

# Record of Decisions – Housing Advisory Panels – 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023

Date: 3 April 2022

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

## Brief summary

- 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 January 2023 and 31 March 2023, the panels supported 80 projects to a value of £164,841.73
- Overall, for the 2022/23 year, HAPs have funded 277 projects to a value of £492,492.20
- HAP funding applications are required to make clear how they are contributing to wider council priorities.

## Recommendations

- a) That the Chief Officer - Housing, approve the 80 tenant led environmental and community related funding recommendations of the HAPs from 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023.
- b) To note overall HAP spend of the 2023 year overall of £492,492.30 and the carry forward of uncommitted HAP funds of £22,924.46 into 2023/24 financial year.

## What is this report about?

- 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.
- 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 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.
- 4 Between the 1 January 2023 and 31 March 2023, the panels supported 80 projects to a value of £164,841.73
- 5 Overall, for the 2022/23 year, HAPs have funded 277 projects to a value of £492,492.20. This equates to committing 95.57% of the available HAP budget, with £22,812.56 to carry forward into 2023/24 financial year.
- 6 HAP funding applications are required to make clear how they are contributing to Best Council Plan priorities.

### What impact will this proposal have?

- 7 For 2022/23 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 well-being of tenants helping to create more sustainable communities and successful tenancies.

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

Health and Wellbeing       Inclusive Growth       Zero Carbon

- 8 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 priorities of climate change, health and wellbeing and inclusive growth.
- 9 For the projects recommended for funding between 1 January 2023 and 31 March 2023:
  - a) 35 projects enable tenants and residents to live more happy, healthy and active lives
  - b) 28 support living in good quality, affordable homes in clean and well cared for places
  - c) 8 help tenants and residents do well at all levels of learning
  - d) 9 help tenants and residents be safe and feel safe

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes       No

- 10 HAPs themselves are tenant led and are an important part of the services Tenant Engagement Framework.
- 11 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?

- 12 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
  - d) Working closely with other Council teams and services, in particular local Communities Teams.

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

13 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.

14 Some examples of these controls are:

- a) Setting and annually updating local HAP priorities to give a framework to local decision making
- b) Consulting with other council services, ward members and residents themselves prior to activity taking place (or for the applicant to be able to demonstrate how their project is supported by the local community)
- c) Ensuring (where grants are awarded) that appropriate governance is in place by the receiving party – e.g. evidence of well managed accounts and safeguarding and vulnerable adults policies.

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

15 None

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

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

16 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?**

17 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 and who will be responsible for implementation?**

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

### **Appendices**

- Appendix A – list of all 80 projects supported by the 11 HAPs between the 1 January 2023 and 31 March 2023.

### **Background papers**

- None