



Report of Service Manager, Tenant Engagement
Report to Chief Officer - Housing
Date: 12 April 2021
Subject: Record of Decisions – Housing Advisory Panels – 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open 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

1. Main issues

- The 11 Housing Advisory Panels (HAPs) are supported by the Communities, Housing and Environment Directorate to invest in a range of environmental and community related projects.
- 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 2020/21 priorities.
- The panels form an important part of the services tenant engagement framework and are a catalyst to make local projects happen that address tenants concerns or differences in satisfaction with services.
- Between the 1 January 2021 and 31 March 2021 the panels supported 70 projects to a value of £159,947.53. A full list of projects is provided in appendix A.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- HAP funding applications are required to make clear how they are contributing to Best Council Plan priorities. For the projects recommended for funding between 1 January 2021 and 31 March 2021:
 - a. 21 projects enable tenants and residents to live more happy, healthy and active lives

- b. 23 support living in good quality, affordable homes in clean and well cared for places
- c. 1 helps tenants do well at all levels of learning
- d. 7 help tenants and residents be safe and feel safe
- e. 16 help tenants to have greater access to green spaces and;
- f. 2 support tenants and residents to live with dignity and stay independent for as long as possible.

3. Resource Implications

- There are no resource implications associated with the contents of this report.

Recommendations

1. That the Chief Officer - Housing, approve the 70 tenant led environmental and community related funding recommendations of the HAPs from 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021.

1. Purpose of this report

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

2. Background information

- 2.1 For 2020/21 Leeds City Council committed £450k 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.
- 2.3 From April 2020, HAPs began to prioritise projects or activities that in some way benefitted the community in the local response to COVID-19, both in the short and longer term.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The 11 Housing Advisory Panels (HAPs) are supported by the Communities, Housing and Environment 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 catalyst to make local projects happen that address tenants concerns or differences in satisfaction with services.
- 3.4 Between the 1 January 2021 and 31 March 2021 the panels supported 70 projects to a value of £159,947.53. A full list of projects is provided in appendix A.
- 3.5 This brings the total number of projects supported by the HAPs during the 2020/21 financial year to 219 using a total commitment of £393,793.03. Note that the 2020/21 budget included £26,435.48 of uncommitted funds carried forward from 2019/20, £81,142.49 is to be carried forward to 2021/22.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 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 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

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 the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 HAP funding applications are required to make clear how they are contributing to Best Council outcomes. For the projects recommended for funding between 1 January 2021 and 31 March 2021:

- a. 21 projects enable tenants and residents to live more happy, healthy and active lives

- b. 23 support living in good quality, affordable homes in clean and well cared for places
- c. 1 helps tenants do well at all levels of learning
- d. 7 help tenants and residents be safe and feel safe
- e. 16 help tenants to have greater access to green spaces and;
- f. 2 support tenants and residents to live with dignity and stay independent for as long as possible.

Climate Emergency

4.3.1 The majority of HAP funded applications support tenants and residents overall health and well-being and/or improvements to the immediate environment of residents. HAP projects therefore support at a very local level wider council climate change priorities. During quarter three, local HAPs were presented with further information about climate change, encouraging local discussion and action at a community level.

4.4 Resources, procurement 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;
- Encouraging match funded projects; and
- 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, approve the 70 tenant led environmental and community related funding recommendations of the HAPs from 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021.

7. Background documents¹

7.1 Appendix A.

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.