for.
 - The grant scheme 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.

As was the case for the grant funds established under the 2023/24 LAC budget, it is proposed that authority be delegated to the Community Services Manager, in consultation with the LAC Chair, to finalise the eligibility criteria and make decisions, following engagement with the relevant Ward Members, on the award of the above grant funds proposed of up to £5,000 per application. Expenditure will be reported to the next meeting of the LAC.

- 1.2.8 There may be projects or schemes proposed within any priority theme for which the anticipated expenditure is more than £5,000. In order to enable financial decisions to be made more quickly, given the delays caused by the two pre-election periods (local election and general election) it is recommended that the level of expenditure that can be approved by the Community Services Manager in consultation with the LAC Chair under the delegated authority described above at paragraph 1.1.2 is increased to sums up to £10,000. All other conditions would remain the same.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

- 2.1 This decision directly contributes to the following outcomes in 'Together we Get Things Done, the Sheffield City Council Plan 2024 - 2028:
- Great neighbourhoods that people are happy to call home – LACs work with communities to improve the places and spaces that make neighbourhoods great places to live and be active
 - People live in caring, engaged communities that value diversity and support their wellbeing – LACs work with communities to build engagement into the way we work so that we listen better and work together to find shared solutions

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 the new community plan that was agreed at the September 26th 2023 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.

4.1.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA 2736) 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.

4.1.3 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 in 2024/ 25 of £100,000 (£25,000 per ward).

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.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The LAC could choose not to allocate budgets at this stage but this would delay local projects and facilities for local communities.

Decisions on grant awards 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 South East LAC is asked to agree the further expenditure and proposed use of funding under delegated authority outlined in the report to address the identified local priorities within the South East LAC Community Plan.