

Officer Decision Notice

The following decision has been taken under Part 2, Section 12, Paragraph 1.3 (Officers) set out in the Council's Constitution.

Decision:	Release funding to projects crowdfunding in the Cheshire West Crowd (October 2024 panel recommendation)
Decision maker/s:	Maria Byrne. Director of Place Operations.
Contact Officer:	Jane Makin, Senior Manager Communities and Engagement.
ODN Reference:	
Decision details:	

Background

Cheshire West Crowd was launched by Cheshire West and Chester Council in November 2020. This is the 5th round of crowdfunding and to date has generated 8478 backers, 159 projects and over £2.3m for community projects. All projects are verified by Spacehive, who own and facilitate the platform where opportunities are advertised.

Financial Aspects

The report seeks permission to release funds to projects highlighted in the appendices to this report. Appendix A is the Master contributions sheet, showing pledges from the Community Innovation fund panel (which have been ratified by panel members) and total funds committed and available. Appendix B 'pledge sheet' shows the comments made by the panel members and agreed pledges.

Total funds released (September Panel): £73,683 (amended to reflect the actual figure due to pledge to target fee fluctuation)

Total funds to be released (October panel): £71,383

Total spend inclusive of September and October Panel:
£145,066

Total funds remaining to be allocated: £21,836

Figures correct 8th October 2024 and may be subject to change (within the agreed operating model parameters). All

May 2023

October pledges are highlighted in yellow in Appendix A and Appendix B. Note an increase in pledge to the Wincham Light Trail of £5000.

The budget for crowdfunding was approved at budget Council in February 2024. The ODN to launch this round of crowdfunding was signed in February 2024, reference number 2024093.

Spacehive have adopted a new approach titled 'Keep What you Raise', meaning project creators can opt to keep what they raise instead of being required to hit their funding target to receive funds. The Council can choose whether to continue with their pledge to Keep What you Raise projects or to retain the funds.

The panel recommends the following pledges are released to the project creator in the Keep What you Raise methodology regardless of whether the funding target is achieved. This is due to the project being effective even when delivered in parts.

Street Angels - £8,500
Thriving Together at the Hub - £5000
Upton Heath Big Kids Playground - £16,098
Crafting Together for Wellness - £2050
Messy Mischief Makers at Theatre Porto - £4500
Revive Marshlands Park - £13,000

Legal/ Procurement Aspects

The contract with Spacehive commenced in November 2023 and runs for three years with two optional extension years. The governance / operating model for the Cheshire West Crowd is being considered by Cabinet in October 2024.

An ODN (embedded below) was completed to give authority to officers to allocated pledges up to £25,000 within agreed parameters and the Cheshire West Crowdfunding Policy. This ODN documents further audit trails for the onward granting of funds from the main crowdfunding pot for this financial year.



2024093 - 2024
Crowdfund pot appro

Risk Factors

The Cheshire West Crowd is a tested model. All projects are verified by Spacehive (confirming governance/financial deliverability/appropriate policies and permissions).

The Cheshire West Crowd was audited in summer 2023 and assigned a reasonable level of assurance. All recommendations are being addressed in a Cabinet report (due to go to Cabinet in October 2024). This includes changes to governance (this ODN) and an agreed operating model (pre-launch).

Consultees

Procurement Officer (if appropriate):
Contact:

Date:

Finance Officer: Debbie Morgan
Contact:

Date: 10/10/2024

Legal Officer: Gemma Williams
Contact:

Date: 09/10/2024

Member Consultation

Detail and outcome of consultation with relevant Member:

Approval*

Approved by:

Signed:

Date:

*Approval by officer(s) to whom the decision was delegated by Council/Cabinet or in line with Part 2, Section 12, Paragraph 1.3 (Officers) of the Council's Constitution.