

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

East Local Area Committee

Meeting held 28 February 2024

PRESENT: Councillors Mary Lea (Chair), Nabeela Mowlana (Deputy Chair), David Barker, Terry Fox, Dianne Hurst, Laura Moynahan and Zahira Naz

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Drabble, Mazher Iqbal, Ben Miskell, Sioned-Mair Richards 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 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 December 2023, were approved as a correct record.

5. EAST LAC BUDGET UPDATE REPORT

5.1 The Committee considered a report of the Community Services Manager on the funding allocated to the East Local Area Committee for 2023-24 and the proposals for its allocation and expenditure for 2023-24 in line with the East Local Area Committee Community Plan.

5.2 **RESOLVED:** That the East Local Area Committee:-

(i) notes the expenditure against the 2023/24 £100,000 budget allocated to spend on projects that work towards implementing the East LAC Community Plan priorities as set out in Appendix 1 to this report;

(ii) authorises the following expenditure from the £100,000 project budget for the purposes described in the report:

- (a) £5001 to Woodthorpe Tenants and Residents Association.
- (b) £15,680 to The Link Community Hub; and

(iii) notes the expenditure against the 2023/24 £38.550 East Cost of Living fund, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

5.3 **Reasons for Decision**

This report is in line with the East Local Area Committee decisions of 11 October 2023 regarding expenditure of its 2023/24 budgets, as detailed in appendix 1 and appendix 2 of the report.

5.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

Decisions on any expenditure above the existing authority to the Community Services Manager could be reserved to the Local Area Committee, but this would inevitably delay delivery of priority actions to address specific issues identified in the Community Plan.

All decisions on expenditure to support 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.

6. **EAST LAC END OF YEAR REPORT 2023-2024**

6.1 The Committee and members of the public in attendance received a presentation from the Community Services Manager on the East Local Area Committee End of Year Report 2023-24. She noted that over one hundred local organisations had been funded through the East Local Area Committee to provide activities and support to communities, and that this was helping to implement the priorities of the East Local Area Committee.

6.2 A short film was then shown which outlined the aims of Local Area Committees, the priorities that had been set in consultation with the public, and how the priorities were being actioned across the area.

6.3 Councillor Laura Moynahan noted that Ward Pot money had helped to fund activities that would not have otherwise happened, and was of great value in building communities. She added that Cost of Living funding had also made a difference in provide warmth and food to families in need.

6.4 Councillor Terry Fox was enthusiastic about work carried out in communities to improve areas across the east of Sheffield. He noted that funding had been prioritised for Local Area Committees at a time when the Council was suffering financial hardship, but that this had been important in order to engage with communities and support as many local organisations as possible.

6.5 Councillor Dianne Hurst agreed that funding had made a difference, and noted how the East Local Area Committee team and members had worked with communities, and had encouraged senior management to visit wards to understand their priorities.

6.6 Councillor David Barker stated that the End of Year Report was a result of what

communities themselves had achieved, and he gave his thanks to all those who had contributed in some way.

6.7 Councillor Zahira Naz noted that small amounts of Ward Pot funding could make a difference and empower communities, such as by improving community cohesion, reducing social isolation and helping with cost of living issues.

6.8 Councillor Mary Lea confirmed that there was a list in the Budget Report of all organisations that had received funding, and she thanked the East Local Area Committee team for their support in distributing the funding.

7. PARKS UPDATE

7.1 The Committee received a presentation from Ruth Bell, Head of Parks and Countryside. The aim of the presentation was to provide an overview of the varied work of the Parks and Countryside Service and further information about activities within the East Local Area Committee wards. There were 800 sites managed by the team across the city that included city parks, district parks, local parks, playgrounds, as well as sports facilities, allotments, closed landfills, closed burial grounds, fishing sites and housing land. The revenue budget had been reduced over the last 14 years and, although income was increasing, it was not 'plugging' the gap. Other challenges across green spaces included anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, litter and tree disease. The introduction of cafes in some parks had helped to increase use of parks, although this came with management challenges. Use of green spaces had increased since Covid, and more 'friends' groups had been set up. 'Ash dieback' was a disease affecting ash trees across the city and it was expected to cost over £10million over a ten-year period to remove affected trees safely. There were costs associated with staffing and providing up-to-date machinery. Anti-social behaviour and fly tipping were a big problem across the city, and there was a cost involved in dealing with particular hotspots. Ms Bell noted her appreciation to the hundreds of volunteers working across the city and providing valuable support to sites. She added that 72% of sites across the East Local Area Committee area met the Sheffield Standard. There were challenges around allotment provision, and it was estimated that around £6,000 would be needed to bring unlettable plots back into use and align with the Sheffield Standard. Issues affecting some plots included fly tipping, anti-social behaviour and burning of materials. She noted some of the recent improvements at Hollinsend Park tennis courts and playground, Skye Edge Fields access, and new playgrounds at Woodthorpe Ravine and Mather Road. Further improvements were planned for Handsworth Recreation Ground, High Hazels Park, Tinsley Meadows and Tinsley Green.

7.2 Ms Bell noted that other members of her team would be available during the breakout session to discuss any issues raised.

8. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SESSION

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 Sheffield parks and related issues.

9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

9.1 The Committee received the following questions from members of the public who attended the meeting to raise them:-

(a) Lynn Rooney, resident of Stradbroke

There are lots of environmental issues on the Stradbroke estate, and I feel that some spaces have more priority than others. Council services do not agree on who is responsible for litter. A vast amount of rubbish is blown around in the winter and trapped in hedges. Once litter appears it then attracts more litter. Grass verges are in a bad state, and the general appearance is not good. It used to be a nice place to live, and people seem to be passing the buck in terms of who is responsible to action this. I have been advised that community litter picks will take place, but I believe this is a dereliction of duty. I have contacted the neighbourhood team but have not heard back. Could the neighbourhood wardens help with litter picking? We need the same level of support that other areas of the city have. There is currently no functioning Tenants and Residents Association (TARA) on the estate to contact.

Councillor Mary Lea advised that if Ms Rooney could provide further details, a walkabout could be organised with members and officers to determine responsibility for clearing up.

Councillor Dianne Hurst confirmed that there were particular hotspots of recurring litter problems, and that she had been present on walkabouts in the area and reported issues on a regular basis. She advised that further visits could take place as needed.

Councillor David Barker noted that co-ordination and co-operation was needed in order to help with the issues.

Councillor Nabeela Mowlana confirmed that she was a member of the Housing Policy Committee and would investigate options for re-instating a TARA.

(b) Gillian Briggs, Headteacher of Phillimore Community Primary School

We talk to our local community and parents regularly about the consultation on the proposal for Phillimore School to manage and use the field/pitch adjacent to the school. Parents are overwhelmingly in favour of this. If the results of the consultation show that people are in favour of this proposal, would you as local councillors also support this proposal?

Councillor Mary Lea advised that the results of the consultation would be collated and that all views, including those from the wider community, would be considered.

Councillor Zahira Naz agreed that it was important to hear views from wider parts of the community on the use of this space, particularly those who had difficulty in

accessing the online consultation. She noted that the Council had a responsibility to engage as widely as possible.

(c) Chris Mart

A serious incident had occurred in Seaton Park where the play area had been destroyed, and it had since been demolished. Were there any plans to repair this area?

Councillor Laura Moynahan explained that the playground equipment had been removed as it had been vandalised and was in a dangerous condition. She added that this was a priority site, along with Sky Edge Fields, for replacement of play facilities in an affordable and sustainable way.

(d) Irene Day, Chair of Sheffield 50+

Why is it necessary to set up a Public Safety Protection Order in the city centre with particular emphasis on the people that are most vulnerable in our society. Have members read the article in the Sheffield Tribune about this?

Councillor Moynahan stated that she found the article had brought together all of the relevant issues and that the Public Space Protection Order would include the area up to Park Hill. She advised that she had been involved in the residents consultation, and that the majority had been in favour of the plans, although some had highlighted issues of it potentially targeting vulnerable people and the divide that this might bring. She added that it was a complex issue and that all views were needed in order to ensure the right level of support could be provided by services and agencies. She asked that as many people as possible submit their views via the consultation process.

Councillor Lea added that there were existing services that provided support to vulnerable people within the city centre, and the Public Space Protection Order aimed to address issues contributing to anti-social behaviour.

Ms Day noted that a number of city centre support agencies currently had reduced opening times, and that she understood that Household Support funding was due to finish at the end of March, so was concerned about whether there were any contingency plans to support those people affected by this.

Councillor Lea confirmed that feedback received via the consultation process would be considered by the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee.

Councillor Naz added that checks could be made with the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy on how the details of the consultation had reached those without online access.

- 9.2 Councillor Lea thanked those present for attending, and invited them to view the displays on the 'Living on the Breadline' exhibition.