

# To approve the 2021/22 delegated Well Being and Youth Activity Fund for the 10 Community Committees using the 2019 IMD and ONS population data

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Report of: Chief Officer Safer Stronger Communities

Report to: Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

## **What is this report about?**

### **Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions**

- On an annual basis, each of the 10 Community Committees are allocated a Well Being grant budget to fund local activity that supports the delivery of community committee priorities. The Well Being fund is used to support a wide range of local activity including; projects to help improve the environment or other physical assets, support and advice for people living in difficult circumstances such as experiencing mental issues, social or digital exclusion, people experiencing financial difficulties and/or to help improve educational attainment.
- The approved formula to allocate this funding is based on a 50% deprivation : 50% population basis. Datasets from the nationally published Indices of Multiple deprivation (IMD) and Office for National Statistics population estimates are used to determine individual allocations for each committee area.
- Committees also receive an annual Youth Activity Fund (YAF) allocation. The budget is allocated using population data at ward level for 8-17 year olds residing in the committee area.
- For the past 3 years, the Well Being and YAF allocations have been determined using the 2015 IMD and population data. However, in 2019 new datasets were published for both the IMD and population estimates.
- This report seeks approval, from the Director of Communities, Housing and Environment to confirm the 2021/22 Well Being and YAF allocations for each of the 10 Community Committee using the 2019 IMD and ONS datasets.

## Recommendations

The Director of Communities, Housing and Environment is recommended to approve:

- a) The use of the most up to date 2019 IMD and ONS datasets to determine the individual allocations for each of the 10 Community Committees.
- b) The 2021/22 Well Being and YAF allocations for each of the 10 Community Committees.

## Why is the proposal being put forward?

1. Since 2018/19, the formula to allocate Community Committee Well Being funding has remained the same, allocated on a 50% deprivation : 50% population basis. The deprivation data had been derived from the 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), which was updated in 2019 meaning that more up to date statistical data is now available.
2. At the start of 2020, it was proposed that the new 2019 data be applied, however, following the advent of Covid-19 in March 2020, a decision was made to keep the 2020/21 Well Being formula the same to allow committees to spend their allocation quickly and support local relief efforts at that time.
3. As the city now moves towards the recovery phase of Covid, it's timely to start to use of the most up to data available to ensure that our focus continues to be on those that need our help the most, whilst maintaining a sense of fairness, transparency and opportunity to all our communities.
4. The table below outlines the confirmed 2021/22 Well Being allocations for all the 10 committees using the 2019 IMD and ONS population data. This includes an overall budget cut to the Well Being budget of 15% amounting to £195k in total, which was approved by Full Council as part of the budget setting process in February 2021. This reduction has been applied as an equal 15% reduction to each of the 2021/22 committee budgets.

Community Committee	Updated 2021/22 budget using 2019 IMD / Population Data £k	New 2021/22 Budget inc. 15% reduction £k
Inner South	205.08	174.32
Outer South	122.08	103.77
Outer East	109.93	93.44
Inner West	167.69	142.54
Inner North West	110.62	94.03
Outer West	110.84	94.21
Outer North West	87.77	74.6
Inner North East	96.29	81.85
Inner East	225.82	191.95
Outer North East	61.43	52.22
	<b>£1,298</b>	<b>£1,103</b>

5. The table below outlines the confirmed 2021/22 Youth Activity Fund allocations using the 2019 ONS mid-year population estimates for each of the 10 Community Committees.

Community Committee	2021/22 YAF Budget Allocation £k	% of Budget
Inner South	£54.64	11.91%
Outer South	£50.32	10.97%
Outer East	£50.76	11.07%
Inner West	£36.26	7.91%
Inner North West	£24.79	5.41%
Outer West	£43.23	9.43%
Outer North West	£51.99	11.34%
Inner North East	£43.00	9.38%
Inner East	£68.12	14.85%
Outer North East	£35.50	7.74%
	<b>£458.61</b>	<b>100%</b>

### What impact will this proposal have?

#### Wards Affected:

Have ward members been consulted?  Yes  No

6. Applying the 2019 IMD and ONS population data will impact on all 10 community communities in relation to the Well Being fund, with some committees benefitting and others not. However, the 50% deprivation : 50% population formula remains sound and has been applied for a number of years. The fact that by using the most up to date statistics, changes the individual allocations to all 10 committees reflects changes in the wards' relative deprivation across a number of statistical domains, coupled with changes in the overall population numbers.
7. In relation to the YAF, individual committee allocations have altered as a result of overall population changes that are specific to the number of young people that sit within the ward from the 8-17 year old cohort.
8. In both respects, these reflect respected statistical facts and datasets that are regularly used by national and local government to determine local needs and funding allocations.

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

9. The Executive member for Communities has been fully briefed and supports the proposed use of new data. All 10 Committee Chairs were notified of their confirmed local allocations on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021. At the time of writing this report, there had been no objections raised about the individual committee allocations.

### **What are the resource implications?**

10. There are no additional resource implications arising out of this proposal.

### **What are the legal implications?**

11. There are no legal implications at this stage.

### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

12. The risks associated with supporting the report recommendations are identified as follows. That:

- The datasets used up until 2021/22 have been superseded by more up to date statistics and no longer accurately reflect the most up to date position in relation to relative deprivation and estimated population figures for the city. As a result, some areas will not be receiving the correct funding allocation to help them tackle deprivation and address other priority issues in their committee areas.
  - Applying the most up to date statistical data will ensure that the funding formula continues to provide a focus on those areas where deprivation continues to present significant challenges for local residents, whilst still supporting a more universal level of support to all residents based on population data.
- The challenges presented by Covid and its impact on communities are not fully understood at this time, which may result in levels of deprivation increasing in some areas of the city.
  - An annual review of national statistical data takes place and any new figures will be updated as and when available.

### **Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?**

Inclusive Growth

Health and Wellbeing

Climate Emergency

13. Leeds has an ambition to be a city with a strong economy whilst being a compassionate city. Both Well Being and YAF funds make a significant contribution to support the delivery of the 3 Council pillars at the local level. Using the most up to date statistical data ensures that the authority continues to support this ambition.

### **Options, timescales and measuring success**

#### **14. What other options were considered?**

A number of options to alter the current funding formula were investigated and considered, these include:

**Option 2** - Varying the deprivation / population ratios - This option was discounted as it disproportionately impacted some committee areas, when coupled with the approved 15% cut to the overall Well Being budget

**Option 3** - Including the total CIL receipts received in committee areas as part of the overall Well Being funding formula - This is a complex piece of work, that will involve looking at CIL funding receipts retrospectively, as well as modelling predicted receipts over the next few years, it has therefore been agreed that further work should take place during 21/22 to better understand the future implications to committees, as well as develop their relationship with Town and Parish Council's (where they exist).

At this time, and as we move towards the recovery stage of Covid-19, maintaining the existing formulas for both Well Being and YAF was agreed to be the most acceptable and fair option. Further work will take place over the next 6 months to investigate Option 3 outlined above.

#### **15. How will success be measured?**

The Safer Stronger Communities Team produce an annual report to outline the key successes for each community committee area. This will be presented to Full Council in late summer / early autumn 2021.

#### **16. What is the timetable for implementation?**

Subject to director approval, the new community committee Well Being and YAF allocations will be implemented from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

### **Appendices**

There are no appendices to this report.

### **Background papers**

There are no background documents relevant.