

**Author/Lead Officer of Report:**

Lindsey Hill, North East LAC Community Services Manager

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Report of: Community Services Manager

Report to: North East Local Area Committee

Date of Decision: 26th July 2022

Subject: Report of North East LAC proposed spending 2022-23

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? *(Insert reference number)*

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*“The **(report/appendix)** is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph **(insert relevant paragraph number)** of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”*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, identified within their respective Community Plans. This report sets out details of the proposed spending in respect of this £100,000 during the 2022/23 financial year. This report gives an overview of the general categories of proposed expenditure and seeks authorisation from the North East Local Area Committee to permit the Community Services Manager, in consultation with the LAC Chair, to spend monies to address identified priorities within the Community Plan.

Recommendations:

That the North East Local Area Committee:

(i) Notes the proposed allocations from the £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the North East LAC Community Plan in 2022/23, as detailed in the report.

(ii) To the extent that it is not covered by existing authority, authorises the Community Services Manager, following further consultation as described in the report, to make decisions on expenditure relating to the priorities set out in the report provided that:

- The decision is taken in consultation with the Local Area Committee Chair,
- The decision may not approve expenditure in excess of the allocated budget for each priority set out in the report, and
- A report detailing the delegated spending decisions taken by the Community Services Manager is presented to the next Local Area Committee meeting.

Background Papers:

The North East Community Plan is published at:

[North East Local Area Committee Community Plan \(sheffield.gov.uk\)](http://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: Kayleigh Inman
	Legal: Andrea Simpson
	Equalities: Adele Robinson
<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 Fran Belbin
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: Lindsey Hill
	Job Title: North East LAC Community Services Manager
	Date: 26 July 2022

1. PROPOSAL

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.

Each LAC was allocated an initial budget of £100,000 under an executive decision by the Leader of the Council on 17th August 2021. This money is to be spent in line with the Community Plan. As the Community Plan was not finalised until late in the 2021/22 financial year very little of this budget has been spent across the LACs and it has been carried forward to the current financial year.

To enable decisions to be taken quickly and to respond to emerging issues between Committee meetings, in September 2021 the LAC authorised the Community Services Manager to make decisions on expenditure 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, and
- A report detailing the delegated spending decisions taken by the Community Services Manager is presented to the next Local Area Committee meeting.

1.2 The North East Sheffield Local Area Committee (LAC) developed a Community Plan through consultation with residents, community groups and other stakeholders in North East Sheffield.

These consultations have helped identify key priorities within the North East area, which will inform actions to take to address issues that matter most to residents. The key priorities highlighted in the Plan are:

- Business, Employment & Skills
- Health & Wellbeing
- Environment
- Children, Young Residents & Families
- Community Safety & Crime
- Transport & Highways
- Parks & Open Spaces
- Our Community & Your Home

At a meeting of the North East LAC held on 22nd March 2022, the LAC approved the Community Plan.

To enable decisions to be taken quickly and deliver priority actions to address specific issues identified in the Plan, this report presents an overview of anticipated spending during 2022/23 against priorities.

Priority 1: Business, Employment & Skills

Action: Improve and support new and existing businesses, support and improve digital inclusion and skills for employment for residents

Overview: This theme priority focuses improving local businesses and supporting residents across the North East LAC to develop the right skills to thrive. The approaches used will be working with local businesses to identify their needs and further support required, build a solid network foundation of businesses forums, identify where the need for digital inclusion is and how skills can be enhanced and developed for employment.

Outcome / Impact

- Improvement of local shopping areas and the provision of amenities
- Increase support to new and existing businesses
- Increase peoples access to digital inclusion and skills
- Improve people's skills for employment

Budget allocation: £4,000

The North East LAC will have further conversations with businesses, partners and the local voluntary, community, and faith (VCF) sector to inform our approach to this priority, this could include exploring opportunities for match funding. We have held a workshop with services and partners to start to collate contacts and groups information and started to create a residents user group. The budget allocation will be used to fund a project and action plan to manage and deliver this priority.

Priority 2: Health & Wellbeing

Action: Improving health and wellbeing of residents

Overview: The theme priority focuses on helping and supporting residents across the North East LAC to live happy and healthy lives through providing more support and raising awareness, joining up services and promoting them and communicating activities in the area that help resident live healthy lifestyles. The approaches used will be to assess the need of residents and identify the gaps in support and services by working and holding conversations with partners, residents, and services across the area.

Outcome / Impact:

- Increased awareness of support available
- Increased support to carers
- Increased activities and facilities for residents

Budget allocation: £8,000

The North East LAC will hold conversations and gather intelligence with services, partners and VCF groups to further inform our approach to this priority. We have already held a workshop with services and partners to start to gain intelligence and share ideas and started to create a residents user group. The budget allocation will be used to fund a project and action plan to manage and deliver this priority.

Priority 3: Environment

Action: Clean up and regenerate hot spot areas across the North East LAC

Overview: The theme priority focuses on improving the and environment making it greener, cleaner, and safer for residents. The approach will be to work with services and partners to identify areas across the North East that require enhancement and regeneration. We will then deliver pilots/projects on improving street scene, supporting volunteers, carrying out educational and awareness campaigns on recycling/environmental friendliness and environmental health. We will explore rolling out some of the good practices being delivered by the Page Hall Neighbourhood Project.

Outcome / Impact:

- Reduced levels of litter and fly tipping
- Cleaner / more attractive environment
- Increased use of area by local community
- Increase in environment health and living standards

Budget allocation: £16,000

The North East LAC will identify areas for enhancement using the information available and by having discussions with services, partners and VCF groups to gather information and consult on the development of a pilot and project. We have already held a workshop with services and partners to start to do this and started to create a residents user group. The budget allocation will be used to fund a project and action plan to manage and deliver this priority.

Priority 4: Children, Young Residents & Families

Action: Review activities, provision and support for children, younger residents and families and identify their needs/requirements

Overview: This theme priority focuses on the current activities, provision and support that children, younger residents (youths) and families have in the area and identify gaps across the North East LAC that prevents children and younger residents thriving. The approach will be to work with Youth Services, Family hubs, partners and VCF sectors to try and ensure that the provision is targeted and meets the needs of young people. Also ensuring they have the best opportunities and skills to become successful adults.

Outcome / Impact:

- Increase activities and provision and ensure they are meeting needs

- Improve the aspirations and positive role models for younger residents
- Increase in life skills and support provided for parents and families

Budget allocation: £20,000

The North East LAC will hold further conversation with residents, Youth Services, Family hubs, partners and VCF sectors and the Youth Cabinet to gather information and intelligence on the current offer of provision and activities. The project will review whether this meets the needs and the ask of children, younger residents, and families. We have already held a workshop with services and partners to start to do this and started to create a residents user group. The budget allocation will be used to fund a project and action plan to manage and deliver this priority.

Priority 5: Community Safety & Crime

Action: Community safety

Overview: This theme priority focuses on residents' safety and their perception of this and safer communities, that supports vulnerable residents and victims. The approach is to seek gather information and further consultation to identify ways to increase residents' confidence in policing and tackle anti-social behaviour. The North East LAC will align priorities to ensure we deliver joined up services, raise awareness of how to be safer and carry out intervention and prevention initiatives.

Outcome / Impact:

- Increase visibility of Police and partners working in community safety
- Align the priorities with the Community Safety Plan
- Increase support to vulnerable residents and victims of crime and abuse

Budget allocation: £4,000

The North East LAC will hold further conversations with Police, Community Safety and ASB Teams, services, VCF sectors and residents to gain information, data, and intelligence to inform the approach to tackle anti-social behaviour, crime, and perceptions of Police. We will also identify gaps in support for vulnerable people. We have already held a workshop with services and partners to start to do this and started to create a residents user group. The budget allocation will be used to fund a project and action plan to manage and deliver this priority.

Priority 6: Transport & Highways

Action: Tackle poor parking, unsafe roads and the way people travel

Overview: This theme priority focuses on tackling speeding and improving road safety, including parking, improving the way people can travel and the lifestyles they lead. The approach is to work with Transport & Highways, services, Police, VCF sectors and residents to identify which roads are

unsafe and how we can promote safer and healthier travel in the community. The project will develop initiatives to tackle unsafe roads, poor parking, active travel and consult on transport links and around the LAC area.

Outcome / Impact:

- Improve road safety
- Increase active travel
- Improve poor parking

Budget allocation: £4,000

The North East LAC will hold further conversations with Police, Community Safety, services, VCF sectors and residents to inform the approach and scope of the project. We have already booked a workshop in with services and partners to start to do this and started to create a residents user group. The budget allocation will be used to fund a project and action plan to manage and deliver this priority.

Priority 7: Parks and open spaces

Action: To improve park, green and open spaces

Overview: This theme priority focuses on the enhancement, regeneration and to improve parks and open spaces across the North East LAC area. The approach used will be strength-based working with Parks & Countryside and SCC services to identify open spaces that could be better used and improved. We will ask residents for ideas on how to deliver the priority and what they would like to see us deliver.

Outcome / Impact:

- Increase use of the area by the local community
- Increase use of parks and open spaces and the offer of facilities and activities
- Protect heritage and wildlife in open spaces and parks

Budget allocation: £16,000

The North East LAC will hold further conversations with Parks & Countryside, other services, partners, VCF sectors and residents to identify open spaces and parks that require improvement or that could be better used by the community, seeking ideas to form the approach and actions of the project.

Priority 8: Our Community and Your Home

Action: Community capacity building

Overview: This theme priority focuses on building capacity and infrastructure within the North East LAC. The approaches used will be based on the needs of the area and could include, community planning, investing in community leaders and volunteers, supporting community led activities, developing community assets, and improving community

engagement, linked to voice and influence. The project will use a strength-based approaches to working with local people and organisations.

Outcome / Impact:

- Increase community engagement and capacity
- Increase in community events and activities
- Increase in community assets

Budget allocation: £8,000

The North East LAC will have further conversations with the local VCF sector to inform our approach to this priority, this could include opportunities to match fund. We have already booked a workshop in with services and partners to start to do this and started to create a residents' user/VCF group. The budget allocation will be used to fund a project and action plan to manage and deliver this priority.

This gives a total initial budget allocation of £80,000 leaving the North East LAC with £20,000 to allocate as a contingency for the delivery of any priorities and activities that are unforeseen in the creation and delivering of the project.

- 1.3 Some of the proposed expenditure will fall within the Community Service Manager's current authorised spending limit. There will however be occasions when expenditure will exceed £5,000 and so would require a decision by the LAC to proceed, but to wait until the next meeting of the LAC would cause undue delay to the project.

To enable decisions to be taken quickly and to deliver priority actions to address specific issues identified in the Plan, it is therefore proposed that, to the extent that it is not already covered by existing authority, the Community Services Manager is authorised to make decisions on expenditure relating to the priorities set out in the paragraphs 1.2 above provided that a decision may not approve expenditure in excess of the allocated budget for each priority set out in the section.

This authorisation would be subject to the conditions on consultation with the LAC Chair and expenditure being reported to the next meeting of the LAC set out in paragraph 1.1 above.

Reports detailing the activities funded and the exact amounts of expenditure under each themed priority will be brought to each Local Area Committee meeting during 2022/23, as spending is incurred.

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.

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.

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.

An 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 approved budget of £100,000. This budget must not be exceeded.

Procurement of supplies and/or services and any 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 delay delivery of priority actions to address specific issues identified in the Community Plan.
- 5.2 All decisions on expenditure to support Community Plan priorities could be delegated to officers. However, this would restrict the LAC's ability to monitor its delegated budget and delivery of the Community Plan.

6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The North East LAC is asked to note the broad allocation of funding under the priority headings identified to assist its ability to monitor its budget, and to authorise the Community Services Manager to approve expenditure above the current delegated authority in certain circumstances so that delivery of the Community Plan is not delayed.