



Author/Lead Officer of Report: Adeel Zahman,
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Report of: Community Services Manager
Report to: Central Local Area Committee
Date of Decision: 13th July 2022
Subject: Report of Central 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*“The **(report/appendix)** is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph **(insert relevant paragraph number)** of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”*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 Central 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 Central Local Area Committee:

(i) Notes the proposed anticipated expenditure against the £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the Central LAC Community Plan in 2022/23, as detailed in the report, be noted.

(ii) To the extent that it is not covered by existing authority, authorises the Community Services Manager 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 on any element in excess of the anticipated limit for that element 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 Central Community Plan is published at:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/community-plans/central-local-area-committee>

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:	Lorraine Wood
3	LAC Chair consulted:	Cllr Bernard Little
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: 13 th 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 Central Sheffield Local Area Committee (LAC) developed a Community Plan through consultation with residents, community groups and other stakeholders in Central Sheffield.

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

- Transport and Highways
- Environment
- Community and Neighbourhoods
- Community Safety and Crime
- Business employment and Skills

At a meeting of the Central LAC held on 21st 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 & Element	Anticipated Expenditure	Comments
Transport & Highways		
1. Funding for transport and highways projects for each ward	Up to £8,000 (£2,000 per ward)	Each ward to be allocated £2,000 to implement specific transport and highways projects.
2. Community Speed initiatives including purchase of a Speed Gun	Up to £10,000	Work with SYP and community groups to highlight and tackle speeding vehicles in the Central area.
3. Contingency Fund	Up to £4,000	To further support and develop ideas and projects highlighted within the Transport and Highways theme of the plan. These could include Good / Bad parking schemes, additional Vehicle Activated Signs and support other community projects.
TOTAL	£22,000	
Environment		
1). Projects that tackle fly-tipping, waste.	Up to £25,000	Projects could include environmental awareness campaigns, installation of new litter bins, street art and other projects linked to the Central LAC priorities.
TOTAL	£25,000	

Community and Neighbourhoods.		
1. Projects tackling local neighbourhood issues i.e. loneliness and isolation.	Up to £5,000	Projects could include promoting health and wellbeing and social exclusion, friendships groups.
2. Projects that help to alleviate financial pressures on household budgets with the cost of living.	Up to £11,000	Projects could include supporting local foodbanks and activities for families in each ward.
3. Organising community weeks of action per ward.	Up to £8,000	Projects could include working with local groups and partners to provide additional cleaning, targeting fly tipping and community cohesion initiatives
4. Installation of community notice boards	Up to £4,000	Project could include reviewing notice boards and working with local groups to provide the upkeep and maintenance to inform local people on activities in their areas.
5. Financial support to grassroots agencies to promote health and wellbeing / activities for children and young people	Up to £8,000	Projects could include funding to support to groups on community events / activities for local people for community cohesion and better health and wellbeing
TOTAL	£36,000	
Community Safety & Crime		

1. Tackling the perceived fear of crime.	Up to £4,000	Safety awareness campaigns to be launched with community safety and South Yorkshire Police
2. Increased participation of community groups i.e. Neighbourhood watch	Up to £5,000	Support and develop projects that include local resident and community group ownership to tackle crime.
Total	£9,000	
Business, Employment and Skills		
1. Organising localised career fairs.	Up to £4,000	Projects could include working with local people, providers and community groups to host employment opportunities in each ward.
2. Supporting local business opportunities, forums and local small start ups	Up to £4,000	Project to include working local businesses to support start ups working with stakeholders.
TOTAL	£8,000	
COMBINED TOTAL OF ANTICIPATED SPENDING FROM £100,000 BUDGET	£100,000	

Given that the actual expenditure may differ in amount to the figures anticipated above, reports detailing the exact amounts of expenditure under the above headings will be brought to each Local Area Committee meeting during 2022/23, as spending is incurred.

- 1.3 Much of the proposed expenditure will fall within the Community Service Manager's current authorised spending limit. There may however be occasions when the proposal for an item of expenditure exceeds £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 table above provided that a decision may not approve expenditure in excess of the anticipated limit for the element in question set out in the table above. 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.

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.

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 Central 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.

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