

SC/24/02

Corporate, Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee

27 June 2024

Locality Budget Annual Report 2023/2024

Joint Report of the Director of Finance and Public Value, and Head of Communities

1) Recommendation

That the Committee be asked to note this report.

2) Background

In line with the Council's 'Locality Budget Operating Principles' an annual statement which summarises the allocations approved by Members is submitted to this Committee for audit and monitoring purposes.

Each Member of the County Council was allocated a Locality Budget of £5,000 for 2023/24. The Locality Budget is used by elected Members to respond to local needs, within electoral divisions, by supporting projects or activities that benefit the people and communities they represent. These grants must be used in accordance with operating principles in Part 3f of Section 5 of the Constitution.

3) Locality Budget Statement of 2023/24

This statement has been prepared for audit and monitoring purposes and summarises expenditure in 2023/24 by each of the 60 Councillors.

For each Member, Appendix 1 to this report details:

- Total Locality Budget for 2023/24
- Carried forward Locality Budget from 2022/23
- Total Locality Budget payments allocated in 2023/24.

The committee may wish to note the following:

Total Locality Budget for 2023/24 was £468,356 (Included monies brought forward from 22/23)

Total Locality Budget allocated in 2023/24 was £321,287.

Total underspend for 2023/24 was £147,069.

At year end the total Locality Budget underspend for 2023/24 was £147,069. It has been confirmed that this amount has been carried forward into 2024-25. There will be no roll over of unspent Locality Budget funding into the 25/26 financial year due to Local County Council elections, therefore all available funds must be used by March 2025.

Locality Budget pilot year 2023/24

The Locality Budget pilot, which involved changes to the team and process, was successful last year 2023/24. The changes reduced the time that applicants had to wait for a response and payment of their grants. The Communities Team will continue to manage the Locality Budget grant 2024/25.

Following recommendations from members of the Corporate, Infrastructure and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee on 22 June 2023, a live, Power Bi information tool shows the spend of each individual member and is available on the Locality Budget web pages.

There are greater pressures on grant funding in general with many projects struggling due to increases in utility, rental, food and travel costs. The Communities Team will continue to make connections between the Growing Communities fund and Locality Budgets in order to maximise the grant potential of applicants. The Communities Team is also best placed to connect projects with other possible funding streams both within Devon County Council and with external partners.

4) Options / Alternatives

The Locality Budget forms part of the Council's Constitution and so there are no suggested options/alternatives.

5) Strategic Plan

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/strategic-plan>

Locality Budget 2023/24 records a wide variety of projects supported by Members from a children's summer book hunt in Kingsbridge to a young people's wellbeing fayre in Exmouth. On the whole, the projects supported by Members align with the Council's Strategic Plan priorities

6) Financial Considerations

The use of funds in 2023/24 has remained within budget. The Locality Budget grant fund for 2024/25 has been increased from £5,000 to £8,000 for each member following the Devon County Council budget decisions in February 2024. The Budget allocation of £480,000 plus £147,069 carried forward means a total of £627,069 is available for members to support projects in 2024/25 financial year.

7) Legal Considerations

In line with the Council's 'Locality Budget Operating Principles' an annual statement which summarises the allocations approved by Members is submitted to this Committee for audit and monitoring purposes.

8) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change)

A range of the projects that are funded through the Locality Budget indicate that they are aligned with both community benefit and the climate emergency/environmental agenda.

9) Equality Considerations

Each of our county members has an annual locality budget, to be used as a fund of last resort, so that they can respond to local needs within any financial year (April to March). members can, if they wish, make grants to support projects or activities that benefit the communities they represent.

Applications are accepted from constituted and not-for-private-profit voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector groups and organisations, town and parish councils, charities or businesses (who have an eligible sponsor), or a combination of such groups working together.

10) Risk Management Considerations

Locality Budget grants must be used in accordance with operating principles in Part 3f of Section 5 of the Constitution. Officers assess Locality Budget applications against the Operating Principles and advise members on eligibility, which informs member's decision-making.

11) Summary

In line with the Council's 'Locality Budget Operating Principles' this report is the annual statement which summarises the allocations approved by Members and is submitted to this Committee for audit and monitoring purposes.

Angie Sinclair
Director of Finance and Public Value

Simon Kitchen
Head of Communities

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Equality: Councillor Roger Croad

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

Nil

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Appendix 1 to SC/24/02

	Brought forward 22/23	Budget 23/24	Total Budget 23/24	Total Allocated 23/24	Underspend 23/24
Ian Hall	£591	£5,000	£5,591	£5,402	£189
Henry Gent	£5,221	£5,000	£10,221	£2,246	£7,975
Sara Randall-Johnson	£5,221	£5,000	£10,221	£3,123	£7,098
Richard Scott	£6,129	£5,000	£11,129	£9,380	£1,749
Jeffrey Trail	£5,699	£5,000	£10,699	£8,950	£1,749
Christine Channon	£3,188	£5,000	£8,188	£5,595	£2,593
Phillip Twiss	£4,191	£5,000	£9,191	£4,853	£4,338
Jess Bailey	£4,325	£5,000	£9,325	£6,794	£2,531
Marcus Hartnell	£6,325	£5,000	£11,325	£4,000	£7,325
Stuart Hughes	£166	£5,000	£5,166	£4,807	£359
Iain Chubb	£4,425	£5,000	£9,425	£4,871	£4,554
EAST DEVON	£45,481	£55,000	£100,481	£60,021	£40,460
Yvonne Atkinson	£0	£5,000	£5,000	£500	£4,500
Percy Prowse	£822	£5,000	£5,822	£5,600	£222
Rob Hannaford	£0	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£0
Danny Barnes	£5,230	£5,000	£10,230	£3,630	£6,600
Tracy Adele Adams	£600	£5,000	£5,600	£5,600	£0
Carol Whitton	£3,882	£5,000	£8,882	£3,413	£5,469
Su Aves	£11	£5,000	£5,011	£2,562	£2,449
Andrew Leadbetter	£2,050	£5,000	£7,050	£3,891	£3,159
Marina Asvachin	£0	£5,000	£5,000	£4,875	£125
EXETER	£12,595	£45,000	£57,595	£35,071	£22,524
Frank Letch	£2,092	£5,000	£7,092	£6,820	£272
Margaret Squires	£2,681	£5,000	£7,681	£3,148	£4,533
John Berry	£2,190	£5,000	£7,190	£5,710	£1,480
Colin Slade	£1,012	£5,000	£6,012	£5,756	£256
Richard James Chesterton	£4,019	£5,000	£9,019	£6,523	£2,496
Ray Radford	£4,969	£5,000	£9,969	£2,800	£7,169
MID DEVON	£16,963	£30,000	£46,963	£30,757	£16,206
Ian Roome	£0	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£0
Caroline Frances Leaver	£6,242	£5,000	£11,242	£11,241	£1
Pru Maskell	£0	£5,000	£5,000	£4,542	£458
Paul John Henderson	£4,264	£5,000	£9,264	£3,667	£5,597
Andrea Davis	£7,915	£5,000	£12,915	£12,015	£900
Frank Biederman	£1,472	£5,000	£6,472	£6,471	£1
Paul Crabb	£7,061	£5,000	£12,061	£0	£12,061

Jeremy Yabsley	£616	£5,000	£5,616	£5,616	£0
NORTH DEVON	£27,570	£40,000	£67,570	£48,552	£19,018
	Brought forward 22/23	Budget 23/24	Total Budget 23/24	Total Allocated 23/24	Underspend 23/24
John Hart	£2,622	£5,000	£7,622	£4,100	£3,522
Jonathon Hawkins	£1,603	£5,000	£6,603	£5,353	£1,250
Roger Croad	£6,645	£5,000	£11,645	£7,410	£4,235
Julian Brazil	£2,397	£5,000	£7,397	£7,300	£97
Rufus Gilbert	£3,705	£5,000	£8,705	£3,350	£5,355
David James Thomas	£1,501	£5,000	£6,501	£6,500	£1
Jacqi Hodgson	£106	£5,000	£5,106	£4,541	£565
SOUTH HAMS	£18,579	£35,000	£53,579	£38,554	£15,025
Sarah Khan	£550	£5,000	£5,550	£5,110	£440
George Gribble	£2,187	£5,000	£7,187	£7,187	£0
Jerry Brook	£6,600	£5,000	£11,600	£5,200	£6,400
Martin Wrigley	£500	£5,000	£5,500	£5,500	£0
Alan Connett	£250	£5,000	£5,250	£5,250	£0
Alistair Dewhirst	£0	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£0
Ron Peart	£2,634	£5,000	£7,634	£7,546	£88
Phil Bullivant	£3,805	£5,000	£8,805	£4,920	£3,885
Janet Bradford	£3,275	£5,000	£8,275	£6,350	£1,925
David Nicholas Cox	£515	£5,000	£5,515	£5,465	£50
TEIGNBRIDGE	£20,316	£50,000	£70,316	£57,528	£12,788
Linda Hellyer	£1,050	£5,000	£6,050	£6,050	£0
Jeffrey Wilton-Love	£5,109	£5,000	£10,109	£4,350	£5,759
James Morrish	£5,545	£5,000	£10,545	£9,342	£1,203
Dermot McGeough	£55	£5,000	£5,055	£4,810	£245
Andrew Saywell	£4,608	£5,000	£9,608	£5,188	£4,420
TORRIDGE	£16,367	£25,000	£41,367	£29,740	£11,627
James McInnes	£4,707	£5,000	£9,707	£7,715	£1,992
Lois Esther Samuel	£2,175	£5,000	£7,175	£6,439	£736
Debo Sellis	£1,110	£5,000	£6,110	£6,110	£0
Philip Sanders	£2,493	£5,000	£7,493	£800	£6,693
WEST DEVON	£10,485	£20,000	£30,485	£21,064	£9,421
TOTAL	£168,356	£300,000	£468,356	£321,287	£147,069