



Author/Lead Officer of Report: Tania Bustamante, South West LAC Community Services Manager
Tel: 07879 114097

Report of: Community Services Manager
Report to: South West Local Area Committee
Date of Decision: 10th January 2023
Subject: Report of South West LAC 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"The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."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 spend in respect of this £100,000 that has been authorised by the Community Services Manager, in consultation with the LAC Chair and in accordance with the delegation granted in September 2021.

There is an underspend in expenditure to the figures that were anticipated for the 2022/23 South West LAC priority actions. This report provides an overview of the proposal to establish grant funds and seeks authorisation from the South West Local Area Committee to permit the Community Services Manager, in consultation with the LAC Chair, to make decisions on grant payments from those funds to address the identified priorities within the Community Plan.

Recommendations:

That the South West Local Area Committee

(i) Notes the expenditure against the £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the South West LAC in 2022/3, as detailed in the report.

(ii) Agrees that the surplus for reallocation identified in the report and any underspend of funds is added to the outstanding balance and used to fund grants for organisations and groups to address local priorities in the South West LAC Community Plan 2022/23, as described in the report.

(iii) To the extent that it is not covered by existing authority, authorises the Community Services Manager, having first consulted with ward councillors on the grant applications, to determine how the grant funds described in the report are spent and make awards of grants, 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 South West Community Plan is published at:

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

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: Ann Hardy
	Legal: Andrea Simpson
	Equalities: Bashir Khan
<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 Andrew Sangar
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: Tania Bustamante	Job Title: South West LAC Area Manager
Date: 3rd January 2023	

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 was 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 was spent across the LACs and it was 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 South West Sheffield Local Area Committee (LAC) developed a Community Plan through consultation with residents, community groups and other stakeholders in South West Sheffield.

These consultations have helped identify key priorities within the South West 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;
- Local Environment, and
- Community and Neighbourhoods.

At a meeting of the South West LAC held on 17 March 2022, the LAC approved the Community Plan. On 14 July 2022 the LAC was informed of proposed anticipated expenditure in respect of various elements to address those priorities and gave further authority to the Community Services Manager to make decisions on that expenditure.

An overview of the anticipated spending against priorities and the actual spending decision(s) that have been taken to date is outlined in the table below.

Priority & Element	Anticipated Expenditure	Actual Expenditure to date	Comments
Transport & Highways			
1). Funding for transport and highways projects for each ward;	Up to £10,000	£0	Specific smaller transport and highways projects are being assessed and costed; we anticipate that up to £10,000 will be spent under this element.
2). Community Speed Watch initiatives	Up to £5,000	£4,065	Purchase of a speed gun.
3). Active Travel initiatives;	Up to £15,000	£15,000	Up to 19 new cycle parking stands to be installed.
4). Potential collective Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for double yellow line implementation;	Up to £10,000	£10,000	Potentially one double yellow line scheme per ward (4 in total)
5). Signage for schools re: no idling.	Up to £10,000	£0	No requirements to date. We do not anticipate any spend under this element.
TOTAL	£50,000	£29,065	Remaining to date: £20,935 Surplus for reallocation: £10,935
Local Environment			
1). Initiatives to address dog fouling;	Up to £15,000	£1,516	Communications Campaign.
2). Friends of Parks Groups;	Up to £10,000	£5,208	Allocation of funding to support potential projects. We anticipate that up to £10,000 will be spent under this element.

3). Supporting rewilding to promote biodiversity and enhancing neighbourhoods.	Up to £10,000	£0	Scoping out of opportunities at present we anticipate that some budget will be spend under this element.
4) <i>Community renewable energy</i>	<i>Up to £5,000 (due to underspend in this category)</i>	£0	Scoping out of opportunities included for this element.
TOTAL	£35,000	£6,724	Remaining to date: £28,276 Surplus for reallocation: £13,484
Community & Neighbourhoods 1). Tackling isolation and loneliness.	Up to £10,000	£9,056	Funding to support People Keeping Well (PKW) activities, such as Friendship Lunches and Welcoming Places and Foodbank.
TOTAL	£10,000	£9,056	Remaining to date: £944 Surplus for reallocation: £0
Contingency	Up to £5,000	£0	Unallocated budget to account for elements of spend not currently envisaged.
TOTAL	£5,000	£0	Remaining to date: £5,000 Surplus for reallocation: £5,000
COMBINED TOTAL	£100,000	£44,845	Remaining £55,155 Surplus for reallocation: £29,419

1.3 Community Projects and Activities Grant Fund

It is proposed that the surplus for reallocation identified in the table above and any additional underspend of funds will be added to the SW LAC outstanding balance and will be used to fund grants for organisations and groups in the wards of Crookes and Crosspool, Dore and Totley, Ecclesall, and Fulwood, to deliver activities and projects that achieve against the key priorities highlighted in the South West LAC Community Plan but do not necessarily fall within the specified elements.

The budget proposal will enable projects and activities to be funded across the LAC area to deliver on the three South West LAC Community Plan priorities of Transport and Highways, Community and Neighbourhoods and Local Environment.

Preliminary ideas include:

- Environmental Projects such as community green space projects
- Health & Wellbeing activities and events
- Support Local Litter Picking Groups and awareness campaigns
- Projects / activities that help those impacted by the Cost of Living Crisis
- Projects / activities for children and young people

The fund could be used for example for volunteer expenses, premises hire and food costs for events, equipment costs and for longer term solutions (provided these are not dependant on continuing LAC funding).

Organisations / groups must be operating in the South West LAC Wards and be a local not for profit organisation with a bank account in the organisation's name and at least two signatories who are not related.

To ensure that funds are spread out widely and evenly over the LAC area, we may need to limit the amount that is awarded per organisation. This limit will be kept under review based on the applications received.

To enable decisions to be taken quickly, 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 grant applications received as set out above, having first consulted Ward Councillors on those applications. 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 of £100,000. This budget must not be exceeded.

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, 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 Other lower priority actions in the Community Plan were considered to profile anticipated spending against, but the deliverable actions were not considered achievable within the remaining 3 months of 2022/23. This would also limit the ability for community organisations and groups to be involved to deliver projects and activities across the breadth of the key priorities identified.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The South West LAC is asked to note the use of funding as per previous decision of September 2021.

The South West LAC is asked to agree the allocation of underspent budget to fund grants that will deliver projects and activities by organisations and groups to address key priority areas identified in the SW Community Plan.

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