

Local Levelling Up Fund/ Local Community Fund Update

Reference Number: CPSC/18/23

Report title: Local Community Fund (replaced the Local Levelling up Fund) Update	
Report to: Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 28 September 2023	For: Discussion and identifying any follow-up scrutiny actions
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County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

This item was requested by the Committee at its last meeting on 27 July 2023. Furthermore, the request stipulated that the update should be arranged for the next meeting of the Committee.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to consider this report and any issues arising.

3. Background

On 27 July 2023 the Committee received a note of a withdrawn call-in of the Cabinet Member Decision FP/178/07/23 - Local Levelling Up Fund: Additional Funding Proposals and Minor Amendments to the Local Community Fund Rules.

The Committee agreed that a further update should be prepared for the next meeting to consider the application and approval process for the new Local Community Fund operating for 2023-24 (LCF), which has replaced the Local Levelling Up Fund. The LCF has some different characteristics to the Levelling Up Fund which will be explained further by the Cabinet Member. It was also agreed not to revisit the specific grounds of the call-in which applied to the Local Levelling Up Fund which was in operation for 2022-23. The Committee stressed that, instead, the purpose of such update was to consider if there were any process issues preventing the successful operation of the LCF going forward.

Since then, the Chairman has had a preparatory discussion with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Levelling Up, and the Economy, and Lead Officers, and agreed that the update should include enabling the Committee:

- To get a full understanding of the features of the LCF, application process, requirements and deadlines;

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- To hear more about the types of schemes now being funded under the LCF and some examples of good practice.
- To consider a list of some suggested schemes which may give further clarity and ideas to members as to the type of projects in their own area that may be appropriate for which to seek funding from the LCF.
- To understand the numbers of applications received and approved in the last financial year for the Local Levelling Up Fund.
- To understand how grant money was allocated under the Local Levelling Up Fund in the previous financial year.

4. Action Required

The Committee is invited to consider the updates provided in the Appendices listed below.

5. Update and Next Steps

See Appendices below.

6. Appendices

- A. Power Point presentation – Locality Fund and Local Community Fund Update from Councillor Louise McKinlay, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance.
- B. Summary of Local Levelling Up Fund applications received during the 2022-23 financial year.