

Record of Decisions – Housing Advisory Panels – 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021

Date: 8 July 2021

Report of: Service Manager, Tenant Engagement

Report to: Chief Officer - Housing

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

- 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 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 April 2021 and 30 June 2021 the panels supported 39 projects to a value of £75,528.12.
- 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 April 2021 and 30 June 2021:
 - 17 support living in good quality, affordable homes in clean and well cared for places
 - 10 projects enable tenants and residents to live more happy, healthy and active lives
 - 5 help tenants and residents be safe and feel safe
 - 3 help tenants do well at all levels of learning
 - 3 help tenants to have greater access to green spaces and;
 - 1 supports tenants and residents to live with dignity and stay independent for as long as possible.

Recommendations

- a) That the Chief Officer - Housing, approve the 39 tenant led environmental and community related funding recommendations of the HAPs from 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

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

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 2 For 2021/22 Leeds City Council committed £405k 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 HAPs continue to prioritise projects or activities that in some way benefit the community in the local response to COVID-19, both in the short and longer term.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 5 HAPs themselves are tenant led and are an important part of the services Tenant Engagement Framework.
- 6 Local Ward Members are part of the HAP decision making process, with up to one Ward Member per ward nominated by the Community Committee to make up HAP membership.

What are the resource implications?

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

What are the legal implications?

- 8 None

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

- 9 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.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth

Health and Wellbeing

Climate Emergency

10 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, health and wellbeing and inclusive growth priorities.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

11 The service continues to resource HAPs as a local means to respond to tenant feedback and requests for improvement or local action.

How will success be measured?

12 Each local project is subject to an evaluation of its impact, to allow feedback to the HAP and to use to share with residents more widely.

What is the timetable for implementation?

13 Implementation will be on a project by project basis, as per locally agreed application.

Appendices

14 Appendix A – list of all projects supported by the 11 HAPs between the 1 April 2021 and 30 June 2021.

Background papers

15 None