

# To approve the 2024/25 delegated Well Being and Youth Activity Fund for the 10 Community Committees

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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 2024/25 Wellbeing and YAF allocations for each of the 10 Community Committees, incorporating an approved budget reduction of £212,850k.

## 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 2024/25 have been calculated using the same information.
- 5 At the February 2024 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 £212,850k to the delegated Well Being budgets. The reduction has been applied as a 15% reduction to both the Well Being Budget and the Youth Activity (YAF) budget.
- 6 The table below outlines the confirmed 2024/25 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 £148,995k.

Community Committee	2023/24 wellbeing Budget	2024/25 Wellbeing Budget
Inner South	157,165	133,590
Outer South	94,310	80,164
Outer East	84,921	72,183
Inner West	129,546	110,114
Inner North West	85,460	72,641
Outer West	85,620	72,777
Outer North West	67,800	57,630
Inner North East	74,388	63,230
Inner East	166,630	141,636
Outer North East	47,460	40,341
	<b>£993,300</b>	<b>£844,305</b>

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 £63,855k in total.

Community Committee	2023/24 YAF Budget	2024/25 YAF Budget
Inner South	48,230	40,996
Inner West	36,072	30,661
Inner North East	38,955	33,112
Inner North West	31,615	26,873
Inner East	58,420	49,657
Outer South	45,528	38,699
Outer West	39,333	33,433
Outer North East	31,833	27,058
Outer North West	48,215	40,982
Outer East	47,500	40,375
	<b>£425,700</b>	<b>£361,845</b>

### What impact will this proposal have?

9. Full Council approved the 2024/25 Council budget at its meeting in February 2024. Within this budget was a budget reduction of £212,850k to the Community Committee delegated

budgets (compromising of Well Being and YAF). This budget reduction has been applied as a 15% reduction to the individual committees Well Being and 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. These 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

12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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

15. 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 the proposals to reduce the Community Committee delegated Wellbeing and YAF budgets by 15% at their meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

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

16. There are no additional resource implications arising out of this proposal.
17. The revised budget allocations include an approved budget reduction of £212,850k across the Well Being budgets (Well Being & YAF).

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

18. 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?**

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

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

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

20. Full Council approved a budget reduction to the Community Committee delegated Well Being and Youth Activity Fund (YAF) amounting to £212,850k in February 2024. The proposals set out in this report deliver the approved saving using the agreed formula for both funds.

21. Other options / formulas to allocate the approved budget reductions were considered, including a proportional allocation of the overall budget reduction based on the total gross uncommitted budget that each committee held at the start of the new financial year, which would include uncommitted Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). However, it was agreed that further work needs to take place in 2024/25 to better understand the implications of this on individual committees prior to any new approach being formally adopted.

22. Furthermore, a review of the formula used to allocate delegated budgets to the Community Committees will be undertaken in 2024/25, which may result in changes the existing formula of 50% deprivation / 50% population for Wellbeing funds and population age by ward for YAF funding. This review will consider any new national and local datasets, such as the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and Social Progress Index (SPI), both of which provide valuable insights on the overall wellbeing of the city's neighbourhoods.

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

23. 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 September 2024.

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

24. Subject to director approval, the Head of Locality Partnerships will implement the decision which will take place from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

### **Appendices**

- None

### **Background papers**

- None