

Forward Plan reference number: Not applicable

Report title: Local Community Fund: Fourth round of funding proposals	
Report to: Councillor Louise McKinlay – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Levelling Up and the Economy	
Report author: Paul Turner, Director, Legal and Assurance	
Date: 19 January 2024	For: Decision
Enquiries to: Paul Turner, Director, Legal and Assurance; Joanna Boaler, Head of Democracy and Transparency, Emma Hunter, Senior Democratic Services Officer – locality.fund@essex.gov.uk	
County Divisions affected: County Divisions affected: Dunmow, Saffron Walden, Stansted, Thaxted, Basildon Westley Heights, Billericay and Burstead, Laindon Park and Fryerns, Pitsea, Wickford Crouch, Bocking, Braintree Eastern, Braintree Town, Halstead, Hedingham, Three Fields with Great Notley, Witham Northern, Witham Southern, Broomfield and Writtle, Chelmer, Chelmsford Central, Chelmsford North, Chelmsford West, Great Baddow, South Woodham Ferrers, Springfield, Stock, Abbey, Constable, Drury, Maypole, Mersea and Tiptree, Mile End and Highwoods, Parsons Heath and East Gates, Stanway and Pyefleet, Wivenhoe St Andrew.	

1. Everyone's Essex

1.1 The approval of these applications, received in response to the Councils' Local Community Fund (LCF), will directly support projects which are targeted at the following three areas:

- Levelling Up
- Tackling Climate Change
- Youth Services

1.2 Levelling up and working with and empowering communities are key components of Everyone's Essex with specific commitments across all four of our strategic aims and as key operating principles for how we will work as an organisation.

1.3 This decision sets out the nominations received before the 19 January 2024 where we have received full information from nominated groups. Further decisions will be taken as more proposals are received. The final deadline for proposals is 2 February 2024.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Agree to make awards from the Local Community Fund (LCF) as set out in Appendix 1.

- 2.2 Agree that no payments may be made with respect to a particular award unless the recipient agrees to the terms and conditions of the award and provides sufficient evidence of the expenditure.

3. Background and Proposal

- 3.1 Following a decision made in May 2023 the Council established a £300,000 fund called the Local Community Fund. The Council has established criteria for making awards under this Fund.

- 3.2 The Local Community Fund operates as twelve separate funds each covering the area of a district council. The fund for each district will be £4,000 for each county councillor in that district. The fund must be spent on one of the following three areas:

- Levelling Up
- Tackling Climate Change
- Youth Services

- 3.3 The process for considering proposals is that:

- Members representing electoral divisions in the relevant district consider how best to spend the money and submit an application to the fund.
- The proposal is considered by officers in the relevant service.
- The proposed recipients are asked to provide information about the project.
- The Cabinet Member decides on an award via this report.

- 3.4 Under this process we are now asking the Cabinet Member to consider the recommendations made by members and make a decision on the applications set out in the appendix to this report.

- 3.5 These proposals in this decision would see a total of **£57,067** being approved, meaning that a cumulative total of **£117,879** out of the **£300,000** fund committed to date, with the deadline for nominations being early February 2024.

4 Links to our Strategic Ambitions

- 4.1 This report links to the following aims in the Essex Vision:

- Strengthen communities through participation
- Unite behind a sense of identity

- 4.2 This report links to the following strategic priorities of 'Everyone's Essex'

- Health, wellbeing and independence for all ages
- A good place for children and families to grow.

5 Options

Accept the recommendations from members as set out in appendix 1.

- 5.1 This option is recommended, because the awards have been nominated by members in line with the scheme. The Cabinet Member is required to be happy with the decision and is free to accept or reject any recommendation as they think fit.

Do not make some or all of the awards

- 5.2 The Council could decide not to make any awards in this round. This would have a negative impact on the projects and they are unlikely to go ahead.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 A cabinet member action was agreed in May 2023 to approve transfer of £200,000 from the Youth Services policy line to the Locality Fund policy line, both within Communities, Partnerships and Performance portfolio, for 2023/24 only. In addition, the cabinet member action agreed the draw down of £450,000 from the Ambition reserve. This funding is split into two parts: £350,000 is for the Locality Fund and £300,000 is for the Local Community Fund.
- 6.2 Members make recommendations for their district areas on how the money is to be spend on projects.
- 6.3 The fund opened for nominations on 15 May 2023 and proposals will not be accepted after 2 February 2024.
- 6.4 The value applications recommended for approval to date are as follows:

Local Community Fund			
Awards Recommended by District	Previously approved	Approval now sought	Total award
Brentwood	£14,504	£0	£14,504
Uttlesford	£6,000	£3,000	£9,000
Rochford	£20,000	£0	£20,000
Epping Forest	£8,800	£0	£8,800
Maldon	£11,508	£0	£11,508
Basildon	£0	£30,000	£30,000
Braintree	£0	£11,704	£11,704

Chelmsford	£0	£11,000	£11,000
Colchester	£0	£1,363	£1,363
Total Awards Recommended	£60,812	£57,067	£117,879

Remaining balance yet to be awarded in 2023/24 financial year: £182,121

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 All nominations made by members have been checked against the criteria, before recommendations are brought to the Cabinet Member for approval and no payments will be made without sufficient evidence and information regarding expenditure.

8. Equality and Diversity Considerations

- 8.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful
 - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 8.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).
- 8.3 The Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment (ECIA) indicates that the proposal in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

9. List of Appendices

- 1.1. Appendix 1 - A summary of applications for approval.
- 1.2. Appendix 2 – ECIA

10. List of Background papers

10.1 [Local Community Funds and Locality Funds Arrangements 2023/24](#)

I make the following decision:	Date
LCF29 – Approve LCF30 – Approve LCF32 – Approve LCF37 – Approve LCF38 – Approve LCF40 – Approve LCF41 – Approve LCF42 – Approve LCF43 – Approve LCF44 – Approve LCF45 – Approve LCF47 – Approve LCF52 – Approve	30.01.24
Councillor Louise McKinlay – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Levelling Up and the Economy	

In consultation with:

Role	Date
Michael Neumann on behalf of Nicole Wood, Executive Director, Corporate Services (S151 Officer)	22 January 2024
Paul Turner, Director, Legal and Assurance (Monitoring Officer)	19 January 2024

Appendix 1 - Applications for approval.

Application	LCF29
Date Nomination Received	9 December 2023
Member Agreement	All Colchester Members are aware of the proposal and no concerns have been raised.
Amount	£1,363
Name/Group	Berechurch Parochial Church Council
Type of organisation	Charity/Church
Location	Colchester
Service Area	Levelling Up the Community
Purpose of funding	A Slow Cooker club including the supply of slow cookers. food and training sessions to be held in St Margarets Church Hall. Costs involved are the supply of slow cookers, starter kits and food provision. This project will take place over six weeks and assist low-income families with producing meals from menu samples using healthy ingredients so that families can plan and slow cook a healthy meal. There will be 12 participants per week, and the church will work with Essex Child and Family Hub to find families who can benefit from this project.
Community Benefit	This will give knowledge of healthy and low-cost meals to low-income families, allowing them to make healthy and cheap home cooked food.

Application	LCF30
Date Nomination Received	11 December 2023
Member Agreement	All Braintree Members are in agreement.
Amount	£3,360
Name/Group	N-Act
Type of organisation	Charity
Location	Braintree
Service Area	Youth Provision
Purpose of funding	For six schools to receive an educational play which focuses on consent. Costs include actor salaries, a handout for students and worksheets for schools to follow up with. This is for schools in Braintree.
Community Benefit	This will be invaluable for young people to demonstrate the issues around unhealthy relationships, manipulation, and coercion. It is an essential tool to assist in developing healthy relationships for our young people.

Application	LCF32
Date Nomination Received	11 December 2023
Member Agreement	All Braintree members are in agreement.
Amount	£7,344
Name/Group	Essex Youth Service
Type of organisation	Local Authority
Location	Braintree
Service Area	Youth Provision
Purpose of funding	Provision of a County lines "Drugs Bus". A double decker bus designed to educate and to raise young people's awareness of gangs, grooming, knife crime and consequences using a creative interactive "drugs Bus" and their highly skilled staff team. Attendance at 6 schools in Braintree
Community Benefit	Educating and raising awareness of gangs, grooming and knife crime.

Application	LCF37
Date Nomination Received	19 December 2023
Member Agreement	All Basildon Members are in agreement
Amount	£9,600
Name/Group	Trustlinks
Type of organisation	Charity
Location	Basildon
Service Area	Levelling Up the Community
Purpose of funding	The funds will be spent on the Growing Together Basildon Therapeutic community garden in Vange, Basildon. The money will be spent on additional developments at the site to provide improved activities and support particularly for adults and young people with mental health and learning disabilities in the Basildon area. Specifically, the funding will be spent on fencing, signage, raised bed materials, ramps into log cabins, granite fines for paths.
Community Benefit	The Growing Together Basildon project is already providing real support for those with mental health and learning disabilities. Although only opened earlier this year positive outcomes are also being noted in many of the users mental health and improved confidence - making a return to training or employment far more

	likely. It is also providing a useful community resource for the nearby 3/4 Estate - and a volunteering opportunity for local people.
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Application	LCF38
Date Nomination Received	22 December 2023
Member Agreement	All Uttlesford Members are aware of the proposal and no concerns have been raised.
Amount	£3,000
Name/Group	Helena Romanes School
Type of organisation	School
Location	Uttlesford
Service Area	Youth Provision
Purpose of funding	Provision of Mental Health Counselling. Without additional funding the school would have to reduce the current provision meaning they would be able to see fewer pupils.
Community Benefit	Providing Counselling is one way of trying to improve outcomes for these pupils and their families.

Application	LCF40
Date Nomination Received	1 January 2024
Member Agreement	All Basildon Members met to discuss proposals and this proposal received unanimous support from those present. No members have expressed any concerns regarding this proposal.
Amount	£4,000
Name/Group	Koolcarers
Type of organisation	Charity
Location	Basildon
Service Area	Levelling Up the Community
Purpose of funding	Providing counselling sessions in February and March. There would be a minimum of 12 sessions per person, and this funding would cover approximately 50 sessions.
Community Benefit	Providing respite support for young carers.

Application	LCF41
Date Nomination Received	1 January 2024

Member Agreement	All Basildon Members met to discuss proposals and this proposal received unanimous support from those present. No members have expressed any concerns regarding this proposal.
Amount	£3,186
Name/Group	N-Act
Type of organisation	Charity
Location	Basildon
Service Area	Youth Provision
Purpose of funding	For six schools to receive an educational play which focuses on consent. Costs include actor salaries, a handout for students and worksheets for schools to follow up with.
Community Benefit	This will be invaluable for young people to demonstrate the issues around unhealthy relationships, manipulation and coercion. It is an essential tool to assist in developing healthy relationships for our young people.

Application	LCF42
Date Nomination Received	1 January 2024
Member Agreement	All Basildon Members met to discuss proposals and this proposal received unanimous support from those present. No members have expressed any concerns regarding this proposal.
Amount	£5,000
Name/Group	Bar 'n' Bus
Type of organisation	Charity
Location	Basildon
Service Area	Youth provision
Purpose of funding	<p>Intervention programme incorporating Essex Fire and Rescue Fire Break for two programmes in De La Salle and James Hornsby. One programme would run in the Autumn term and one in the spring term. The Intervention programme runs for 24 sessions over 12 weeks, timetabled into young people's school week. To increase the impact upon the young people engaging, Bar N Bus want to be able to incorporate Essex Fire and Rescue's FireBreak programme into the course.</p> <p>The funding will pay purely for the Fire Break courses as Bar N Bus have obtained match funding to cover the costs for the Intervention mentoring they are delivering.</p>
Community Benefit	Bar N Bus have delivered the intervention programme in Woodlands School previously, including the Fire Break and had really positive outcomes as a result.

Application	LCF43
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Date Nomination Received	1 January 2024
Member Agreement	All Basildon Members met to discuss proposals and this proposal received unanimous support from those present. No members have expressed any concerns regarding this proposal.
Amount	£6,120
Name/Group	Essex Youth Service
Type of organisation	Local Authority
Location	Basildon
Service Area	Youth Provision
Purpose of funding	Provision of a County lines "Drugs Bus". A double decker bus designed to educate and to raise young people's awareness of gangs, grooming, knife crime and consequences using a creative interactive "drugs Bus" and their highly skilled staff team. Attendance at 5 schools in Basildon.
Community Benefit	Educating and raising awareness of gangs, grooming and knife crime.

Application	LCF44
Date Nomination Received	1 January 2024
Member Agreement	All Basildon Members are aware of the proposal and no concerns have been raised.
Amount	£2,094
Name/Group	Essex Music Service
Type of organisation	Local Authority
Location	Basildon
Service Area	Youth Provision
Purpose of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A free to access Rock School based in Basildon at either Southernhay Youth Centre or the Towngate Theatre • Two tutors would deliver group lessons in Drums, Guitar, Keys and Voice followed by a chance to rehearse in bands in an informal, supported environment • 10 x 2 hour sessions would be delivered before 30th June, with a taster session late in the Spring term, followed by 9 weeks in the Summer term • Bands will be supported to perform in Open Mic nights where appropriate • Appropriate equipment will be provided to support the students <p>Further funding has been secured for provision from September 2024 for 30 students in Basildon to receive free music lessons in the Community, so this project will have a strong legacy in the area and be an excellent foundation for engaging young people in the</p>

	Basildon area. Costs are tutor time, equipment and administration costs.
Community Benefit	Access to music and personal development for young people.

Application	LCF45
Date Nomination Received	1 January 2024
Member Agreement	All Braintree Members are aware of the proposal and no concerns have been raised.
Amount	£1,000
Name/Group	Baby Stuff Braintree
Type of organisation	Charity
Location	Braintree
Service Area	Levelling Up the Community
Purpose of funding	Purchasing additional baby essentials from nappies to prams, from hats to baby grows to support parents on low incomes in the wider Braintree District area.
Community Benefit	Cost of living remains a concern for many residents in both urban and rural Braintree District. This charity has a track record of providing a much-needed goods to local residents.

Application	LCF47
Date Nomination Received	11 January 2024
Member Agreement	All Chelmsford Members are in agreement.
Amount	£7,000
Name/Group	Essex Youth Service
Type of organisation	Local Authority
Location	Chelmsford
Service Area	Youth Provision
Purpose of funding	Provision of a County lines “Drugs Bus”. A double decker bus designed to educate and to raise young people's awareness of gangs, grooming, knife crime and consequences using a creative interactive ‘drugs Bus’ and their highly skilled staff team. Attendance at 5 schools in Chelmsford.
Community Benefit	Educating and raising awareness of gangs, grooming and knife crime.

Application	LCF52
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Date Nomination Received	11 January 2024
Member Agreement	All Chelmsford members are in agreement
Amount	£4,000
Name/Group	Chelmsford District Scouts
Type of organisation	Charity
Location	Chelmsford
Service Area	Youth Provision
Purpose of funding	Installation of a female toilet at the campsite at Riffhams Chase, Little Baddow.
Community Benefit	Allowing access to scouting to all young people.