



**Author/Lead Officer of Report:**  
Dawn Shaw, Director, Communities

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**Report of:** Executive Director of People Services  
**Report to:** Leader of the Council  
**Date of Decision:** 17 August 2021  
**Subject:** Local Area Budgets: Extra Money for Communities

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
- Affects 2 or more Wards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Which Executive Member Portfolio does this relate to? Leader of the Council		
Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to? Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? <i>(Insert reference number)</i>		
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"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."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:**

At its Extraordinary Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Full Council agreed to establish seven Local Area Committees and approved in principle proposals concerned with empowering communities including that the Administration would provide extra money for communities at ward level:

- Doubling Ward Pots
- Providing an additional £100k to each Local Area Committee to be spent, in line with the community plan, on helping with the localised rebuilding post-Covid
- Providing an extra £100K to each Local Area Committee to tackle fly tipping

& graffiti

This report sets out these proposals in more detail and seeks authority for the allocation of these budgets.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Leader of the Council:

Approves the use of reserves for 2021/22 as set out in the report to:

- (a) Double the Ward Pot allocation to each Ward from that provided for in the Council's Annual Budget;
- (b) Provide a budget of £100, 000 to each Local Area Committee to be spent, in line with the community plan, on helping with the localised rebuilding post-Covid;
- (c) Allocate a further £200,000 to the city-wide fly tipping and graffiti project to enable problems to be tackled in each Local Area Committee area

**Background Papers:**

None.

<b>Lead Officer to complete:-</b>	
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: Liz Gough
	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	<b>EMT member who approved submission:</b> John Macilwraith, Executive Director of People Services
3	<b>Executive Member consulted:</b> Cllr Terry Fox, Leader of the Council
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 EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.
	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> Dawn Shaw
	<b>Job Title:</b> Director, Communities

**Date:** 27/7/21

## 1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1 At its Extraordinary Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Full Council agreed to establish seven Local Area Committees and approved in principle proposals concerned with empowering communities including that the Administration would provide extra money for communities at ward level:
- (d) Doubling Ward Pots
  - (e) Providing an additional £100k to each Local Area Committee to be spent, in line with the community plan, on helping with the localised rebuilding post-Covid
  - (f) Providing an extra £100K to each Local Area Committee to tackle fly tipping & graffiti

This report sets out these proposals in more detail and seeks authority for the allocation of these budgets.

### **Doubling Ward Pots**

Ward Pots are ward based discretionary budgets established in 2013. They aim to support stronger, successful communities by making grants available to local voluntary, community, and self-help groups and projects that want to make a difference in their local community and which contribute to at least one of the Ward priorities. The Director of Communities has delegated authority to determine how each ward's budget is spent but the delegation must be exercised in close consultation with the elected Members for the ward concerned.

The proposal to double the Ward Pot allocation to each Ward does not change the way that decisions are made on spending but will double the money available for each ward to spend on its priorities. Ward Pot spending will be reported to the Local Area Committee for information and so that any common themes can be identified. Proposals for joint initiatives across wards may be presented to the Local Area Committee for guidance.

### **Providing an additional £100,000 to each Local Area Committee**

The Terms of Reference for Local Area Committees include that they agree a Community Plan setting priorities for the area of the committee, and make decisions relating to funding as delegated from time to time by the Leader and/or Executive to fit with the priorities set out in the Community Plan and following engagement with the community.

It is proposed that each Local Area Committee be allocated a budget of £100,000 to be spent in line with the priorities for the area identified in the Community Plan as described in the Terms of Reference. In line with the commitment to Ful Council this will help to facilitate localised rebuilding post-Covid

### **Fly tipping and Graffiti**

Fly tipping and graffiti are city-wide issues. Multiple services in the

council have a role in fly tip removal and prevention, and several have a role in graffiti removal. A project team was set up to tackle both issues city-wide, for an initial 2-year period, and up to £500,000 allocated to the project through the Council's Capital Investment Fund (CIF). Some of this money has already been spent or allocated for centralised costs including staffing and resources. This activity began prior to, and was not connected to, the establishment of Local Area Committees.

The proposal to provide additional money to Local Area Committees to tackle fly tipping and graffiti is that a further £200,000 is allocated to the city-wide project to bring the total budget to £700,000, representing a nominal share of the total project budget of £100,000 per Local Area Committee.

The fly tipping and graffiti project team will work with each Local Area Committee to assess and prioritise the top hotspots for fly tipping and graffiti and agree potential solutions with the Committees.

## **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 and the communities they serve need dedicated budgets.

## **3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?**

- 3.1 There has been no consultation on this decision, and none is required. Any decisions made by Local Area Committees must be informed by community engagement. In respect of Ward Pots, ward priorities have been identified through earlier public consultation.

## **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.

We have undertaken an initial impact assessment and determined that at this stage a full impact assessment is not required (962).

The overall impact of this decision is likely to be positive from an equality, diversity and inclusion perspective. Local communities will have a far 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 perspective as well.

However, in order to ensure this approach takes into account people who share protected characteristics under the Public Sector Duties each Local Area Committee Plan undertaken will also be supported by equality monitoring and an Equality Impact Assessment.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA 916) was also carried out in respect of the establishment of Local Area Committees.

## 4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

4.2.1 The cost of these proposals in total equates to £1,130,000 of which the constituent parts are broken down as follows:

- £700,000 in order to allocate £100,000 per Local Area Committee;
- £230,000 additional funding to facilitate the doubling of Ward Pots, and,
- £200,000 to increase the Council's city-wide fly tipping & graffiti budget.

The existing £230,000 allocated to Ward Pots and the initial allocation of the £500,000 fly tipping budget were accounted for in the Council's Annual Budget. The Budget was set before Local Area Committees were established and so did not provide for any additional spending by those committees. It is therefore proposed that the additional allocations set out in this report, totalling £1,130,000, be funded from Reserves.

## 4.3 Legal Implications

4.3.1 There are no direct legal implications of this decision but (as was the case for Ward Pots) Local Area Committees can only make decisions regarding spending any budgets allocated to them to the extent that functions are delegated to them by the Executive or Full Council. It is proposed that, following consultation with the Local Area Committee

Chairs group, an amendment to the Leader's Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions is presented to the Leader for approval setting out proposals for matters to be delegated to Local Area Committees.

The legal implications of any future decisions by Local Area Committees will be considered in reports to them at that time.

## **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 To effectively empower communities, Local Area Committees need to have dedicated budgets and delegated powers, otherwise they will have little ability to drive change and implement solutions that address locally identified issues.

## **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 Through the establishment of Local Area Committees, we want people and communities in every part of Sheffield to be in control and shape the decisions and issues which matter to them and their area. As a City Council, we recognise that we need to match the knowledge, passion and insight that Sheffielders have for their local areas with the ability to take decisions at the local level which can deliver real change. Local Area Committees need to have dedicated funding to achieve this.

The proposed funding allocations to Local Area Committees, outlined above, will ensure that this ambition is achieved.