

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## Central Local Area Committee

### Meeting held 29 November 2023

**PRESENT:** Councillors Brian Holmshaw (Chair), Maleiki Haybe (Deputy Chair), Christine Gilligan Kubo, Tom Hunt, Douglas Johnson, Bernard Little, Toby Mallinson, Laura McClean, Ruth Mersereau, Henry Nottage and Martin Phipps

Approximately 65 members of the public were in attendance.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Angela Argenzio.

#### **2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

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

#### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

#### **4. CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE SPEND REPORT**

4.1 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.

4.2 The report showed funding allocated to the Central Local Area Committee for 2023/24, and set out proposals for its allocation and expenditure in line with the Central Local Area Committee Community Plan.

4.3 The report described the proposals for the use of the remaining funding allocated for cost of living work in the Central area.

4.4 **RESOLVED:** That the Central Local Area Committee:

- (i) Notes the latest committed spend from 2023/24 as detailed in the report to address local priorities against the £100,000 in the Central LAC Plan; and
- (ii) Agrees the use of the 2023/24 LAC Cost of Living budget (£63,704) as described in the report namely that 50% of the Central allocation (£31,852) is awarded as a grant to Citizens Advice Sheffield to support its

advice line with the remaining 50% (£31,852) used to create a new Central Cost of Living fund).

**4.5 Reasons for Decision**

The Central LAC is 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 LAC Chair and Committee to approve expenditure above the current delegated authority in certain circumstances so that delivery of the Community Plan is not delayed.

**4.6 Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

This report is in line with the previous decision of September 2021 regarding expenditure below £5,000 for the Central Community Plan agreed on March 2022.

**5. CITY GOALS**

5.1 The Committee received a presentation on City Goals from James Henderson, Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement. He explained that City Goals had been developed working with communities, businesses and public sector organisations to consider the future of Sheffield collectively, and was intended to be a long-term statement of intent for the city of Sheffield. The city was very diverse, with lots of different communities and perspectives that had much in common. City Goals aimed to build a set of stories, set a narrative for the next 20 to 30 years, and to collectively share these stories. The goals were not action plans or solutions, and instead hoped to set the direction and a framework for individuals and organisations within Sheffield to make them a reality. In November 2021, the Sheffield City Partnership Board had agreed to commission work on a new city strategy, by developing an evidence base. The Board appointed a 'task and finish' group who came to the view that an inclusive process would be most effective in hearing different community voices and views on the future of Sheffield. This had been a detailed and widespread engagement process involving many different communities across Sheffield. Over the last few months, information, experiences and life stories had been gathered to form a collective narrative for the future of Sheffield, by way of 'six stories for Sheffield'. The aim was to provide a platform for action, and to encourage everyone to have a role in the process. It was hoped to finalise the process in December 2023, before approving the goals in January 2024. Mr Henderson encouraged everyone to get involved in the process.

5.2 The Chair thanked Mr Henderson for attending the meeting.

**6. CASTLEGATE, SHEFFIELD PROPERTY ASSOCIATION AND CITY GOALS**

6.1 The Committee received a presentation from Martin McKervey, Chair of the Sheffield Property Association (SPA). He explained that the SPA was formed seven years ago, and was the only such property organisation outside of London. It brought together businesses in Sheffield that were committed to improving Sheffield's built environment, to make it a great place for everyone that lived, worked or socialised there, and to support and celebrate Sheffield. The SPA

consisted of a Board of Directors and working groups that worked on a voluntary basis. Homes England had partnered with Sheffield City Council, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, key local housing associations and the SPA to develop a strategic long-term and place-based relationship to accelerate the delivery of new homes in Sheffield, and to facilitate collaboration between the public and private sector via the Sheffield Housing Growth Forum. The SPA had also been supporting Sheffield City Council with the new draft Local Plan, the Gateway to Sheffield, the regeneration of Castlegate and Attercliffe, and Sheffield City Goals. One of the SPA's proudest achievements had been to shape and define a new Culture Compact for the city, involving Sheffield City Council, the two Sheffield universities, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals and various cultural organisations, supported by the Arts Council England, and to create a vibrant and welcoming city. The SPA also worked with the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce to help young people in schools and communities to overcome barriers and develop career opportunities, and to tackle environmental and cost of living challenges. In early 2024, the SPA would be using a Thought Leadership report to promote a conversation around what Sheffield city centre should look like. Mr McKervey added that, although not originally from Sheffield, he had made Sheffield his home and was very proud of what Sheffield had done for him, and he was pleased with the opportunities that had been provided to him via his role at the SPA.

6.2 The Chair thanked Mr McKervey for attending, and advised those present that he would be facilitating a session during the breakout discussions.

## **7. RESIDENTS VIEW - HEART OF THE CITY REGENERATION**

7.1 The Committee received a presentation from Peter Sephton, Chair of ChangingSheff, the City Centre Residents' Association. He explained that the aim of ChangingSheff was to make Sheffield city centre a great place to live, and to create a new vibe for the city centre. He noted how retail and office use in the city centre had evolved since 2013, and since the original developer had pulled out of the Sevenstone city centre development. He added that there had also been a change to housing demand within the repopulated urban centre, and highlighted the benefits of city centre living, which included convenience, exercise, services, entertainment and dining, universities, and parks and outdoor facilities. He referred to the Heart of the City Development and the additional outlets that would feature in this. He noted the lack of community facilities, such as a village hall, pre-school nursery, laundry/dry-cleaning facilities and recycling centres, and suggested ideas of how to create a community, including giving the area a name and providing community facilities. Mr Sephton also noted the issue of anti-social behaviour in the city centre, and the multiple complex needs that often led to this. He explained that the 'Help us Help' campaign had been established, which involved the co-ordination of specialist outreach teams to support those who needed it. He added that there were official channels for reporting incidents of graffiti. He advised that people were welcome to call in to see the ChangingSheff team in Café Nero, Millenium Square.

7.2 The Chair thanked Mr Sephton for his interesting presentation, and advised that further discussions on this topic could take place during the interactive breakout session.

## **8. INTERACTIVE BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS**

- 8.1 The Committee went into a breakout session, during which the members of the public in attendance were given the opportunity to join an engagement session around the 'Future of Sheffield'.

## **9. FEEDBACK FROM BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS**

- 9.1 Following the breakout session, one person from each group was asked to feedback their groups thoughts. A summary of the feedback presented was as follows:

### City Goals

- How could the goals be 'real' and part of what every organisations were working towards?
- How do communities and individuals contribute to the goals, particularly those who had been working in difficult circumstances?
- How do we think about new ways of decision-making and governing to make sure we are making progress?
- What is a 'good citizen' and a 'good partner'?

### Castlegate – Levelling Up

- The Castlegate development was an exciting opportunity
- Making the river accessible was essential for Phase 1
- There was support for seeking funding via the South Yorkshire Mayor
- The environmental and economic benefits of a park were noted

### Heart of the City

- What do we need to do to make it feel like a community?
- Important to get the right facilities, eg public toilets, health care facilities
- It is a mixed community, so important to think about affordable and social housing, and decent sized homes, sustainable housing
- Important to consider homelessness issues
- How to make the area more appealing, eg providing bins, controlling graffiti, reducing anti-social behaviour
- Look at funding for converting empty spaces

- 9.2 Councillor Brian Holmshaw, Chair of the Committee, thanked participants, and noted that it was important to consider the cumulative impact of individual decisions relating to the city centre.

## **10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

- 10.1 No public questions were received.

## **11. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 11.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 October, 2023 were approved as a correct record.
- 11.2 A member of the public suggested that the number of members of the public in attendance could be noted within the minutes, and the Chair welcomed this suggestion.