

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Central Local Area Committee

Meeting held 3 October 2024

PRESENT: Councillors Brian Holmshaw (Chair), Henry Nottage (Deputy Chair), Tom Hunt, Douglas Johnson, Toby Mallinson, Laura McClean, Ruth Mersereau and John Wright

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Angela Argenzio, Christine Gilligan Kubo and Martin Phipps.

5. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

5.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

6.1 There were no interests declared at the meeting.

7. CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET REPORT

7.1 The Committee considered a report of the Community Services Manager that advised each Local Area Committee had a £100,000 budget to address local priorities, identified within their respective Community Plans. The report set out details of the spend in respect of the £100,000 that had been authorised by the Community Services Manager, in consultation with the LAC Chair and in accordance with the delegation granted in September 2021.

7.2 The report showed funding allocated to the Central Local Area Committee for 2024/25, and set out proposals for its allocation and expenditure in line with the Central Local Area Committee Community Plan.

7.3 **RESOLVED:** That the Central Local Area Committee;

1. agrees the approach set out for use of the 2024/25 budget to address local priorities in the Central LAC Community Plan as detailed in the report, and;

2. authorises the Community Services Manager to make decisions on expenditure from any budgets allocated to the Central Local Area Committee provided that:

- The decision was taken in consultation with the Local Area

Committee Chair and Committee members;

- Spending was in line with any specific purposes of the allocated budget;
- The decision may not approve expenditure of more than £10,000;
- A report detailing the delegated spending decisions taken by the Community Services Manager is presented to the next Local Area Committee meeting.

7.4 Reason for Decisions

The Central LAC was asked to approve the broad allocation of funding under the priority headings identified to assist its ability to monitor its budget, and to authorise the Community Services Manager in consultation with the Local Area Committee Chair and Committee to approve expenditure above the current delegated authority in certain circumstances so that delivery of the Community Plan was not delayed.

7.5 Alternative Options Considered

The Local Area Committee could choose not to allocate budgets at this time, but this would delay projects and facilities for local communities.

All decisions on expenditure to support the Community Plan priorities could be delegated to officers, however this would restrict and undermine the Local Area Committee's ability to monitor its delegated budget and delivery of the Community Plan.

8. SHEFFIELD AND ROTHERHAM WILDLIFE TRUST

- 8.1 Councillor Holmshaw introduced Cassa Townsend (Green Social Prescribing Programme Co-ordinator) and Lucy Graham (Sheffield Communities Officer) from Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust. They gave a presentation on 'Green Social Prescribing' (published on Sheffield City Council's website. [Agenda for Central Local Area Committee on Thursday 3 October 2024, 6.00 pm | Sheffield City Council](#))
- 8.2 Cassa Townsend explained that Green Social Prescribing was the practice of supporting people to engage in nature based or outdoor interventions and activities to improve their mental health. South Yorkshire was one of seven national sites funded by the Government to find solutions for people with mental health issues. The Funding was predominantly given to the Voluntary Sector in the form of grants to provide activities to support people with their mental health. Meaningful activities were also organised and run by grass root clubs across

South Yorkshire.

- 8.3 Fishing and gardening were given as examples of outdoor green activities and the positive effect on the participant was described. Cassa explained that they also investigated any barriers, and ways to overcome them for the public to access the activities.
- 8.4 Lucy Graham explained that 'Nature Recovery Sheffield' and 'Nature Recovery Rotherham' was born out of communities wanting to take action and be heard with regard to their community green spaces. Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust helped facilitate this and offered support to communities. This 'movement' was funded by 'Community Fund'. Lucy presented a map to the meeting which showed where activities were taking place. Currently there were 1800 people signed up to the movement.

9. LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETINGS UPDATE

- 9.1 A presentation (published on the Council's website), on the future of Local Area Committee meetings, was given by Carl Mullooly (Head of Community Services - Local Area Committees, Sheffield City Council) who advised that the team was aiming to find out with regard to the establishment of the Local Area Committees, what had worked well, what could be improved, and whether the aims to "engage, empower and enable" were being met. This would be fed into the Council's "Future Sheffield" discussion.
- 9.2 Councillor Brian Holmshaw stated that it would be interesting to hear this feedback and questioned if the Local Area Committee Public meetings were family friendly and involved young people in its processes.

10. INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS AND INFORMATION STALLS

- 10.1 This item was introduced by Cassa Townsend. The webcast was paused to allow round table discussion with Members, community partners and members of the public present at the meeting. The following questions were discussed, the outcome of the discussion was later fed back to the meeting.
1. What are the benefits to physical and mental health and wellbeing of connecting with nature?
 2. What happens in your local area for people to connect with nature?
 3. What would you like to see in your local area?

11. FEEDBACK FROM GROUPS

- 11.1 The following points were raised by those present at the meeting –

- Eamonn Ward from the Zest Centre stated that the benefits of green spaces were an escape from difficult/toxic environments and personal situations. There were barriers to accessing green spaces that needed exploring and breaking down. Zest had made attempts to involve the community in gardening activities. Their website address was www.zestcommunity.co.uk.
- A representative from Percy Street Collective requested to find a better way to share information about different organisations in the community but that the LAC was a good way to do this. He encouraged sharing information gathered from individual LAC's amongst all Local Area Committee's. He expressed a wish to create opportunities to make more green and growing spaces, in the Kelham Island and Neepsend areas. Their website address was www.percystreetcic.com.
- A project was currently underway, organised by Wilder Neighbourhoods in the Philadelphia Gardens area. This was funded by Ward Pots. Their aim was to make the space feel safer and more attractive, currently it was obscured from view and could feel secluded and unsafe. The community were being encouraged to support and be involved with the project. Leaflets advertising 'ranger days' dates for the community to get involved (19/10/24, 16/11/24, 7/12/24, 18/1/25, 15/2/25) were provided at the meeting. They had a Facebook page - 'Wilder Neighbourhoods' and an Instagram account - @wilderneighbourhoods.
- Jean Morton from the Hillsborough Group suggested activities in and around Hillsborough, learning about wildlife and growing, tree identification, utilising the walled garden as a space to facilitate this.
- Howard Bayley from Friends of Wardsend Cemetery informed the group that they arranged activities in the Hillsborough area close to the River Don, working with the Wildlife Trust, arranging bird surveys, volunteer sessions, nature walks, fungi identification and they had installed bird boxes. They worked with schools. He encouraged looking on their website to see what activities they had available. www.joinedupsheffieldheritage.org.uk
- 'Friends of' groups, the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust and the voluntary sector provided information regarding activities and work that was taking place in Sheffield.
- It was recommended that members of the community looked on-line for information. Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust were making attempts to have more joined-up on-line directories to assist with this. They had a Community Action for Nature Map on their website. [Community Action for Nature Map - Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust. www.wildsheffield.com](http://www.wildsheffield.com)
- Michaela Suckling, Lead Parish Nurse suggested adding contact details for support groups in the city to the Voluntary Action Sheffield health bulletin. www.vas.org.uk

- A member of the public recommended that the John Muir award for young people get involved..
- Other positives of being exposed to green spaces included free activity, pleasant auditory, fresh air, relaxation, exercise, improves sleep, builds strong communities, mindfulness, education.

In response to 'what would you like to see in your local area', the following points were raised –

- Better housing design incorporating green spaces;
- Education around litter;
- More green spaces;
- Community involvement;
- Taking responsibility for the local area;
- More trees;
- Plant seed bombs

12. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

12.1 Approximately 77 members of the public were present at the meeting.

Mr Brian George submitted a written question to the meeting –

'What are the small community growing spaces in our local areas'?

It was advised that a written response would be provided to Mr George

13. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

13.1 The minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 14 March 2024 and 15 May 2024, were approved as a correct record.