

To approve the 2023/24 delegated Well Being and Youth Activity Fund for the 10 Community Committees

Date: 30th March 2023

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

Brief summary

The report seeks the approval of the director for Communities, Housing and Environments for the 2023/24 Well Being and Youth Activity Fund (YAF) allocations for each of the 10 Community Committees.

Recommendations

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

- a) The use of the most up to date 2019 IMD and general population datasets, and ward-based population data issued by the ONS in February 2023 (2021 Census) for young people aged 8-17 years, to determine the individual allocations for Well Being and Youth Activity Funds (YAF) for each of the 10 Community Committees for the financial year 2023/24
- b) The new 2023/24 Wellbeing and YAF allocations for each of the 10 Community Committees, incorporating an approved budget reduction of £133,000.

What is this report about?

- 1 On an annual basis, each of the 10 Community Committees are allocated a Wellbeing grant budget to fund local activity that supports the delivery of Community Committee priorities. The Wellbeing 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.
- 2 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 (ONS) population estimates are used to determine individual allocations for each committee area.

- 3 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.
- 4 Since 2020/21, Well Being Fund allocations have been determined using the 2019 IMD and general population datasets. As no new datasets have been provided by the ONS since this time, the allocations for 2023/24 have been calculated using the same information.
- 5 In February 2023, the ONS publish new population data at ward level from the 2021 Census for young people ages 8-17 years. This data has been used to determine allocations for Youth Activity Fund (YAF) for 2023/24.
- 6 At the February 2023 Full Council meeting, as part of the Council's budget setting process and to support corporate budget pressure in-line with other Council Services, Council approved a budget reduction of £133k to the delegated Well Being budgets. The reduction has been applied as a 9% reduction to the Well Being Budget and a 7% reduction to the Youth Activity (YAF) budget.
- 7 The table below outlines the confirmed 2023/24 Wellbeing allocations for all the 10 committees using the 2019 IMD and ONS general population data. This includes an overall budget reduction to the Wellbeing Fund amounting to £99.621k.

Community Committee	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Wellbeing Budget
Inner South	172,930	157,165
Outer South	103,770	94,310
Outer East	93,440	84,921
Inner West	142,540	129,546
Inner North West	94,030	85,460
Outer West	94,210	85,620
Outer North West	74,600	67,800
Inner North East	81,850	74,388
Inner East	183,350	166,630
Outer North East	52,220	47,460
	£1,092,940	£993,300

8. The table below outlines the confirmed 2023/24 YAF allocations for all 10 Community Committees using the ONS population data issued in February 2023 (2021 Census) for young people aged 8-17 years. This includes an overall budget reduction amounting to £32.910k in total.

Community Committee	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 YAF Budget using 2022 pop data 8-17 year olds
Inner South	54,640	48,230
Inner West	36,260	36,072
Inner North East	43,000	38,955
Inner North West	24,790	31,615
Inner East	68,120	58,420
Outer South	50,320	45,528
Outer West	43,230	39,333
Outer North East	35,500	31,833
Outer North West	51,990	48,215
Outer East	50,760	47,500
	£458,610	£425,700

What impact will this proposal have?

9. Full Council approved the 2023/24 Council budget at its meeting in February 2023. Within this budget was a budget reduction of £133k to the Well Being budgets (compromising of Well Being and YAF). This budget reduction has been applied as a 9% reduction to the individual committees Well Being allocations, and a 7% cut to individual committees YAF allocations.
10. Applying the 2019 IMD and ONS population data will impact on all 10 Community Committees in relation to the Wellbeing Fund. The 50% deprivation: 50% population formula remains sound and has been applied for a number of years.
11. In relation to the YAF, individual Community Committee allocations have altered as a result of new population data from the 2021 Census which was issued by the ONS in February 2023 that are specific to the numbers of young people that sit within each ward, from the 8–17-year-old cohort.
12. 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

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

13. Leeds has an ambition to be a city with a strong economy whilst being a compassionate city. Both Wellbeing 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.
14. To support the city's drive to assist all its citizens in relation to the current cost of living crisis, it's proposed that an additional question is included in the current Well Being and YAF applications to request that applicants consider how their proposed activity will help address issues associated with the current cost of living crisis.
15. The 10 Community Committees support a wide range of projects and activity that contribute to the city's climate change ambitions, these include; improvements to green spaces including tree planning, supporting the delivery of projects which reduce energy consumption and encourage the use of green energy sources, educate and change behaviours by encouraging recycling and other alternative waste disposal methods e.g. composting, and promoting the use of public transport, walking and cycling,

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

16. The Executive member for Communities has been fully briefed and supports the proposed use of new data available. All 10 Committee Chairs were notified of their confirmed local allocations on the **23rd March 2023**. At the time of writing this report, there had been no objections raised about the individual committee allocations.

What are the resource implications?

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

18. The revised budget allocations include an approved budget reduction of £133k across the Well Being budgets (Well Being & YAF).

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

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

- The datasets used for wellbeing are from 2019 and may no longer accurately reflect the most up to date position in relation to relative deprivation and estimated population figures for the city.
 - An annual review of national statistical data takes place and any new figures will be updated as and when available.

What are the legal implications?

20. There are no legal implications associated with the proposals outlined in this report.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

21. Full Council approved a budget reduction to the Community Committee delegated Well Being and Youth Activity Fund amounting to £133k. The proposals set out in this report deliver the approved saving using the agreed formula for both funds. No other options were considered.

How will success be measured?

22. 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 autumn 2023.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

23. Subject to director approval, the Head of Locality Partnerships will implement the decision which will take place from the 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024.

24. In addition, the Wellbeing and YAF allocations will be considered as part of a wider Community Committee review in 2023/24. As part of that review a cross party working group will be formed, linking in with the Scrutiny process. A specific focus will be on refining the criteria for wellbeing funding, to include a greater emphasis on the cost of living crisis, the equality, diversity & inclusion agenda and cohesion.

Appendices

- None

Background papers

- None