

East Local Area Committee

Meeting held 11 October 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Mary Lea (Chair), Nabeela Mowlana (Deputy Chair), David Barker, Mike Drabble, Terry Fox, Dianne Hurst, Ben Miskell and Sioned-Mair Richards

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies had been received by Councillors Laura Moynahan, Zahira Naz, Mazher Iqbal and Sophie Wilson.

2. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 No interests were declared at the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11th July 2023, were approved as a correct record.

5. CITY GOALS

5.1 Diana Buckley, Director, Economic Skills, and Culture gave a presentation to members on City Goals.

5.2 The presentation talked about what the Council was trying to achieve such as –

- a clear long-term plan for the City, which identified the city's priorities for an inclusive, thriving economy;
- a plan that people and partners could all stand behind and talk about what sort of city we wanted Sheffield to be;
- creating better collaboration through collective ownership and those citizens, communities and stakeholders shaped the plan, understood their role in its delivery and felt empowered in addressing complex issues;
- aligning of resources and expertise across the City and creating a clear long-term plan for the city would enable city partners to dedicate resources to collectively deliver on the goals;
- a stronger platform for leveraging funding with Government, funding bodies and investors.

- 5.3 The Director of Economic Skills and Culture explained that work had already begun in November 2021, with the City Partnership Board agreeing to commission work on a new City Strategy, work had since been ongoing and extensive, city-wide engagement had progressed and now the Council were at a stage of drafting, iterating, and shaping the goals.
- 5.4 The engagement had produced a huge amount of rich data, over 1600 survey responses, over 28 engagement workshops and 17 collaborative conversation sessions.
- 5.5 The Director of Economic Skills and Culture advised that a draft set of goals were ready in September, with the start of the 'public conversation' on the draft in October-November. The Goals would be finalised in December based on the public conversation, with the approval of the goals set for December – January 2024
- 5.6 The meeting was advised to keep a look out for the start of public conversation survey in October and this would be an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft City Goals. The LAC's would circulate details of the survey, but this could also be found on the City Goals website (www.sheffieldcitygoals.co.uk).
- 5.7 The Director of Economic Skills and Culture invited members of the public present to take part in small table discussions to look at the early draft and to answer a series of questions.
- 5.8 The meeting was then paused whilst the committee moved into small table discussions with members of the public about the draft city goals.

6. WORKSHOPS

- 6.1 The Committee and members of the public moved into small round table discussion regarding the City Goals.
- 6.2 Following these discussions, the webcast was recommenced, and Diana Buckley, Director of Skills and Culture advised of the findings.
- 6.3 Key points that came from the discussion were –
- The public wanted to see things that were more specific to them in the goals such as safety, jobs, and transport.
 - It was felt that there was a need to be realistic about what could be achieved in 12 years, but not lose the ambition.
 - There was a missing area around wellbeing.
- 6.4 It was expected that the goals would look very different following the public conversations before it goes to public consultation.
- 6.5 The Chair thanks Diane for her time and to the public for their input.

7. EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE SPEND REPORT

7.1 In 2021 each Local Area Committee was allocated an initial budget of £100,000 to be spent in line with their community plan. The East LAC Community Plan was agreed in March 2022 and spent all the portion of the £100,000 budget on the delivery the six East LAC priorities.

7.2 Each Local Area Committee has a budget to address local priorities. The report described funding allocated to the LAC for 2023/24 and set out proposals for its allocation for 2023/24 in line with the East LAC plan and described costs of living budget allocated to the East LAC for 2023/24 and set out proposals for its allocation.

7.3 **RESOLVED:** That the East Local Area Committee:

(1) agrees that the 2023/24 £100,000 LAC budget be apportioned to allocate £25,000 to each ward, to be spent on LAC Community Plan priorities;

(2) agrees the use of the 2023/24 £100,000 LAC budget as described in the report;

(3) agrees the use of the 2023/24, £77,100 East LAC Cost of Living budget as described in the report namely that 50% of East's allocation (£38,550) was awarded as a grant to Citizens Advice Sheffield to support its advice line with the remaining 50% (£38,550) used to create a new East Cost of Living fund); and

(4) authorises the Community Services Manager, in consultation with the Local Area Committee Chair, to finalise the eligibility criteria and make decisions, following engagement with the relevant Ward Members, on the award of the grant funds proposed of up to £5,000.

7.4 **Reasons for Decision**

The East LAC was asked to note the use of funding and agree further expenditure to address the identified local priorities.

7.5 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

This report was in line with the previous decision of 30th September 2021, regarding expenditure below £5,000, the East Community Plan agreed on 9th March 2022, and the East Community plan for 2023/24 agreed on 11th July 2023 East public meeting.

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

8.1 The Committee received one public question prior to the meeting, however that member of the public was not present at the meeting.

The Chair summarised the question and answer: -

It was believed that a piece of land at the Manor Lane end of Skye Edge Avenue S2 was owned by SCC, previously, (Approx. 20 years ago) it was used as an after-school club site? On the local area plans it was marked as business.

Was the land going to be used for business or housing in the immediate future?

If not, could a conversation take place regarding the use of the land for a community Green Social Prescribing project, and who was the most appropriate person to have a conversation with?

The Chair advised that this would need to be discussed with the relevant officers and local councillors.

8.2 Irene Day, Friends of Richmond Park

In regard to Park House, in Richmond Park, the question had been raised several times to the LAC and she had been in contact with her local councillors. The house had been stood empty for three years, with the previous tenants leaving in 2020. Since then, the windows had been smashed, the council had boarded these up, but then the front door was smashed in. There had been a continuous amount of ASB from children between 9 and 12 years old. The house was on fire again for the second time with the fire brigade being in attendance for more than 2 hours. The house had been left empty in a time where there was a housing crisis, but the Council's legal team had said nothing could be done. Children from the local school were causing a lot of trouble around the house. From last year alone there were 16 pages of incidents.

The Chair thanked Irene for raising the issue. Enquiries had been made and it had been advised that the house required extensive repairs, it was understood that because Richmond Park was a charitable organisation the council could not sell or place a tenant in the property.

Councillor Dianne Hurst apologised that residents were having to put up with the issues regarding this property. Councillor Hurst advised that she had reported the issues to the police (Neighbourhood Inspector), and the Inspector had sent officers out to patrol the area. Councillor Hurst believed the house had now been boarded up with tin frames, however Irene advised this had not been done, so Councillor Hurst said she would chase this up again. The Executive Director visited the park in the summer to look at the property and as the council couldn't sell the property, it was recognised that something else would need to be done with it, such as a concessionary let. The repair costs for the property were now at £75,000. Councillor Hurst suggested that they get their heads together and sit down with the relevant parties to get some answers.

The Chair requested the LAC Manager to contact the relevant officers in Parks and Property Services about the issue and arrange a meeting. The Chair also asked that the Police were made aware of all the issues going on at the property.

8.3 Vicky – Archers Housing

A resident had raised a concern about the amount of traffic on Balfour Drive, Darnall which was causing a lot of chaos with lorries turning around in the cul-de-sac from Staniforth Road. Could any barriers be installed to prevent this from happening. The Chair advised that they would get in touch with the relevant officers to take a look at the issue.

8.4 Naomi – Local resident of Stradbroke.

The question was regarding the roofing contracts and that it was taking too long to sort out the roofing issue. Having to live with mould issues. Other houses and flats had new roofing, but her flat had not.

The Chair advised that she would check with Housing Services and arrange a meeting to discuss with local tenants.

Councillor Hurst advised that when the councils roofing contractor went bankrupt, Naomi's roof was one on the list to be urgently repaired. As the new contract hadn't yet been awarded, tenants were having to live in cold, damp and mouldy conditions for another winter. Councillor Hurst advised that she would pick this up to get this sorted as a matter as urgency.

The Chair advised that any outstanding repairs would be taken today and reported in by the LAC. It was unfortunately a waiting game until the new contract was awarded.

8.5 Questioner

Was it necessary to build a new park, when there was already a park. The money was required on the housing repairs.

The Chair advised that the money for Richmond Park did not come from the Housing budgets. Councillor Drabble understood the frustrations of the public and that he would report the issue higher up in the Labour party as an example of ongoing issues with Housing repairs.

The questioner asked if funding was available from the Lottery. It was advised that the local 'Friends groups' could apply for funding through the lottery. Irene Day explained the process with funding through Friends Groups, she advised that the toddler climbing frame on Richmond Park cost £7.5k and this was money raised by the friends group and was separate to the council.

It was confirmed that Councillor Nabeela Mowlana who is the spokesperson for the Housing Committee would go out and visit residents of Stradbroke and see what the issues were and try and assist in getting the support needed.

The Chair of the committee thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

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