

Agenda Item 7



Author/Lead Officer of Report: Dave Luck
South LAC Community Services Manager
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Report of: Community Services Manager
Report to: South Local Area Committee
Date of Decision: December 3rd 2024
Subject: South LAC Budget 2024-25

Has appropriate consultation been undertaken? Yes No

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken? Yes No

If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? 2787

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-

*“The (**report/appendix**) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (**insert relevant paragraph number**) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”*

Purpose of Report:

Each Local Area Committee has a £100,000 budget to address local priorities. This report sets out the spending decisions made by the Community Services Manager in consultation with the LAC Chair and in accordance with the delegation granted by the South LAC at its meeting in October 2024.

Recommendations:

That the South Local Area Committee notes the funds spent under delegated powers since the October 2024 South LAC 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: Jason Siddall
3	LAC Chair consulted: 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.
	Lead Officer Name: Dave Luck
	Job Title: South LAC Community Services Manager
Date: 3rd December 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 for 2023/24 was agreed at the South LAC meeting on 12th 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 certain decisions on expenditure. At its meeting on October 1st 2024 this delegation was reviewed 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). The Community Services Manager is now authorised 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 per item.
- A report detailing the delegated spending decisions taken by the Community Services Manager is presented to the next Local Area Committee meeting.

1.1.3 Funding delegated by Full Council to LACs in 2024/25 amounts to £100,000 per LAC. At its meeting on October 1st 2024 the South LAC agreed to use its £100,000 allocation to provide £25,000 per ward to develop projects in line with the South LAC Community Plan.

1.1.4 Since the previous LAC meeting the following expenditure has been approved under the delegation set out above:

Ward	Activity	Amount	Date chair consulted
Graves Park	Cost of Living sessions	£6733	29/10/24
	Woodseats High Street work	£10,000	29/10/24
Gleadless Valley	Cost of Living sessions	£6733	29/10/24
	Holy Cross Foodbank	£5000	29/10/24
Beauchief & Greenhill	Cost of Living sessions	£6733	29/10/24
Nether Edge & Sharrow	Cost of Living sessions	£6733	29/10/24

Based on this expenditure the total expenditure to date is £44,432 leaving a balance of £55,568

Nether Edge & Sharrow has an additional £2911 to reallocate from 2023/24 funds carried forward into 2024/25.

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 Citizen space 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.

The review of the Community Plan in October 2023, taking into account community feedback, resulted in two key changes to the plan for 2023-24. The “Employment & Skills” theme was amended to include business “Employment, Skills & Business” and an additional action was included which relates to supporting local businesses and shopping districts.

Under the “Communities” theme an action was 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 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.

4.1.2 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.

- 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 None. Spending decisions made by the Community Services Manager under the authority delegated by the LAC in October 2024 are required to be reported to the next LAC meeting so that the LAC can monitor its delegated budget and delivery of the Community Plan.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The South LAC is asked to note delegated decisions in respect of LAC funding to address the identified local priorities within the South LAC Community Plan.

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