

South Local Area Committee

Thursday 12 October 2023 at 6.00 pm

St Paul's Church and Centre,
Norton Lees Lane, Sheffield, S8
9BD

The Press and Public are Welcome to Attend

Local Area
Committees

Membership Engage · Empower · Enable

Councillor Simon Clement-
Jones
Councillor Richard Shaw
Councillor Ian Auckland
Councillor Steve Ayris
Councillor Nighat Basharat
Councillor Alexi Dimond
Councillor Marieanne Elliot
Councillor Mohammed Mahroof
Councillor Maroof Raouf
Councillor Sophie Thornton
Councillor Paul Turpin
Councillor Ibbi Ullah

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING

Local Area Committees engage, enable, and empower communities across the city with increasing control over decision making, marking a major shift in power to communities. The Committees provide a geographical framework that, over time, will be used to prioritise and direct the local delivery of an increasing number of Council services and oversee the production of a co-produced annual Area Committee Plan which will reflect resident priorities.

A copy of the agenda and reports is available on the Council's website at www.sheffield.gov.uk. You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain confidential information. These items are usually marked * on the agenda.

Members of the public have the right to ask questions or submit petitions to Area Committee meetings and recording is allowed under the direction of the Chair.

Please see the [website](#) or contact Democratic Services committee@sheffield.gov.uk for further information regarding public questions and petitions and details of the Council's [protocol on audio/visual recording and photography](#) at council meetings.

Local Area Committee meetings are normally open to the public but sometimes the Committee may have to discuss an item in private. If this happens, you will be asked to leave. Any private items are normally left until last.

Local Area Committee executive decisions are effective six working days after the meeting has taken place, unless called-in for scrutiny by the relevant Scrutiny Committee or referred to the City Council meeting, in which case the matter is normally resolved within the monthly cycle of meetings.

In order for us to be able to effectively facilitate attendance at the meeting, we would encourage all attendees to notify us of your attendance in advance by registering [here](#) or emailing committee@sheffield.gov.uk

If you require any further information please contact Jennie Skiba email jennie.skiba@sheffield.gov.uk.

**SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE AGENDA
12 OCTOBER 2023**

Order of Business

- 1. Welcome and Housekeeping Arrangements**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Exclusion of the Press and Public**
To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public.
- 4. Declarations of Interest** (Pages 5 - 8)
Members to declare any interests they have in the business to be considered at the meeting.
- 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 4th July 2023** (Pages 9 - 18)
To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4th July 2023.
- 6. Public Questions and Petitions**
To receive any questions or petitions from members of the public.
- 7. South Local Area Committee Budget 2023-24 Report** (Pages 19 - 28)
Report of Diane Owens, South Local Area Committee Manager.
- 8. Local Transport Priorities**
Presentation by Tracey Hendry, Road Safety Manager.
- 9. Community Safety**
Presentation by Sally Smith, Community safety Co-ordinator and Inspector Laurie Millington, South West Neighbourhood Policing Team.
- 10. Sheffield City Goals**
Presentation by James Henderson, Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement.
- 11. Date of Next Meeting**

NOTE: The next meeting of South Local Area Committee will be held on Tuesday 28 November 2023 at 6.00 pm

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ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

If you are present at a meeting of the Council, of its Policy Committees, or of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of the authority, and you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest** (DPI) relating to any business that will be considered at the meeting, you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

You **must**:

- leave the room (in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct)
- make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of any DPI at any meeting at which you are present at which an item of business which affects or relates to the subject matter of that interest is under consideration, at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.
- declare it to the meeting and notify the Council's Monitoring Officer within 28 days, if the DPI is not already registered.

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your **disclosable pecuniary interests** under the new national rules. You have a pecuniary interest if you, or your spouse or civil partner, have a pecuniary interest.

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner undertakes.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period* in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

*The relevant period is the 12 months ending on the day when you tell the Monitoring Officer about your disclosable pecuniary interests.

- Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority –
 - under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
 - which has not been fully discharged.

- Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.
- Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) –
 - the landlord is your council or authority; and
 - the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -
 - (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
 - (b) either -
 - the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

If you attend a meeting at which any item of business is to be considered and you are aware that you have a **personal interest** in the matter which does not amount to a DPI, you must make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of that interest at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. You should leave the room if your continued presence is incompatible with the 7 Principles of Public Life (selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership).

You have a personal interest where –

- a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing (including interests in land and easements over land) of you or a member of your family or a person or an organisation with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council Tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Authority's administrative area, or
- it relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests that are defined as DPIs but are in respect of a member of your family (other than a partner) or a person with whom you have a close association.

Guidance on declarations of interest, incorporating regulations published by the Government in relation to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, has been circulated to you previously.

You should identify any potential interest you may have relating to business to be considered at the meeting. This will help you and anyone that you ask for advice to fully consider all the circumstances before deciding what action you should take.

In certain circumstances the Council may grant a **dispensation** to permit a Member to take part in the business of the Authority even if the member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest relating to that business.

To obtain a dispensation, you must write to the Monitoring Officer at least 48 hours before the meeting in question, explaining why a dispensation is sought and desirable, and specifying the period of time for which it is sought. The Monitoring Officer may consult with the Independent Person or the Council's Standards Committee in relation to a request for dispensation.

Further advice can be obtained from David Hollis, Interim Director of Legal and Governance by emailing david.hollis@sheffield.gov.uk.

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South Local Area Committee

Meeting held 4 July 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Simon Clement-Jones (Chair), Richard Shaw (Deputy Chair), Ian Auckland, Steve Ayriss, Nighat Basharat, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Mohammed Mahroof, Maroof Raouf, Sophie Thornton, Paul Turpin and Ibbi Ullah

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

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 MEETINGS

4.1 The minutes of the meetings of the South Local Area Committee held on 21 March, 2023, and 17 May, 2023, were approved as correct records.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 The Committee received the following questions from members of the public who had submitted the questions prior to the meeting, and who attended the meeting to raise them:

(a) Simon Duffy

I made a simple proposal that Councillors from each party, officers and interested citizens begin the process of ending loneliness in Sheffield. There are some well-established methods that are very low cost. We could bring in expertise. This is a simple suggestion for action.

Councillor Nighat Basharat thanked Mr Duffy for raising the question, and stated that it was good to have discussions on this issue. She noted that loneliness was a big problem across Sheffield and that it needed more investigation. She added that she would be willing to look into any suggestions that Mr Duffy had. Following the discussion, a member of the South LAC team would contact Mr Duffy to discuss any next steps.

Councillor Simon Clement-Jones, Chair of the Local Area Committee, advised

that an informal meeting of the Committee would soon be taking place, where this issue would be raised, and options considered on how to take it forward.

Councillor Marieanne Elliot also thanked Mr Duffy for raising this issue. She believed that a good place to start was by involving Ward Members and mapping activity already available at ward level.

Councillor Steve Ayris agreed that there was good practice to learn from across all of the South Local Area Committee wards, and that this could be discussed at their next informal meeting. He stated that this issue linked in with the Sheffield Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, created in 2018 but due to expire in 2024, and would be a good opportunity to refresh the city-wide strategy.

Councillor Ibby Ullah noted that the Age UK website had a postcode search engine that showed differing levels for risk of loneliness. Sharrow was particularly high, and he intended to work with colleagues to help with the challenges.

(b) Isabel O'Leary

Can anyone on this Committee give an update on the Rose Garden Café?

Are Committee members aware that the 10,500 people who signed the petition to save the café along with many other park users past, present and future will not accept demolition as an option?

Have discussions between the relevant people taken place yet for the restoration plan and it's funding? Please bear in mind that the Friends of Graves Park have put in an application for substantial government funding for the purpose of restoring the building and have been given reason to be optimistic they will be successful. Can you reassure me that Sheffield City Council is not being deliberately obstructive but instead is paralysed by bureaucracy?

Councillor Ian Auckland was welcoming of the applications made by the Friends of Grave Park for funding. He noted that the front wall was bowing and had been identified as 'dangerous' and that there were challenges around the solution and cost of this. He added that although several inspections had been undertaken, there were now calls for a full structural engineering survey of the building.

Councillor Mohammed Mahroof explained that there had been conflicting reports around the cost of refurbishment versus the cost of demolition. He believed that costings needed to be fully confirmed before any decision was made. He believed that although there was a difference of opinion, the Council still had responsibility for the building and its grounds.

(c) Isabel O'Leary

At the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee on 25 October, 2022, the Chair of the Friends of Graves Park said the Friends have been waiting for 7 years for permission to extend the arboretum they have created to bring back

more of the Norton Nurseries site to parkland for public use.

This would be at no cost to the Council as the Friends would fund it and do the work. At that meeting in October, the answer given by the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee was that this extension cannot be allowed as "Sheffield City Council needs this area to run operations for Graves Park and the local area".

Councillors on this Committee may not be familiar with the area of Norton Nurseries. I walk regularly into the current arboretum and can look through the fence into the area proposed for the arboretum extension, and often take photographs. I can assure you that apart from the occasional truck bringing waste to put into a skip and a heavy vehicle or two in one corner of the area, it is not used by Sheffield City Council operations. Leaving aside the misuse of Norton Nurseries as a waste transfer site, which may or may not be licenced, does this Committee not agree that someone with a bit of logistical intelligence could certainly work out how to use the space more efficiently, allowing the arboretum to be extended as planned 7 years ago?

Councillor Auckland explained that a licence was not needed for the temporary storage of waste. He added that 'depot modernisation' was being considered with a view to moving out of certain sites and instead, consolidating waste storage at key sites, for example Staniforth Road and Manor Lane. He agreed with the questioner that progress should be made in terms of extending the arboretum.

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

(a) Anita Dell, from the office of Louise Hague, MP

What can the Local Area Committee do to make sure that the Low Edges Festival goes ahead this year? What resources and funding are being put into this and what can be done to ensure that it goes ahead every year so that the community doesn't lose this fabulous festival?

Councillor Richard Shaw thanked Anita for the question and stated that, once the news had emerged that the current organisers could not continue with the festival, local Councillors and officers had been in conversation with them in an attempt to provide a 'scaled-down' festival. It was clear that a major event attracting more than 12,000 visitors would not be able to be organised within the remaining timescale. As such, the focus had been on supporting the organisers to provide a smaller event. He noted that this would need to be self-sustaining, and would require new volunteers to replace those who had retired.

Councillor Nighat Basharat noted the benefit to the community of local festivals, and their impact on resident's wellbeing. She hoped that the Local Area Committee could find a way of supporting volunteers.

The Chair noted his thanks to Steven Rich and the festival organising committee, and wished Mr Rich a happy retirement.

(b) Viv Lockwood, Secretary of Banner Cross Neighbourhood Group

Before the election we attended a meeting of London Road traders which had been attended by Tom Finnegan-Smith and Councillor Terry Fox. We were promised that all data collected about emissions would be made available to us, including where the monitoring sites were, what data was collected and on which dates, but we have not received this. Also, Officers advised that the report would be made available for public inspection before the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee meeting. We want to make sure that all data can be interrogated by us and the public in general.

In response, Councillor Shaw noted that he, along with Councillor Auckland, were members of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee, and advised that the agenda and relevant reports were required to be published on the Council's website five clear working days before the meeting took place. Councillor Basharat stated that she had contacted officers to request a public meeting so that residents could ask questions before the Nether Edge Active Neighbourhood report and recommendations were heard at Committee, but had yet to receive a response.

Councillor Paul Turpin noted his concerns about the road safety impact, and the recording of serious injuries/deaths.

Councillor Maroof Raouf understood this to have been an 18-month trial which was shortly due to be reported to the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee, who would vote based on the information provided. He understood that emissions and vehicle data were available via Sheffield City Council officers, and he offered to give Mr Lockwood an overview of the data at the close of the meeting.

Councillor Ullah thanked Mr Lockwood for the work carried out by the Banner Cross Neighbourhood Group, and noted that he had requested an extension of the deadline of the survey, due to some residents having difficulty accessing it due to language and IT barriers. He added that he fully supported a public meeting to ensure that residents were able to scrutinise the report.

Councillor Basharat noted that the meeting referred to by Mr Lockwood had aimed to help residents understand what was happening in their area and provide them with a voice, and agreed that a public meeting would help to give residents more understanding.

Councillor Mahroof was concerned that traffic from one area was being moved to another area and believed that everyone should have the same right to clean air.

Councillor Alexi Dimond noted that it was important to base decisions on evidence, and believed that Active Neighbourhood schemes were an effective way of reducing the risk of accidents on roads.

Councillor Sophie Thornton was of the opinion that it was important to listen to residents lived experiences and understand their concerns. Councillor Shaw agreed, and added that a key objective for the Local Area Committee was to tackle road safety and parking issues.

The Chair, said that an officer response to the questions raised by Viv Lockwood would be requested and shared.

(c) Charlie Khan

I have been having problems for a long time regarding the road I live on in Sharrow, including problems with, children playing football and damaging cars, and narrow footpaths with no room to park. Councillors haven't always turned up and should visit to support us.

The Chair noted that the Local Area Committee team had been working on this issue. He advised Mr Khan to speak to his Ward Councillors.

(d) Mohammad Mahroof, local resident

I live on Sheldon road. In 2017/18 a petition was put to a local councillor about the state of pavements, which was dismissed. Amey came to try and solve this, but were stopped by tree protestors. In 2021 we put a petition together, which was presented in 2022 and was passed to the relevant policy committee. The design won't be finished until March next year, so another winter will pass with no improvement. There will need to be consultation before any improvements are made to pavements. I would like to ask local councillors why this is taking so long.

Councillor Dimond advised that Councillor Raouf had visited the area as a local ward member. He noted that some roads, including Sheldon Road, had not been resurfaced during the key Amey contract period, due to tree protests and the narrow pavements. He agreed that this was taking a long time to resolve, and advised the questioner to contact the Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee with any concerns.

(e) Joy Arnott, Terminus Initiative, Lowedges

We have received concerns from Council house tenants about housing repairs and not being able to report issues. Why have Lowedges and Jordanthorpe housing offices not reopened since the pandemic? At the moment local people have to travel to Newfield Green (Gleadless Valley) or the city centre. Could councillors look into this?

Councillor Basharat said that she understood the difficulties that local residents were facing, and offered to look into Ms Arnott's concerns.

Councillor Shaw noted that he was a Ward Councillor for this area, and that much of his casework related to poor housing. He advised that he had lobbied for the housing offices to remain open, and stated that he would continue to pursue this

issue.

Council Thornton stated that she had posed some questions on this issue for the Full Council meeting due to take place on Wednesday 5 July, 2023. She was concerned that many houses had remained empty and in disrepair since the pandemic, and advised that she would seek an update on housing office closures. The Chair advised that the South LAC Team would contact Housing to request a response to the questions raised.

(f) Samir Khan, local resident

I was part of the Active Neighbourhood discussions, and am concerned that some councillors are more concerned about emissions than accidents. Lots of children crossing Carter Knowle Road are being put at more risk.

The Chair noted the concerns raised.

(g) Mohammad Maroof, local resident

Flytipping on Leyburn Road and parking on Sheldon Road were causing problems. Late at night the pavement is completely blocked. When residents contact Parking Services they say it is a police matter, and the police say it is Parking Services matter. Could you consider a 'yellow box' on this road and can the Local Area Committee do something to speed up this process?

Councillor Basharat advised that she had met with residents to discuss the ongoing issues and was keeping them updated. She stated that she had shared photographs with officers of illegal parking and illegal petrol/oil exchange, which was now being monitored. The advice given was to phone '101' to report the incident when it was happening. There had been a suggestion of adding a 'keep clear' marking to the road. She also noted residents had requested a crossing on Sheldon Road, and that this request had been put forward and was pending a response.

Councillor Dimond added that this was a wider issue affecting much of Sheffield. He believed Sheffield streets were not built to accommodate the increase in number and size of cars in the last few decades. He added that the blocking of a highway was a police matter. He noted the 'Operation Park Safe Sheffield North West trial' which gave guidance on reporting of parking matters, and he hoped that this could be extended across the city. He believed that the problem of pavement parking required action from Central Government.

5.3 At this point in the meeting, Councillor Fran Belbin, Deputy Leader of the Council was invited to introduce herself. She explained that as Chair of the Governance Committee, she was committed to looking at how democratic engagement could be improved across the Council, and noted that Local Area Committees were one avenue for this. She added that she would like the public to have more say in decision-making and helping to create solutions and good neighbourhoods. She advised that she would be visiting other Local Area Committee meetings to

discover the needs of different communities, and she welcomed comments and ideas for involving residents in decision-making.

5.4 The Chair thanked those present for their attendance at the meeting.

6. SHEFFIELD RACE EQUALITY COMMISSION - FINDINGS AND NEXT STEPS

6.1 The Committee received a presentation from Homaira Ibrahim, Equalities and Engagement Officer.

6.2 Ms Ibrahim gave a brief overview of the Race Equality Commission recommendations and an update on the whole-city commitment. She explained that it was now time to reflect on the findings and that practice would be progressive so as to embed an anti-racist ethos in all areas of work. She advised that the Race Equality Commission had been commissioned in 2021, and that it was a city-wide commission affecting all organisations across Sheffield. It had an independent Chair and 24 Commissioners, and had heard written and oral evidence of lived experiences of racial disparities across Sheffield. Following this, the Commission had made recommendations and prioritised six areas of focus. She advised that the full report was available on the Sheffield City Council website, and listed all of the recommendations and individual targets. The evidence had found Sheffield to be a racist city; change was needed, and partners across the city would be held accountable through the Legacy Group, which had the responsibility of embedding practice systemically to enable Sheffield to become an anti-racist city within three years. The Sheffield City Partnership Board, community, and anchor institutions were working together in order to have a working model in place by October 2023. She explained that the south of the city had a diverse population in terms of age and ethnicity, with many languages, cultures, religions and beliefs, and that it was important to work in collaboration and to share good practice and learning from communities. She noted that information was available from the Equalities team to support individuals and organisations to share the message and to ensure anti-racist practice and service delivery.

6.3 Councillor Maroof Raouf expressed concern over how seriously the Leadership of Sheffield City Council had viewed this issue, and was disappointed that the Legacy Group had not yet been set up.

6.4 Councillor Ibbly Ullah stated that he had received feedback that suggested that individuals and organisations had not noticed any change following the Race Equality Commission report, and he undertook to help with this change.

6.5 In response to a question from a member of the public, Ms Ibrahim explained that the Race Equality Commission report had identified major inequalities within education, and that it was important for issues to be owned, whether by individual academies and their governors, or via Sheffield City Council. The education department had been tasked to identify their individual targets. She noted that research had shown that children's perceptions of race started as early as age two, and a collective approach was needed to realise the benefits of getting into

that space.

- 6.6 A public questioner asked how community organisations could be strengthened and given more powers and resources to address race inequalities within Sheffield, and queried whether Community Infrastructure Levy monies could be used to address the issues that have been raised.
- 6.7 Councillor Alexi Dimond also expressed disappointment that the Legacy Group had not yet been set up, and noted the hard work of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities with limited resources. He believed that there was structural racism across the city, including within education and policing. He believed that improvements could be made in accessibility of Council services for those who did not speak English as a first language. He hoped that Local Area Committees could use resources and make sure that racism was taken seriously.
- 6.8 Councillor Mohammed Mahroof stated that he had recently been to a meeting involving around 20 young people from different minority communities who felt that no progress was being made and that they were still facing barriers that he had faced as a child. He noted challenges that teachers faced in 'calling out' issues, and believed that Sheffield City Council had a responsibility for this and should be held accountable.
- 6.9 Councillor Paul Turpin expressed his disappointment that recommendations from the Race Equality Commission report had not yet been implemented, and believed that it was important for Sheffield City Council and its partners to be actively anti-racist in order to make positive changes. He noted that the diversity of the city was not represented at senior level within Sheffield City Council.
- 6.10 Councillor Raouf added that he had first-hand experience of working within schools in Sheffield, and felt that school staffing and governance was not representative and that this had led to a lack of understanding of children's heritage and their lives outside of school. He stated that BAME histories should be embedded into school curriculums.
- 6.11 In response to three verbal questions around feedback and support within communities, Ms Ibrahim welcomed feedback regarding lived experiences and advised that the Equalities team could be contacted to assist with support and education.
- 6.12 The Committee thanked Ms Ibrahim for attending the meeting.

7. SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2023-24

- 7.1 The Local Area Committee received an update from Diane Owens, South Local Area Committee Manager. She referred to the 'South Local Area Committee Budget 2023-24' report which included an overview of how the budget for the financial year 2022 to 2023 had been allocated. During the municipal year 2022-2023, updates on spending had been given at the Local Area Committee meetings. She advised that £31,930 had been carried forward to the 2023-2024 financial year and outlined the projects this has been allocated to. Ms Owens

explained that an additional £100,000 had been allocated to the Local Area Committee for 2023-24 and confirmed that the Committee intended to reflect on the Community Plan and allocate spending in line with this. Members had been speaking to residents and communities and the intention was to reflect and identify any gaps before the next meeting.

7.2 RESOLVED: That the South Local Area Committee:

- (a) notes the expenditure against the £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the South LAC in 2022/23, and the carry forward of £31,930 into 2023/24, which is allocated to specific projects; and
- (b) notes the 2023/24 South LAC budget and next steps in terms of reflecting on the South LAC Community Plan and identifying priorities.

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Author/Lead Officer of Report: Diane Owens,
South LAC Community Services Manager

Report of: Community Services Manager
Report to: South Local Area Committee
Date of Decision: 12th October 2023
Subject: South LAC Budget 2023-24

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|--|-----|-------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| Has appropriate consultation been undertaken? | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken? | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? 2368 | | | | |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:- | | | | |
| <i>“The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”</i> | | | | |

Purpose of Report:

Each Local Area Committee has a budget to address local priorities, this report:

- Describes the funding allocated to the South LAC for 2023/24 and sets out proposals and options for its allocation and current expenditure, in line with the updated South LAC Community Plan.
- Outlines the reallocation of £11,250 which was carried forward from the South LAC budget for 2022/23 and outlines agreed spend

Recommendations:

That the South Local Area Committee:

- Approves the updated South LAC Community Plan for 2023/24 (Appendix A)
- Agrees the use of the 2023/24 LAC budget of £25,000 per ward (totalling £100,000 per LAC) as described in the report.
- Notes the proposed and current expenditure against the 2023-24 budget to address local priorities in the South LAC Community Plan, as detailed in the report.
- Notes the reallocation of £11,250 carry forward from the 2022-23 budget, as outlined in the report.
- Considers proposals in relation to the 2023/24 South LAC Cost of Living budget of £59,610 and makes any agreed decisions in relation to spend, as outlined in the report.

Background Papers:

| Lead Officer to complete:- | |
|---|---|
| 1 | I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required. |
| | Finance: Adrian Hart |
| | Legal: Petra Der Man |
| | Equalities: Bev Law |
| <i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i> | |
| 2 | Head of Service who approved submission: Carl Mullooly |
| 3 | LAC Chair consulted: Cllr Simon Clement-Jones |
| 4 | I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the Head of Service indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1. |
| | Lead Officer Name: Diane Owens |
| | Job Title: South LAC Community Services Manager |
| Date: 2/10/23 | |

1. PROPOSAL

1.1 Background

Local Area Committees (LACs) were established by Full Council in May 2021. Their Terms of Reference are set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution and include:

- To agree a Community Plan setting priorities for the area of the committee, monitor delivery of that plan and keep it under review; and
- To make decisions relating to funding as delegated from time to time by the Council to fit with the priorities set out in the Community Plan and following engagement with the community.

In 2021 each LAC was allocated an initial budget of £100,000 to be spent in line with their Community Plan. The South Lac Community Plan was agreed in March 2022 and the unspent portion of the £100,000 budget was carried forward into 2022/23.

An updated South LAC Community Plan has been produced for 2023/24 (appendix A). This includes specific actions in terms of providing support for local businesses and shopping districts and supporting communities in terms of the cost of living. The revised Community Plan will form the basis of ongoing LAC funding decisions.

To enable decisions to be taken quickly and to respond to emerging issues, in September 2021 the LAC granted delegated authority to the Community Services Manager to make decisions on expenditure from any budgets allocated to the Local Area Committee provided that:

- The decision is taken in consultation with the Local Area Committee Chair
 - Spending is in line with any specific purposes of the allocated budget
 - The decision may not approve expenditure of more than £5,000
- 1.2 • A report detailing the delegated spending decisions taken by the Community Services Manager is presented to the next Local Area Committee meeting.

2023/24 budget allocation

Full Council resolved at the Budget Meeting in March 2023 that *“additional spending amounting to £25,000 per ward, overseen by ward councillors and delivered through the Local Area Committees process, is provided as an additional spend for 2023/24”*. Though not the intention, the effect of this resolution was that these monies were designated Ward Pot budgets. The intention to create LAC budgets has now been put into effect by a decision of the Finance Committee on 11th September 2023 to agree a virement of the full £700,000 into the LAC budget, amounting to £100,000 per LAC. This budget will be spent on projects benefiting all the wards in the South LAC area.

In relation to this budget, the South LAC is proposing the following:

- To treat the overall LAC budget of £100,000 as four ward budgets of £25,000, to be spent in line with South LAC Community Plan priorities.
- To reallocate an underspend of £11,250 from the 2022-23 budget, which was originally allocated to a street art project, to enable it to be allocated on other priorities during 2023-24 under the delegated powers given to the LAC;s.

In terms of proposed spend from the budget of £25,000 per ward, current proposals are as follows:

Under the South LAC Community Plan theme “Employment, Skills and Business” and the related outcome and action, as outlined below:

Outcome: Increased support for local business / shopping districts to increase footfall and vibrancy

Action: We will explore ways to support local business and shopping districts to help them continue to recover following covid and during the current cost of living challenges. This will include linking to the second round of Economic Recovery Funding in Sheffield (ERF2).

Graves Park Ward is proposing to allocate its budget of £25,000 to the “This is Woodseats” project which was brought together by local businesses and community representatives as a submission to the Economic Recovery Fund Round 2. Unfortunately, in September 2023 the group were made aware that their bid for £200,000 of funding was not successful. Considering this, Graves Park Ward members would like to allocate £25,000 to enable some elements of the project to still be delivered, specifically public realm improvements, such as benching and flower planters and / or hanging baskets. The full details of the project will be worked up in agreement with the group.

Graves Park Ward Members are also exploring the possibility of providing a small amount of additional match funding through their allocation of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy). This will be discussed further with the group.

Under the South LAC Community Plan priority “Communities” and the linked outcome and action below.

Outcome: Increase support for communities with the cost of living (COL)

Action: We will work with local community, faith and voluntary sector organisations, including foodbanks and Welcome Spaces to support communities in terms of the financial challenges people are experiencing due to the high cost of living, with a specific focus on the winter months

Beauchief and Greenhill Members have allocated funding to the following projects. This has been agreed under the LAC’s delegated powers.

- £1,000 Beauchief Baptist Church, Costs of Electricity and Heating, Publicity, Refreshments, Craft Materials/ New games to continue to continue their “Warm Welcome Space Project”
- £800, Grace Food Bank, fresh food for foodbank clients at Christmas time.
- £970, The Terminus Initiative, to run Lowedges Community Christmas Dinner for 85 people
- £500, Meadowhead Christian Fellowship, to support the Edge Centre with running costs.
- £430, Millhouses, Ecclesall and Carter Knowle [MECK] Community Group, Welcoming Space, to provide chair-aerobics, refreshments and social time and to promote well-being and keeping people well.

These projects were all approved under the LAC’s delegated powers in consultation with the Chair on 21st September 2023.

In terms of the allocation of £25,000 per ward, this means a current balance as follows:

Beauchief & Greenhill - £21,300
 Gleadless Valley - £25,000
 Graves Park - £0
 Nether Edge & Sharrow - £25,000

In addition, the following further items to note have been agreed under delegated powers since the last meeting.

From the reallocated 2022-23 underspend of £11,250 the South Local Area Committee have agreed the following:

- £2,500 Operations budget
- £3,500 Low Edges Fun Day
- £3,000 Mocams project, additional fund for high specification camera, relocations and repairs
- £1,500 Capacity building project, additional funding to enable 1:1 support for 3 further local voluntary, community and faith sector organisations

These projects were all approved under the LAC’s delegated powers in consultation with the Chair on 7th September 2023. This comes to a spend total of £10,500 leaving a balance of £750 still to allocate.

This funding was reallocated from the street art project as alternative funding has been confirmed to enable the street art project to go ahead.

1.3 Cost of Living

In its budget setting the Council agreed a sum of £400,000, allocated by

the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and Vulnerable Household Score for LACs to support Cost of Living related work. Of this amount £59,610 was allocated to the South LAC.

In terms of supporting people with the cost of living. A proposal from CAS (Citizen Advice Sheffield) for £200,000 to appoint a temporary team (12 months) of 5 telephone-based advice workers was submitted to Sheffield City Council. The proposal was shared with the 7 LAC Chairs with a request that each LAC consider allocating 50% of their cost-of-living funding to support the project. For the South LAC this would be a contribution of £29,805. It was agreed that this proposal would be put to each Local Area Committee for their consideration and a decision.

To inform its decision making in relation to the cost-of-living funding, the South Local Area Committee held two discussion sessions and several conversations with local voluntary community and faith sector organisations, including foodbanks.

In summary the main consistent issues and suggestions being raised were:

- Key issues - heating, clothing, food, transport. Heating is a particular concern over winter. Foodbanks also raised challenges in terms of buying baby formula and nappies.
- Finance and benefits support / advice – VCFS groups are seeing a big increase in demand for advice and support linked to the closure of CAS offices and increasing levels of need. Priority for 1:1 advice is finance, debt, and benefits.
- Income maximisation – this needs to be a priority to try and address the root causes of poverty and give people income and independence.
- Budgeting – seeing a lot of people who would benefit from some support to develop basic budgeting skills.
- In person support that builds trust – this approach is much more likely unpick the full picture and root causes. People need quality advice from a professional to be able to navigate the benefits and housing support systems. In person support is vital to help overcome accessibility barriers e.g., digital inclusion, disability, language, confidence etc.
- Earlier support – providing support earlier is key to try and prevent an escalation of people’s circumstances, budget and finance advice were seen as vital to this.

Linked to these conversations, some further options for the committee to consider in relation to the cost-of-living were agreed as follows.

Cost of Living, South LAC Dedicated Post

Pilot Project with SCC Cost of Living Support Hub, 12 months

- Drop-in sessions at community groups and existing advice sessions e.g. Foodbanks, libraries, TARA’s, community groups

- Finance and benefits support and advice with appointments in person or telephone based
- Attending community groups, schools, GP practices, to discuss cost of living and benefits maximisation.
- Support with coordinating Cost of Living related work

Cost: £40,426

Shared Prosperity Fund, Community Development Workers
Small budget to enable each of the workers employed by Terminus Initiative and Heeley Trust to set up and support small projects and support individuals with small amounts of spend linked to cost of living.
Cost: £5,000 (based on £2,500 per worker)

Grants for 3 foodbanks that cover priority areas in the South LAC, Gleadless Valley, Nether Edge & Sharrow and Lowedges, Batemoor and Jordanthorpe. To enable them to buy priority items as required e.g., additional food supplies, baby products or support with transport or heating costs. To ensure this geographical coverage, grants could be awarded to Grace Foodbank, Gleadless Valley Foodbank and Nether Edge and Sharrow Foodbank.

Cost: £tbc

These proposals / options are being put forward to the South Local Area Committee for their consideration and a decision.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

- 2.1 Local Area Committees directly support Communities and Neighbourhoods and Our Council commitments in the 'Our Sheffield: One Year Plan' but to be effective they need to have the capability to respond quickly to emerging local issues.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 The Community Plan has been developed through community consultation that has comprised of an online survey through the Council's Citizenspace platform; a paper-based survey for those less digitally enabled and to target underrepresented groups and engagement activities with representative organisations and in-person meetings.

Partner organisations and Council departments that have been identified as offering potential solutions to some of the issues identified have also been consulted, to establish whether suggestions can be realistically implemented.

Members of the South LAC have further reviewed the Community Plan over the last few months, including reflecting on the diverse range of community feedback that members received during the election period and from speaking to voluntary, community and faith sector organisations as appropriate.

This has resulted in two key changes to the plan, the “Employment & Skills” theme has been amended to include business “Employment, Skills & Business” and an additional action has been included which relates to supporting local businesses and shopping districts.

Under the “Communities” theme an action has been added which links to supporting communities in terms of the financial challenges people are experiencing due to the cost of living, with a specific focus on the upcoming winter months.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications

4.1.1 Decisions need to consider the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty contained in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

This is the duty to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The Equality Act 2010 identifies the following groups as a protected characteristic: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation.

The overall impact of the proposals and decisions outlined in this report is likely to be positive and not negatively disproportionate from an equality, diversity and inclusion perspective.

However, in order to ensure this approach takes into account people who share protected characteristics under the Public Sector Duties priority projects from the Local Area Committee Community Plan will be supported by and EIA and appropriate equality monitoring of budget.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA 2368) is underway. The EIA focusses on the current agreed and proposed projects that could be supported through the 2023-24 South LAC budget, which has a strong emphasis on the cost of living. The South LAC will not lead on delivery of these projects, its role is as a funder, facilitator or partner, the EIA reflects this position.

The EIA has identified a potential disproportionate and positive impact on the following groups: disabled people, older people, women, communities

of colour and the trans community. This is due to higher levels of deprivation experienced by these groups.

The EIA has identified several actions for the South LAC Team to follow up with lead organisations. These mainly relate to communications, engagement and accessibility and inclusion.

The EIA will remain a live document, and so as new projects are identified or agreed the EIA will be reviewed and updated.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 This report concerns expenditure of the LAC's allocated budgets. A reallocation of £11,250 which was carried forward from 2022/23, £100,000 for 2023-24 (based on £25,000 per ward) and £59,610 for cost-of-living activities in 2023/24. These budgets must not be exceeded.

Procurement of supplies and/or services and the awarding of grant aid will be carried out in line with the Council's Contracts Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 The LAC must operate in accordance with its Terms of Reference, approved as part of the Council's updated Constitution, reflecting the committee system of governance, agreed by Members at its Annual Meeting on 18th May 2022. In accordance with the provisions of section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Constitution provides that a Committee may delegate to a Council Officer.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The LAC could choose not to review the priorities in the Community Plan, but this would risk the Plan being out of date.

The LAC could choose not to allocate budgets at this stage, but in particular in relation to the cost-of-living funding, this would delay support getting to communities.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The South LAC is asked to note the use of funding under delegated powers and agree any further expenditure to address the identified local priorities.

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