

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	2 nd April 2024
Report Title	Community Choices
Agenda Reference	9
Author	Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk & Services Manager

Officer's Recommendation

1. To approve the Community Events programme for 2024-2025.
2. To offer more ideas to potentially include in the programme.

Background

At February's Community Development Committee an update was received on the Community Choices 2024 initiative, and it was agreed to proceed with the following budget allocation for the £7,500.00 Community Choices funds:

- Youth (£2,500)
- Reducing Loneliness & Isolation Events (£3,000)
- Increasing the larger scale Community Events budget (£2,000)

There have been several brainstorming sessions to swap ideas and take onboard excellent suggestions from our newer members of staff who have fresh ideas having worked in other sectors like schools, sports and public health. They are also live locally and are excited to be part of the team supporting the community's future events. Members of the Committee are also encouraged to pass any ideas to the Team to research and incorporate into the 24/25 programme. It is hoped that the programme of events can be ready by the end of April 2024 to assist with marketing the events and securing adequate resources from Councillors, volunteers, and staff to run the events successfully.

The Community Choices initiative is now in its fourth year and has proven to be very successful and diverse in expanding the Council's community events programme. Each time the Community Choices programme runs, it is successful in appealing to different audiences and last year worked very well in developing a brilliant Over 60s programme, many social events at the Haydon Wick Club and some ad hoc events for the Youth inclusive of soft play sessions and a very popular Christmas party.

The focus this year, is for the events to appeal and build up a rapport to a Masculine audience, based on feedback and local needs. The suggested programme of activities also incorporates sports-based activities for the Youth, utilising the many outdoor public spaces and bringing a different offering to the Council's already well developed programme. As well as the existing audiences still receiving established popular events like the Cream Teas, the Haven, etc.

The Memory Café and larger events (such as the Summer, Annual Parish Meeting, Easter, Christmas Parcels) have their own assigned budgets and their programmes will be incorporated into the overall Council's offering.

Please see attached spreadsheet for information and costs.