



**Author/Lead Officer of Report:** Diane Owens,  
South LAC Community Services Manager

**Report of:** Community Services Manager

**Report to:** South Local Area Committee

**Date of Decision:** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Subject:** South LAC Budget 2023-24

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? 2368

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*“The (**report/appendix**) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (**insert relevant paragraph number**) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”*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 budget for 2023-24 to address local priorities as outlined in its Community Plan, this report:

- Outlines agreed expenditure with regards to the £750 remaining underspend carried forward from 2022-23
- Provides an update on further expenditure (under the LAC’s delegated powers) and outlines additional proposals for expenditure (over £5,001), in line with priorities in the South LAC Community Plan.

### **Recommendations:**

That the South Local Area Committee:

- Notes the further expenditure under the £5,000 delegated authority limit.
- Notes the allocation of the £750 remaining underspend from 2022-23
- Agrees the further project expenditure over £5,001, as detailed in the report.

## Background Papers:

| 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: Adrian Hart                                      |
|   |   | Legal: Petra Der Man                                      |
|   |   | Equalities: Bev Law                                       |
| <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>Head of Service who approved submission:</b>   | Carl Mullooly   |
| 3   | <b>LAC Chair consulted:</b>   | Cllr Simon Clement-Jones                                  |
| 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. |   |
|   | <b>Lead Officer Name:</b><br>Diane Owens  | <b>Job Title:</b><br>South LAC Community Services Manager |
|   | <b>Date:</b> 16/11/23   |   |

## 1. PROPOSAL

### 1.1 Background

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.

In 2021 each LAC was allocated an initial budget of £100,000 to be spent in line with their Community Plan. The South LAC Community Plan was agreed in March 2022 and the unspent portion of the £100,000 budget

(£31,930) was carried forward into 2022/23. Following the last public meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 there was a remaining balance of £750, this has now been allocated as outlined in this report.

An updated South LAC Community Plan has been agreed for 2023/24. This includes specific actions in terms of providing support for local businesses and shopping districts and supporting communities in terms of the cost of living. The revised Community Plan will form the basis of ongoing LAC funding decisions.

To enable decisions to be taken quickly and to respond to emerging issues, in September 2021 the LAC granted delegated authority to the Community Services Manager to make decisions on expenditure from any budgets allocated to the Local Area Committee provided that:

- 1.2
- The decision is taken in consultation with the LAC Chair
  - Spending is in line with any specific purposes of the allocated budget
  - The decision may not approve expenditure of more than £5,000 per item
  - A report detailing the delegated spending decisions taken by the Community Services Manager is presented to the next LAC meeting.

### **2023/24 budget allocation**

Each LAC has a budget allocation of £100,000 for 2023-24. The South LAC will treat the overall LAC budget of £100,000 as four ward budgets of £25,000, to be spent in line with South LAC Community Plan priorities.

In terms of spend since the last public meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 several decisions have been made under the LAC's delegated authority, these are outlined in the report. Some further proposed expenditure over £5,001 is also outlined in this report.

Under the South LAC Community Plan priority "Communities" and the linked outcomes below.

### **Outcome: Increase support for communities with the cost of living (COL)**

#### Gleadless Valley Ward

- £4,900 has been allocated to Gleadless Valley Foodbank, to enable them to buy priority items over the winter months, for example additional food supplies or to support individuals and families with transport or heating costs.
- £4,900 has been allocated to Holy Cross Church in Gleadless Valley, to enable them to support individuals and families in urgent need. This will include support with food, heating and lighting costs.

- £200 has been allocated to Uni-Recycle who provide low cost and free school uniform to families who need support. The grant will fund a pop-up poster to take to events to promote the project and a banner and some business cards.

**Outcome: Increase in community events and activities**

Beauchief & Greenhill Ward

- £5,000 has been allocated to support Lowedges Festival to run in 2024. The festival will be led by the local community and full details of the project will be worked up in agreement with the group.

Under the South LAC Community Plan theme “Employment, Skills and Business” and the related outcome, as outlined below:

**Outcome: Increased support for local business / shopping districts to increase footfall and vibrancy**

Beauchief & Greenhill Ward

- £10,000 is proposed to support the “Revitalising Jordanthorpe” project, which was led by Meadowhead Christian Fellowship as a submission to the Economic Recovery Fund Round 2. Unfortunately, in September 2023 the group were made aware that their bid for £190,000 of funding was not successful. The £10,000 will enable some elements of the project to still be delivered, this could include public realm improvements, such as benching, hanging baskets and street art. The full details of the project will be worked up in agreement with the group.

**2022-23 Underspend, £750 balance.**

- £750 has been allocated to support Sheffield Samaritans with their general running costs which enables their volunteers to provide a 365 – 24/7 service from their base Sheffield.

Any projects £5,000 or under were approved under the LAC’s delegated powers in consultation with the Chair on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

In terms of the allocation of £25,000 per ward, this means a current balance as follows:

Beauchief & Greenhill - £6,300  
 Gleadless Valley - £15,000  
 Graves Park - £0  
 Nether Edge & Sharrow - £25,000

## 2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

- 2.1 Local Area Committees directly support 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 and to target underrepresented groups and engagement activities 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.

Members of the South LAC have further reviewed the Community Plan over the last few months, including reflecting on the diverse range of community feedback that members received during the election period and from speaking to voluntary, community and faith sector organisations as appropriate.

This has resulted in two key changes to the plan, the "Employment & Skills" theme has been amended to include business "Employment, Skills & Business" and an additional action has been included which relates to supporting local businesses and shopping districts.

Under the "Communities" theme an action has been added which links to supporting communities in terms of the financial challenges people are experiencing due to the cost of living, with a specific focus on the upcoming winter months.

## 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 the proposals and decisions outlined in this report is likely to be positive and not negatively disproportionate from an equality, diversity and inclusion perspective.

However, in order to ensure this approach takes into account people who share protected characteristics under the Public Sector Duties priority projects from the Local Area Committee Community Plan will be supported by and EIA and appropriate equality monitoring of budget.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA 2368) has been created and will remain a live document. The EIA focusses on the current agreed and proposed projects that could be supported through the 2023-24 South LAC budget, which has a strong emphasis on the cost of living. The South LAC will not lead on delivery of these projects, its role is as a funder, facilitator or partner, the EIA reflects this position.

The EIA has identified a potential disproportionate and positive impact on the following groups: disabled people, older people, women, communities of colour and the trans community. This is due to higher levels of deprivation experienced by these groups.

The EIA has identified several actions for the South LAC Team to follow up with lead organisations. These mainly relate to communications, engagement and accessibility and inclusion.

The EIA will remain a live document, and so as new projects are identified or agreed the EIA will be reviewed and updated.

## 4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 This report concerns expenditure of the LAC's allocated budgets. £100,000 has been allocated for 2023-24 (based on £25,000 per ward) and £750 remained from the carry forward from 2022-23. These budgets must not be exceeded.

Procurement of supplies and/or services and the awarding 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, (namely pursuant to Part 3 para 3.3,) reflecting the committee system of governance, by

Full Council at its Annual Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

Pursuant to the Equality Act 2010, ["the Act"] the Council must in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not,
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic those who do not.

There may be relevant equalities implications arising from each determined award.

## **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 The LAC could choose not to allocate budgets at this stage and through its delegated authority, but in relation to the cost-of-living related projects, this would delay support getting to communities.

## **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The South LAC is asked to note the use of funding under its delegated powers and agree the further expenditure outlined in the report, which will help to address local priorities within the South LAC Community Plan.

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