

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

South West Local Area Committee

Meeting held 28 September 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Tim Huggan (Deputy Chair), Joe Otten, Sue Alston, Barbara Masters, Ruth Milsom, Shaffaq Mohammed, Minesh Parekh and Cliff Woodcraft

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roger Davison, Colin Ross and Andrew Sangar.

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. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 July, 2023 were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SESSION - YOUTH VOICE

5.1 Zahra Robinson, a member of Sheffield Youth Cabinet representing South West Sheffield, and Year 11 student, gave some background to the theme of 'Youth Voice'. She explained that young people had a unique but commonly overlooked point of view on society. She stated that, given a voice, they could help to bring about change to set young people up for the future, both locally and city-wide. She noted how her, and other young peoples' experiences could foster a sense of citizenship, and help them to feel like an equal part of society. Encouraging young people to be part of political discussions enabled them to feel valued, and feel that they were contributing to broader society. She gave an example of a youth consultation on Action for Smoking and Health and Smoke Free Sheffield, where resources had been created for parents, teachers and carers of young people about the risks of vaping. Having youth voice influencing decision making helped to accurately reflect their views and give them the opportunity to voice opinions on relevant policies.

5.2 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 on 'Youth Voice'.

5.3 Diana Buckley, Director of Economy, Skills and Culture, gave an update on behalf of Sheffield City Partnership Board, which was a group of representatives from the voluntary sector, universities and businesses that came together to work on city issues. A current project was underway called 'City Goals', which looked at the long term vision of the city, and how it might look in 2035. Community engagement had been carried out across the city, including an online survey, and workshops with the voluntary sector, business and youth teams. Some of the data and survey findings were available for viewing at the close of the meeting, and views were welcomed.

6. BUDGET REPORT AND COMMUNITY PLAN SUMMARY UPDATES 2023/24

6.1 Tania Bustamante, South West LAC Manager, referred to the South West LAC Budget 2023-24 Report and the South West LAC Community Plan 2023-24, and outlined the actions and priorities that had been set following the online and paper survey that had been carried out in July/August 2023. Feedback had been received via the survey, from public sessions and through conversations with different groups. The South West LAC team aimed to continue to engage with the community and to keep the survey open so that feedback gained could be included in the Community Plan where possible. She gave a summary of the finance profile for the South West LAC budget for 2023-24, and outlined the feedback that had been received and resulting proposals relating to the themes of Transport and Highways, Local Environment, and Community and Neighbourhoods.

6.2 A member of the public asked if the public were able to comment on the Budget Report and was advised by the Chair that this was not permitted as it formed part of the formal Committee meeting, whereby only Committee Members were able to comment.

6.3 Councillor Minesh Parekh stated that he was pleased with the engagement carried out and how that had helped to inform LAC priorities, and noted that funding via the Economic Recovery Fund had also supported businesses during this process. He noted that he was aware of the lack of a youth voice in the survey and hoped that this could be encouraged in the future. He believed that the Community Plan helped to match comments received via the survey, and continued to build on what was delivered in 2022-23.

6.4 In relation to Item 1 of the South West LAC Budget Report 2023-24, Councillor Ruth Milsom suggested that the wording 'Unpaid Carers Inaugural Lunch Club' be changed to allow further conversations with relevant groups to understand their preference of activity and ensure no duplication. She also felt that 'Youth Event in Chambers' might be restrictive, and that a flexible approach to engage with young people would be better.

6.5 Councillor Sue Alston added that she had received feedback during the interactive session stating that some people may find the Town Hall to be an intimidating environment, and agreed that there should be some flexibility around this event.

6.6 **RESOLVED:** That the South West Local Area Committee:-

- (i) Approves the proposed allocated expenditure against the £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the South West LAC in 2023/24, subject to the following amendments:

Priority & Element	Anticipated Expenditure	Comments
Community and Neighbourhoods		
Youth Event in Chambers	£2,000	Hosting a Youth Conference Day in Council Chambers.
Amend to:		
Youth Event with Sheffield City Council	£2,000	Hosting a Youth Conference Day with Council Members and Officers.
Unpaid Carers Inaugural Lunch Club	£2,000	Allocation of funding for an unpaid carers inaugural lunch club in every ward.
Amend to:		
Unpaid Carers Inaugural Lunch Club or similar activity	£2,000	Allocation of funding for an unpaid carers inaugural lunch club or similar activity in every ward.

- (ii) Agrees the use of the 2023/24 £26,697 LAC Cost of Living budget as described in the report namely that 50% of the South West's allocation (£13,348) is awarded as a grant to Citizens Advice Sheffield to support and increase the capacity of its telephone advice line; and

- (iii) 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.

6.7 Reasons for Decision

The South West 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 to approve expenditure above the current

delegated authority in certain circumstances so that delivery of the Community Plan is not delayed.

6.8 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

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

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

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

7.1 The Committee received the following questions from members of the public who had submitted the questions prior to the meeting:-

(a) Donald Lennox (present) - read out by Councillor Tim Huggan

Local Area Committees have been established to 'Empower, Enable and Engage' local citizens and communities.

This has been endorsed recently by the City Council, so that further steps will be taken to ensure community development practices are embedded in LACs, prior to decision making.

In what way exactly will this actually be implemented - generally and at 2 major potential development sites in the SWLAC area?

(1) Future use of Banner Cross Hall and surrounding land and woodland at Ecclesall Road South and Carterknowle Road?

(2) Redevelopment of derelict land and property at the top of Murray Road and an adjacent property on Tullibardine Road, Greystones

Opportunities abound for the involvement of, and benefit to, residents adjacent to these sites, and beyond.

How will this be facilitated by Council staff, councillors and local citizens working together?"

In response to Question 1, Councillor Tim Huggan, Chair, read out the following response from Development Management, City Futures:

In relation to the two sites referred to above, the local planning authority is required to undertake a formal period of public consultation prior to deciding a planning application in accordance with procedures set out in the Development Management Procedure Order. On larger schemes, applicants are encouraged to undertake pre-

application consultation with the local community and/or stakeholders, but this is not mandatory. Further information can be found in the Statement of Community Involvement, which also describes the process for consulting on draft policy documents:

[How the Council consults on planning applications & policies | Sheffield City Council](#)

The Chair advised that Councillor Barbara Masters had put in a request for clarity over compulsory purchase orders and the law relating to abandoned properties, in case this was relevant to the property in question.

In relation to Question 2, the Chair advised that a written response had been received from Strategic Housing, and would be shared with Mr Lennox in full.

Mr Lennox stated that he did not feel that the response provided had addressed the queries that he had raised. He explained that his questions related to empowerment and engagement, not procedures. He added that it had taken three months to receive an answer to his question, and he hoped for the full written response as soon as possible.

(b) Paul May (present)

- (1) How did you record and evaluate the responses you collected from the table groups at the last LAC meeting? Can we see them?
- (2) Priority 3.3 under Community Involvement highlights intergenerational activities. Can you tell us what progress has been made. Specifically with reference to working with PKW and also with reference to working with our schools to see how willing they are to participate.
- (3) I notice that there are many targets throughout the Plan all of which have a review and outcome date. They also all have timelines the vast majority of which have been exceeded. I have not seen any outcomes which are also due to be reported to our public meeting. Can you tell us when these will be published and what the overall view is of how well we have been doing?

The Chair advised that a written response would be provided for Mr May, and it was clarified that, in relation to Question 3, Mr May requested a response that incorporated the viewpoint of all Committee members.

(c) Tim Lewis (not present)

- (1) Can we please have an update on the Sheffield Local Plan? Why have seven Labour councillors been suspended from the party for voting against its adoption? They claim that the views of local communities were not being taken into account. What did they object to specifically?

Consultation on the Local Plan was closed at the beginning of 2023. At what point - if at all - in the past 2 years, was the Local Plan the subject of any

South West Area Committee public meetings?

(2) I note that:

A meeting of Sheffield City Council's transport, regeneration and climate policy committee (September 20) agreed to confirm experimental measures put in place for the active travel neighbourhoods (ATNs) in Crookes and Walkley and Nether Edge, which have provoked controversy.

I note also that Cllr Sangar described the Crookes and Walkley experience as 'painful', which it was, especially for residents.

Why was no public meeting held with residents prior to this decision being taken by the committee?

Why has no open evaluation of all aspects of this scheme, from its (inept) conception to its (bungled) implementation ever taken place?

The Chair advised that a written response would be provided for Mr Lewis, and it was clarified that, in relation to Question 1, the question had been referred to the Labour Group for a response.

In relation to Question 2, Councillor Ruth Milsom requested that herself, Councillor Minesh Parekh and the Chair also contribute their experiences into the response to be provided. The Chair advised that written responses would be provided.

(d) Viv Lockwood (present)

Mr Lockwood thanked those who had helped in the campaign to open Archer Lane in the Nether Edge Active Travel Neighbourhood Scheme. Although the campaign had not been successful, Mr Lockwood had reflected on the 18 month period and the evidence from the community about the effects of closing Archer Lane. He explained that he was disappointed in how Council officers had presented and handled this scheme, including providing a voluminous report for the Transport, Highways and Climate Policy Committee which was made available to the public just one week before the meeting.

What are we to take from this episode where a scheme such as this is prolonged and pushed by officers when it was apparent to all that it was a mistake? What conclusion do Councillors draw from this to stop hundreds of hours of officer time being put into this, and what lessons have been learned?

Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed stated that he believed the scheme had been imposed with little consultation, particularly for Ecclesall Ward that he believed was directly affected by the scheme. He added that he had asked Council officers to consult all those affected, and believed that many of the concerns about the scheme could have been avoided with adequate engagement.

(e) Gordon Dabinett (present)

I have noted that the Council's Governance Committee at its meeting of 20 July approved a work plan for the forthcoming year that includes consideration of 'possible changes to decision making in Local Area Committees, and how this will impact on our overall governance arrangements'.

Could you kindly inform me of the remit of this review, the timescales of the review, and the possibility of public consultation and involvement.

Councillor Sue Alston advised that the Governance Committee had been asked to do an overview of how the policy committees were working and their relationships with the Local Area Committees. Part of this review was to look at how the LACs engaged locally and how issues were passed between the LACs and the policy committees, to ensure awareness of local issues. There had been a lot of discussion about devolving further powers to LACs, for example, small highways decisions. She advised that the Governance Committee would provide a report for the Council Annual General Meeting, due to take place in May 2024, detailing any proposed changes. Consultation and engagement with members of the public would take place in due course to allow residents views to be considered.

Councillor Fran Belbin added that the Governance Committee would be taking a wider look at democratic engagement and how to do this as effectively as possible. This would include the ongoing process of responding to public questions, on which public engagement had already begun, and was due to be reported back at the meeting of the Governance Committee, scheduled to take place on 12 October, 2023.