



REPORT TO:	The Leader of the Council
REPORT OF:	Assistant Director - Governance (Monitoring Officer)
REPORT AUTHOR:	Rhonda Booth, Democratic Services Manager
SUBJECT:	Designated Councillor Budgets
PURPOSE:	To determine scheme principles for ward member decision-making in respect of Designated Councillor Budgets.
KEY DECISION:	<i>N</i>
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All Wards
EXEMPT REPORT?	<i>N</i>

SUMMARY

Designated Councillor Budgets are used by Councillors to support a wide range of community initiatives and schemes. This decision will enable the scheme to continue for the next four-year term, 2023-27.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That, in accordance with the budget previously approved by the Council, ward members be authorised to award grants to support their local communities, to the maximum of £12,000 for their four-year term;
2. That spend against the budget can take place until 1 March 2027;
3. That the maximum spend in the financial year preceding the district council elections (2026/27) is capped at £5,000;
4. That any budgets that are not spent will be returned to the Council Tax Reserve; and
5. That delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director – Governance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate, Governance and Communication, to update guidance and procedures as and when required.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure that members continue to use their designated councillor budgets to support worthwhile community groups and events.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Option 1 – To agree the scheme in accordance with the recommendations

Option 2 – To agree the scheme with changes

Option 3 – Do nothing

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the meeting of Cabinet held on 14 June 2011, the delivery and management of the Councillors Designated Budget scheme was approved.
- 1.2 A further report was brought forward on 3 April 2012 agreeing procedures for carry-forward of any underspends of the Designated Councillor Budgets.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 24 June 2015, the Council reviewed the scheme and approved amendments to it.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 Councillors have supported a wide range of community initiatives and schemes and details of these will be published on the Council's website.
- 2.2 The Council has already agreed, through the annual budget setting process, the sum for designated budgets on the basis that the amount for each member equates to £12,000 over their four-year term to 2027
- 2.3 Under the current scheme, funds unspent in any year can be rolled forward to the following year.
- 2.4 As with previous years the maximum spend in the last year will, however, be capped at £5,000. and any surplus budgets that are not spent will be returned to the Council Tax Reserve

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 A number of community projects and initiatives will continue to be supported through this scheme.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL'S PARTNERSHIP

5.1.1 *None*

5.2 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5.2.1 Projects supported by this scheme have the potential to contribute to all Corporate Priorities detailed within the Corporate Plan.

5.3 STAFFING

5.3.1 Democratic Services currently support the administration of this process. Resources will be monitored to ensure it is sufficient.

5.4 CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.4.1 Members are able to make decisions in respect of designated member budgets pursuant to s236 Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, subject to suitable arrangement being approved by the Authority or the Leader.

5.4.2 As the award of grants is an executive function, it is for the Leader to approve suitable arrangements for the scheme of designated member budgets

5.5 DATA PROTECTION

5.5.1 *None*

5.6 FINANCIAL

5.6.1 The allocated amount has already been agreed by full council during the annual budget setting process.

5.7 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.7.1 *None*

5.8 STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

5.8.1 *None*

5.9 REPUTATION

5.9.1 *None*

5.10 CONTRACTS

5.10.1 *None*

5.11 CRIME AND DISORDER

5.11.1 *None*

5.12 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

5.12.1 Councillors are at liberty to allocate spend from within their allocated budget as they believe appropriate. The potential impact of any reduction cannot therefore be determined in relation to any people or groups that include those from within the protected characteristic groups

5.13 HEALTH AND WELL BEING

5.13.1 A number of projects that have been funded in the past through this scheme have supported improvements in the health and wellbeing of residents in the district.

5.14 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

5.14.1 *None*

6. ACRONYMS

6.1 *None*

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THIS REPORT

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body

REPORT APPROVAL

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Approved for publication:	Leader of the Council