

Executive response to recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 November 2024

Context

The Committee considered the report to the Executive on 20 November 2024 titled “Westhive Criteria”.

The Committee noted that 2 out of 6 funding rounds had concluded and that 5 out of 6 applications had been successful in reaching their crowdfunding targets (there are a further 9 applications in round 3). The Committee also noted that Westhive is attracting a greater diversity of projects compared to previous community grants funding.

The Committee noted that priority has been given to allocating time-limited UKSPF funding where applicable but raised concerns that the £120k budget set aside for Westhive was on course to be significantly under-spent in 2024/25, when it could be being used to benefit community projects. The Committee also raised anecdotal concerns about how accessible the scheme is to charities and local groups.

The Committee recommends a review of how the Westhive budget is utilised and intends to consider the outcomes in early 2025.

Recommendation and response

Item	Recommendation	Agree (Y / N)	Comment	Responsible Executive Member	Lead Officer
Westhive criteria	That the Council reviews how funding for Westhive is utilised with a view to ensuring that the budget allocated by the Council can be distributed effectively and fully for the benefit of communities.	Y	A review will be conducted in early 2025 and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be able to consider the outcomes of the review at a meeting in March.	Councillor Alaric Smith, Executive Member for Finance; Councillor Rachel Crouch, Executive Member for Stronger, Healthy Communities.	Heather McCulloch, Community Wellbeing Manager