

Report of Housing Manager, Tenant and Community Engagement.

Report to Chief Officer Housing Management

Date: 04 April 2017

Subject: Record of Decisions – Housing Advisory Panel – 1st March to 31st March 2017 and deferred projects from 2016/17 committed by year end.

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The 11 Housing Advisory Panels (HAPs) are supported by the Resources and Housing Directorate to invest in a range of environmental and community related projects.
2. The panels are tenant led, each making decisions about the financial support for projects in line with locally agreed priorities and in support of the Councils 2016/17 priorities.
3. The panels form an important part of the services tenant engagement framework and are a local catalyst to make local projects happen that address tenants concerns or differences in satisfaction with services.
4. Between the 1 March 2017 and 31 March 2017 the panels supported 25 projects to a value of £53,282.54. In addition, a further 64 projects to the value of £139,805.73 were supported following initial deferments by HAPs during 2016/17. A full list of projects is provided in appendix 1.

Recommendations

5. That the Chief Officer Housing Management, approve the 25 tenant led environmental and community related funding recommendations of the HAPs from 1 March 2017 to 31 March 2017 and the 64 projects initially deferred and now supported by the HAPs.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The present to the Chief Officer Housing Management all the projects recommended for funding by the 11 HAPs.

2 Background information

- 2.1 For 2016/17 Leeds City Council has committed £900k for a range of local environmental and community related projects that tackle and address the concerns and priorities of tenants. Projects that will improve tenant satisfaction with the environment and the neighbourhood as a place to live and that will enhance the opportunities and wellbeing of tenants helping to create more sustainable communities and successful tenancies.
- 2.2 The nature of what activity is funded is driven by the service receiving recommendations from 11 locally focussed Housing Advisory Panels. These recommendations have to evidence how each project will benefit tenants and the community in which they live, as well as making clear the activities link to wider Council priorities.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The 11 Housing Advisory Panels (HAPs) are supported by the Resources and Housing Directorate to invest in a range of environmental and community related projects.
- 3.2 The panels are tenant led, each making decisions about the financial support for projects in line with locally agreed priorities and in support of the Councils priorities.
- 3.3 The panels form an important part of the services tenant engagement framework and are a local catalyst to make local projects happen that address tenants concerns or differences in satisfaction with services.
- 3.4 Between the 1 March 2017 and 31 March 2017 the panels supported 25 projects to a value of £53,282.54. In addition, a further 64 projects to the value of £193,088.27 were supported following initial deferments by HAPs during 2016/17. A full list of projects, and the dates supported by the HAPs is provided in appendix 1.
- 3.5 This brings the total value of HAP recommendations for 2016/17 to £842,152.59. As recorded in previous reports, the amounts approved for the year to date and including the recommendations in this report are as follows:
- Quarter 1 - £134,159.42
 - Quarter 2 - £153, 878.83
 - Quarter 3 - £249,142.49
 - January 17 to February 17 - £111,883.57

- March 2017 - £53,282.54
- Deferred projects during year – committed by end of year: £139,805.73

3.6 The amount of uncommitted HAP funds to be carried forward into 2017/18 from 2016/17 is £62,860.42. Note this amount is higher than the £54,847.41 of uncommitted amounts when deducting the total commitments above from overall £900,000 allocation. This is due to a small number of projects during the year being cancelled after Chief Officer approval and the money returned to HAP budgets, lower on-site costs for projects delivered by internal service providers or external applicants returning some or all funding for projects or activities that are no longer able to go ahead in line with the terms of the funding agreement.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.2 HAPs themselves are tenant led and are an important part of the services Tenant Engagement Framework.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 HAPs and the funding application process take equality into account by:

- Requiring applicants to evidence what community need they are helping to meet by the project and how they have consulted with the local community;
- Setting local funding priorities based on reviewing a range of community related information such as demographic data, tenant age profiles, satisfaction and performance information and stock profile.
- Sharing good practice between panels where particular customer groups are advantaged and the benefits of a local project could be used successfully elsewhere in the city.
- Equality monitoring of existing HAP members and undertaking targeted recruitment to attract under-represented groups.

4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

4.3.1 HAP funding applications are required to make clear how they are contributing to Best Council priorities. For the projects recommended for funding between 1 March 2017 and 31 March 2017 and for those deferred from during the year; 37 help the Council achieve its priority of 'supporting communities, raising aspirations, 19 support 'enhancing the quality of our public realm and green spaces', 4 projects help 'keep people safe from harm', 7 projects help 'support children to have the best start in life', 3 'promote physical activity' and 3 provide 'skills programmes and employment support'.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 Value for money is achieved by:

- Requiring applicants to evidence how they have considered value for money in their funding applications;
- Using Internal Service Providers for the delivery of environmental related schemes; and
- Encouraging match funded projects.
- Working closely with other Council teams and services, in particular local Communities Teams.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 None.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no specific risks associated with this report. The HAP funding application process has in place a number of controls to ensure funds are used effectively and that the risks to Leeds City Council are minimised.

5 Conclusions

5.1 This report summarises the recommendations made by the HAPs and the current controls and processes in place to ensure local priorities are met.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That the Chief Officer Housing Management, approve the 25 tenant led environmental and community related funding recommendations of the HAPs from 1 March 2017 to 31 March 2017 and the 64 projects initially deferred and now supported by the HAPs.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.