

**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: 22nd March 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*"The (**report/appendix**) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (**insert relevant paragraph number**) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)."*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 delegations granted in September 2021, July 2022 and January 2023.

Recommendations:

That the South West Local Area Committee:

- Notes the expenditure against the £100,000 budget to address the original local priorities in the South West LAC in 2022/3, as detailed in the report.
- Notes the expenditure of the surplus budget reallocated to fund grants for organisations and groups to address local priorities in the South West LAC Community Plan 2022/23, as detailed in the report.

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: Karen Hesketh
		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: 14th March 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.

On 6th January 2023 the LAC was informed of expenditure against the £100,000 budget to date under the three key priority areas highlighted. The LAC agreed at this meeting that any underspend of funds was to be added to the outstanding balance and the surplus would be used to fund grants for organisations and groups to address local priorities in the South West LAC Community Plan 2022/23, with priority being given for funding to be specifically targeted towards projects/activities that help those people impacted by the Cost of Living Crisis. The Community Services Manager (having first consulted with Ward Councillors on the grant applications) was authorised, in consultation with the LAC Chair, to determine how the grant funds were spent and make awards of grants.

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. In respect of the first element under the Transport & Highways priority there had been no expenditure at the time of the meeting in January, though it was reported that specific smaller transport and highways projects were being assessed and costed and it was anticipated that the full £10,000 allocation would be spent under this element. A Member asked that some of this allocation might be used towards measures to safeguarding the parking at Totlely Rise Shops, Baslow Road, following two accidents at Totlely Deli and Café, resulting in damage by cars crashing into the building, and the LAC requested officers to explore options and add this item to the list of projects being assessed.

LAC officers have worked with Transport and Highways officers to identify and cost appropriate measures (not including any that require a Traffic Regulation Order) for this project but have not yet identified viable options. As anticipated, however, the allocation for this element is now fully spent. We are continuing to explore with Transport and Highways officers the proposals for Totlely Rise shops but until we have a firm proposal it cannot be costed so a budget allocation cannot be recommended this financial year. We will report back to the LAC when we have a tangible option to progress.

Priority & Element	Anticipated Expenditure	Actual Committed Expenditure to date	Comments
Transport & Highways 1). Funding for transport and highways projects for each ward	Up to £10,000	£10,466	Specific smaller transport and highways projects in each ward.
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	20 new cycle stands to be installed in the SW LAC Area.

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). TRO to take place later in the year.
5). Signage for schools re: no idling.	Up to £10,000	£1,107	No idling signs installed where requested.
Local Environment			
1). Initiatives to address dog fouling;	Up to £15,000	£1,533	Communications Campaign.
2). Friends of Parks Groups	Up to £10,000	£9,895	Allocation of funding to support projects.
3). Promoting biodiversity	Up to £10,000	£9,000	Allocation of funding to biodiversity projects in Parks and Green spaces in the SW Area including South Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Partnership Project at Redmires / Wyming Brook and Fox Hagg.
4) <i>Community renewable energy</i>	<i>Up to £5,000 (due to underspend in this category)</i>	<i>£0</i>	Early-stage discussions initiated.
Community & Neighbourhoods			
1). Tackling isolation and loneliness	Initially £10,000 allocated. Additional funding for applications allocated from Communities Projects and	£16,982	Funding across the SW LAC Area to support activities through voluntary and community group organisations, such as Friendship Lunches,

	Activities Grant Fund		Welcoming Places and Foodbanks.
Community Projects and Activities Grant Fund	Redmires Gypsy Traveller Site multi-purpose room	£1515	Decoration and basic furnishing costs for a void room to be brought into use as a multi-purpose space for the community.
	Accessible play equipment (roundabout) installation at Millhouses Park	£5000	Installation of an accessible roundabout, funding partnership with NHS Foundation and Millhouses FOG fundraising.
	Signage and compost for Highcliffe Community Allotment Association	£290	
	MECK Community Group venue hire	£40	Hire of venue for public meeting.
Communications		£4,997	Promotion and communication, notice boards, venue hire.
COMBINED TOTAL		£89,890	

There is currently just over £10,000 of the LAC budget remaining. This will be used for the purposes agreed at the January meeting and will be reported back to the next meeting.

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 None. This is in line with the previous decisions of September 2021, July 2022 and January 2023 regarding LAC expenditure and the South West Community Plan agreed on March 17th 2022.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The South West LAC is asked to note the use of funding as per previous decisions of September 2021, July 2022 and January 2023.