

Report of: Head of Locality Partnerships

Report to: Outer North East Community Committee
(Alwoodley, Harewood and Wetherby)

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Date: 7th October 2024

For decision

Outer North East Community Committee Finance Report

Purpose of Report

1. The report provides the Community Committee with an update on the budget position for the Wellbeing Fund, Youth Activity Fund, Capital Budget, as well as the Community Infrastructure Levy Budget for 2024/25. Financial decisions are taken to the Community Committee meetings to ensure transparency and that financial regulations are met.

Main Issues

2. Each Community Committee has been allocated a Wellbeing Budget (revenue and capital) and Youth Activities Fund which it is responsible for administering. The aim of these budgets is to support the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area and provide a range of activities for children and young people, by using the funding to support projects that contribute towards the delivery of local priorities.
3. A group applying for funding must fulfil various eligibility criteria, including evidencing appropriate management arrangements and financial controls are in place; have relevant policies to comply with legislation and best practice e.g. safeguarding and equal opportunities and be unable to cover the costs of the project from other funds.
4. Wellbeing funding cannot be paid retrospectively. An application form must be submitted and approved by the Community Committee before activities or items being purchased through wellbeing funding are completed or purchased.
5. The amount of wellbeing funding provided to each committee is calculated using a formula agreed by Council, taking into consideration both population and deprivation of an area.
6. Capital (CRIS) injections are provided as a result of council assets being sold. 5% of the sale price (up to a maximum of £100,000) of a council asset is pooled city-wide and redistributed to the Community Committee areas on the basis of deprivation. The Community Committee will receive a new capital injection every six months.

7. The Community Committee is asked to note that there is no Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for the Outer North East Community Committee. Leeds City Council retains up to 70-80% centrally, 5% is needed for administration and 15-25% is vested with the local Town or Parish Council. This local money is known as the 'Neighbourhood Fund' and should be spent on similar projects to the Wellbeing Fund.
8. In the Outer North East Community Committee this means that the CIL money for the Alwoodley, Harewood and Wetherby wards will be administered by the following Parish and Town Councils; Aberford, Alwoodley, Bardsey, Barwick in Elmet and Scholes, Boston Spa, Bramham, Clifford, Collingham and Linton, East Keswick, Harewood, Scarcroft, Shadwell, Thorer, Thorp Arch, Walton and Wetherby.
9. Until the UK left the European Union, the EU's State Aid rules controlled how UK and discretionary EU funding was provided to enterprises and entities that engage in economic activities. Now the UK has left the EU, it is no longer bound by the State Aid rules and has developed its own domestic subsidy control regime, The Subsidy Control Act 2022. As the Subsidy Control Act 2022 has potential implications for the Community Committees as funding bodies, a 'subsidy control' assessment will be undertaken on all funding requests received by the Community Committees.
10. Projects eligible for funding by the Community Committee could be community events; environmental improvements; crime prevention initiatives, or opportunities for sport and healthy activities for all ages.
11. In line with the Equality Act 2010, projects funded at public expense should provide services to citizens irrespective of their religion, gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin, age, sexual orientation or disability; the fund cannot be used to support an organisation's regular business running costs; it cannot fund projects promoting political or religious viewpoints to the exclusion of others; projects must represent good value for money and follow Leeds City Council Financial Regulations and the Council's Spending Money Wisely policy; applications should provide, where possible, three quotes for any works planned and demonstrate how the cost of the project is relative to the scale of beneficiaries; the fund cannot support projects which directly result in the business interests of any members of the organisation making a profit.
12. Any request for funding would involve discussions with appropriate ward members. Where projects do not have support from the Community Committee and are not approved, applicants are offered further discussions and feedback, if this is requested.
13. In order to provide further assurance and transparency of all decisions made by the Community Committee, any projects that are not approved will be reported to a subsequent Community Committee meeting.
14. Sometimes urgent decisions may need to be made in between formal Community Committee meetings regarding the administration of budgets which have been allocated to the Community Committee. Alongside the Committee, designated officers have delegated authority from the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment to take such decisions.

15. The Community Committee has previously approved the following 'minimum conditions' in order to reassure Members that all delegated decisions would be taken within an appropriate governance framework, with appropriate Member consultation and only when the following 'minimum conditions' have been satisfied.

- a. That all 3 Ward Members must be in agreement (unanimous) for a delegated decision to be approved. This was reiterated at the first meeting of 2024/25.

16. Members are reminded that the necessary scrutiny of applications to satisfy our own processes, financial regulations and audit requires the deadline for receipt of completed applications to be at least five weeks prior to any Community Committee.

Some applications will be approved via Delegated Decision Notice (DDN) following consultation with Members outside of the Community Committee meeting cycle.

17. For the committee's awareness, urgent delegated decisions on wellbeing funding also covers small grant decisions. In agreement with the Executive Board Member for Communities, Community Committee Chairs and also in accordance with the communication that was sent out to all committees/Elected Members in March 2023, the approval threshold for small grants has now increased from the 1st April 2023; up to £1,000 per ward. This approach will ensure consistency in terms of administering small grants, in accordance with the committees' minimum conditions.

Wellbeing Budget Position 2024/25

18. The total Wellbeing revenue budget approved by Executive Board for 2024/25 was **£40,341.00**. Table 1 shows a carry forward figure of **£87,586.92** which includes allocated, unallocated and underspends from projects completed in 2023/24. **£42,839.66** represents Wellbeing allocated to projects in 2023/24 and not yet completed. The total Wellbeing funding available to the Outer North East Community Committee for 2024/25 is therefore **£85,088.26**. A full breakdown of the projects approved or ring-fenced is available on request.

19. The total amount approved on Table 1 includes all the projects the committee has approved in 2024/25. It is possible that some of the projects may not use their allocated spend. This could be for several reasons, including the project no longer going ahead, the project not taking place within the dates specified in the funding agreement, or failure to submit monitoring reports. Due to this the final revenue balance may be greater than the amount specified in Table 1.

20. The Community Committee is asked to note that there is currently a remaining Wellbeing balance of **£70,566.94**. A full breakdown of the projects is listed in Table 1 and is available on request.

TABLE 1: Wellbeing Revenue 2024/25

NEW FUNDING ALLOCATION 2024/25	£40,341.00
Balance brought forward from previous year	£87,586.92
Total	£127,927.92
Less allocated projects brought forward previous year	-£42,839.66
TOTAL WELLBEING FUNDING AVAILABLE 2024/25	£85,088.26

		Ward Split		
		Alwoodley	Harewood	Wetherby
TOTAL WELLBEING AVAILABLE 2024/25	£85,088.26	£24,161.04	£25,964.97	£34,962.25
Funding Applications				
Walton Village Hall Refurbishment	£4,480.88			£4,480.88
Small Grants (Wetherby)	£2,310.00			£2,310.00
Small Grants (Harewood)	£1,156.80		£1,156.80	
Community Engagement (ONE)	£500.00	£166.66	£166.67	£166.67
Wetherby Fly Tipping	£1,480.00			£1,480.00
Wetherby 200	£1,904.00			£1,904.00
WYP Property Identification (Harewood)	£5,220.00		£5,220.00	
WYP Road Safety (Harewood)	£3,015.00		£3,015.00	
Total Amount Approved	£20,66.68	£166.66	£9,558.47	£10,341.55
Underspends	£5,545.36	£1,595.47	£2,023.38	£1,926.51
Actual Remaining Balance	£70,566.94	£25,589.85	£18,429.88	£26,547.21

Youth Activities Fund Position 2024/25

21. The total Youth Activities Fund (YAF) Budget approved by Executive Board for 2024/25 was **£40,375.00** Table 2 shows a carry forward figure of **£29,690.43** which includes allocated, unallocated and underspends from projects completed in 2023/24. **£24,987.00** represents YAF allocated to projects in 2023/24 and not yet completed. The total YAF funding available to the Outer North East Community Committee for 2024/25 is therefore **£45,078.43**. A full breakdown of the projects approved or ring-fenced is available on request.

22. The total amount approved on Table 1 includes all the projects the committee has approved in 2024/25. It is possible that some of the projects may not use their allocated spend. This could be for several reasons, including the project no longer going ahead, the project not taking place within the dates specified in the funding agreement, or failure to submit monitoring reports. Due to this the final revenue balance may be greater than the amount specified in Table 1.

23. The Community Committee is asked to note that there is currently a remaining Youth Activities Fund balance of **£29,342.43**. A full breakdown of the projects is listed in Table 1 and is available on request.

TABLE 2: Youth Activities Fund 2024/25

	£
NEW FUNDING ALLOCATION 2024/25	£40,375.00
Balance brought forward from previous year	£29,690.43
Total	£70,065.43
Less allocated projects brought forward previous year	-£24,987.00
TOTAL YAF FUNDING AVAILABLE 2024/25	£45,078.43

		Ward Split		
		Alwoodley	Harewood	Wetherby
TOTAL YAF FUNDING AVAILABLE 2024/25	£45,078.43	£17,125.42	£15,436.75	£12,516.26
Funding Applications				
Leeds Rhinos Multisport Camp	£5,000			£5,000
Breeze 2024	£3,800			£3,800
Moor Allerton Holiday Play Scheme	£1,000	£1,000		
Alwoodley Juniors FC	£936.00	£936.00		
Bardsey Tennis Court	£5,000		£5,000	
Total Amount Approved	£15,736	£1,936.00	£5,000	£8,800.00
Underspends	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Actual Remaining Balance	£29,342.43	£15,189.42	£10,436.75	£3,716.26

Delegated Decisions (DDN)

24. Since the last Community Committee meeting on the 15th July 2024, there has been no projects approved by DDN.

25. The Community Committee are asked to note the following small grants:

- East Keswick Clean Moor Lane Sports Facility Skip Hire £266.00
- Walton Village Hall Bonfire and Christmas Community Events £1,000

26. Since the last Community Committee meeting on the 15th July 2024, one project has been declined Wetherby Arts Festival. The Festival met the funding criteria, however it has received funding direct from Wetherby Councillors MICE Funds.

Funding Applications for Consideration and Approval

27. The following projects are presented for Members' consideration:

Wellbeing

28. **Project title:** Barwick in Elmet - Speed Indicator Device (SID)

Total project cost: £5,000

Amount proposed: £5,000

Wards covered: Harewood

Project description: The purchase and installation of a speed indicator device that provides a clear visual reminder of the speed drivers are travelling to help reduce the speeds of traffic through the village.

Youth Activity Fund

29. The following projects are presented for Members' consideration:

30. **Project title:** Moortown West Play Scheme 2024-25

Total project cost: £3,960

Amount proposed: £3,960

Wards covered: Alwoodley

Project description: Provide a social activity for children and families through a programme of activities including children's play morning, drama classes, family karate classes, a community choir and a food exchange project.

31. **Project title:** Tempo FM Radio Academy

Total project cost: £5,544

Amount proposed: £3,716.26

Wards covered: Wetherby

Project description: Provide a training programme for young people to gain the skills required to participate in and produce their own radio show for broadcast.

Capital Budget

32. Since the last Community Committee meeting on the 15th July 2024, there has been no new funding applications for Capital.

Capital Budget 2024/25

33. The Capital budget received an injection in April 2024 of **£3,100.00** with a carry forward of **£23,786.05**. The total Capital budgets available to the Outer North East Community Committee for 2024/25 is therefore **£26,886.05**. Members are asked to note the capital allocation by ward and summarised in **Table 3**.

TABLE 3: Capital 2024/25

NEW FUNDING ALLOCATION 2024/25	£3,100.00
Balance brought forward from previous year	£23,786.05
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDING AVAILABLE 2024/25	£26,886.05

TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDING AVAILABLE 2024/25		Alwoodley	Harewood	Wetherby
Balance March 2024	£23,786.05	£2,844.72	£11,487.66	£9,453.67
Capital injection April 2024	£3,100.00	£1,033.33	£1,033.34	£1,033.33
Remaining Balance	£26,886.05	£3,878.05	£12,521.00	£10,487.00

Monitoring Information

34. As part of their funding agreements, all projects which have had funding approved by the Community Committee are required to provide update reports on the progress of their project. These reports are so that the Community Committee can measure the impact the project has had on the community and the value for money achieved.

Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

35. The Community Committee has previously been consulted on the projects detailed within the report.

Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration

36. All wellbeing funded projects are assessed in relation to Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration. In addition, the Communities Team ensures that the wellbeing process complies with all relevant policies and legislation.

Council Polices and City Priorities

37. Projects submitted to the Community Committee for wellbeing funding are assessed to ensure that they are in line with Council and City priorities as set out in the following documents:

1. Vision for Leeds 2011 – 30
2. Best City Plan
3. Health and Wellbeing City Priorities Plan
4. Children and Young People's Plan
5. Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
6. Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy

Resources and Value for Money

38. Aligning the distribution of community wellbeing funding to local priorities will help to ensure that the maximum benefit can be provided.

Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

39. There are no legal implications or access to information issues. This report is not subject to call in.

Risk Management

40. Risk implications and mitigation are considered on all wellbeing applications. Projects are assessed to ensure that applicants are able to deliver the intended benefits.

Recommendations

41. Members are asked to make a decision on and note:

- a. Minimum condition arrangements for 2024/25 (para 14)
- b. Details of the Wellbeing Budget position (Table 1)
- c. Details of the Youth Activity Funding Budget position (Table 2)
- d. Funding applications for consideration and approval (para 27 – 31)
- e. Details of the Capital Budget (Table 3)