

# North Local Area Committee

---

**Tuesday 5 March 2024 at 6.00 pm**

**St Mark's Church, Main Street,  
Grenoside, Sheffield S35 8PR**

**The Press and Public are Welcome to Attend**



Local Area  
Committees

**Membership** Engage · Empower · Enable

---

Councillor Alan Hooper (Chair)  
Councillor Ann Whitaker (Deputy Chair)  
Councillor Penny Baker  
Councillor Lewis Chinchin  
Councillor Craig Gamble Pugh  
Councillor Julie Grocutt  
Councillor Mike Levery  
Councillor Robert Reiss  
Councillor Janet Ridler  
Councillor Richard Williams  
Councillor Alan Woodcock

---

## 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](http://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](mailto: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.

Please do not attend the meeting if you have COVID-19 symptoms.

If you require any further information please contact Philippa Burdett by emailing [philippa.burdett@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:philippa.burdett@sheffield.gov.uk).

Local Area  
Committees  
Engage · Empower · Enable

---

**NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE AGENDA  
5 MARCH 2024**

**Order of Business**

---

- 1. Welcome and Housekeeping Arrangements**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Exclusions of Public and Press**  
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** (Pages 9 - 18)  
To approve the minutes of the Committee meetings held on 21 November and 6 December 2023
- 6. Public Questions and Petitions**  
To receive any questions or petitions from members of the public
- 7. North LAC Budget Report 2023/24** (Pages 19 - 26)  
Report of the Local Area Committee Manager
- 8. North LAC Projects Update**  
Update from the Local Area Committee Manager
- 9. Ecclesfield Neighbourhood Plan**  
Update from the Ecclesfield Parish Council Clerk, Andrew Towlerton

**NOTE: The next meeting of North Local Area Committee will be held on a date and time to be agreed**

This page is intentionally left blank

---

## 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, General Counsel by emailing [david.hollis@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:david.hollis@sheffield.gov.uk).

This page is intentionally left blank



### North Local Area Committee

#### Meeting held 21 November 2023

**PRESENT:** Councillors Alan Hooper (Chair), Lewis Chinchin, Julie Grocutt, Mike Levery, Robert Reiss, Ann Whitaker, Richard Williams and Alan Woodcock

#### **1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING**

- 1.1 Councillor Alan Hooper, Chair of the Local Area Committee, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 One minute's silence was held to mark the recent passing of Councillor Vickie Priestley, Deputy Chair of the Local Area Committee.
- 1.3 The Chair noted that Councillor Priestley had been elected to Bradfield Parish Council in 2000, before being elected as a Ward Councillor for Walkley Ward, and for the last 20 years had served as a Ward Councillor for Stannington Ward. He added that she had been a close friend and colleague, and was respected throughout the Council and her ward. She was a talented cake baker and decorator, as well as having excellent skills in patchwork and quilting.
- 1.4 Councillor Richard Williams added that during the time he had known Councillor Priestley, he had got to know her well, along with their fellow ward councillor, Councillor Penny Baker. He said that there was a saying within Stannington Ward, "everyone knew Vickie, and Vickie knew everyone", which he felt summed up what she meant to local people.
- 1.5 Trevor Bagshaw noted that Councillor Priestley had been a good friend and a dedicated Councillor. He recalled the times they had shared on both Bradfield Parish Council and Sheffield City Council. She had a keen interest in music, and had been a patron of the Bradfield Music Festival and supported it each year. He added that Councillor Priestley would be greatly missed, and he passed on his best wishes to her family.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Penny Baker, Craig Gamble Pugh and Janet Ridler.

#### **3. EXCLUSIONS OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

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

#### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

## **5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

5.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26 September, 2023 were approved as a correct record.

## **6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

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

*(a) Louis Farrington*

What plans do the LAC or Sheffield City Council have to further develop the Rivelin Playground according to the Masterplan?

Councillor Richard Williams advised that there were some exciting plans and funding opportunities that were being considered, and confirmed that Stannington Ward Councillors would be discussing this with Sheffield City Council officers in the next few weeks.

The Chair added that Ruth Bell, Head of Parks and Countryside, would be providing an update on parks later in the meeting.

*(b) Trevor Bagshaw and Simon Ogden*

Mr Ogden explained that he had previously submitted questions regarding the consultation on the Stocksbridge Towns Fund Trails Project, and noted his dissatisfaction with the responses he had received. He had submitted the following questions in advance of the meeting:

We draw members of the NLAC to the brief and dismissive response from officers to the very real concerns raised at the last LAC and fully endorsed by all members present.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the STD Board has authority to make decisions about the allocation of funds, the City Council and its representatives and officers also have a responsibility as Accountable Body to ensure that the process is transparent, objective and underpinned by sound business cases as set out in the STF Governance document.

Contrary to the officer's assertion we have seen no evidence or documentation from the STD to explain the decision to abandon the Trails Project in May or why they failed to consult stakeholders or public prior to it as they had explicitly committed to do. All we have seen is a short announcement that the decision has been made.

The STD has said repeatedly and publicly that it wishes other stakeholders well in seeking to complete the Upper Don Trail. In that case we ask again why are they withholding this essential technical information, including

designs and costings from willing partners and local bodies who wish to progress it?

The Board have now also publicly branded this reasonable request 'vexatious', based on the false claim to have answered our requests and are refusing further engagement with those stakeholders who have made it as recorded in their September minutes .

This is unjustified and highly damaging to both the board and the council's reputations.

If members or officers of the NLAC have seen such evidence or documentation please share it with us so we can get on with the job.

If not we would request the NLAC to reject the response and continue to support our reasonable request.

The Chair advised that a written response would be provided to the questioners.

Mr Ogden expressed his disappointment that no discussion would take place regarding his question.

*(c) Mark Whittaker, Mayor of Stocksbridge*

We have a very well-respected litter picking group in Stocksbridge who do really good work and they are getting quite fed up with the vast amount of litter on the bypass, particularly on the slip-road towards Deepcar. Different authorities have responsibility but there does not seem to be a systematic litter picking regime. Community groups are enthusiastic, but it is far too dangerous a task to litter pick in this area. Could the committee find a permanent solution for litter picking on the bypass?

Councillor Lewis Chinchin declared that he was employed by National Highways, although not in relation to this particular location. He was aware that the slip road was a particular issue, and confirmed that, although within the boundary of Sheffield, it was not currently covered by Amey's network, and litter picking responsibility fell to the local authority. He agreed that there should be clear responsibility for clearing litter in this area, and confirmed that he had initiated discussions with Sheffield City Council to look at adding this site to Amey's network.

*(d) Dorothy Whittaker, member of Friends of Fox Glen Park*

For the last year we have been raising funds to get the park improved. We have managed to raise over £60,000 so far, with the help of three very dynamic women on the committee. We have been supported by Parks since the beginning of the project, but now that support has lessened and some of the funding has time limits on spending. We would like to know:

- When will the equipment we have already paid for be installed?
- When we will be able to provide further equipment?
- When will a plan of the park will be received?

Ruth Bell, Head of Parks and Countryside, confirmed that a full set of written answers would be provided. She praised the Group for their fundraising efforts, and apologised that this information had not yet been provided.

## **7. NORTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET**

7.1 The Committee considered a report of the Community Services Manager on the funding allocated to the North Local Area Committee for 2023-24 and the proposals for its allocation and expenditure for 2023-24 in line with the North Local Area Committee Community Plan. In addition to the Cost of Living Fund to support projects alleviating issues around the cost of living, it was noted that the North Local Area Committee had agreed to create two new funds:

- (a) The Greatest Need Fund, to meet demonstrable needs in the North; and
- (b) The Big Idea Fund, to fund innovative approaches to addressing the North Local Area Committee priorities.

7.2 **RESOLVED:** That North Local Area Committee:-

- (a) notes the expenditure against the £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the North LAC as detailed in the report; and
- (b) 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 per project.

### **7.3 Reasons for Decision**

The North Local Area Committee is asked to note the use of funding as per the previous decision of 30 September, 2021 and agree further expenditure to address the identified local priorities.

### **7.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

This report is in line with the previous decision of 30 September, 2021 regarding expenditure below £5000, and the North Community Plan agreed on 26 September, 2023

## **8. PARISH COUNCIL UPDATES**

### **8.1 Stocksbridge Town Council**

Mark Whittaker advised that the Town Council was fully functioning on behalf of the community, with all positions now filled.

### **8.2 Ecclesfield Parish Council**

Adam Hurst provided an update, which included the following actions by Ecclesfield Parish Council:

- Distribution of over 70 “winter warm” packs to vulnerable people in the parish;
- Improvements to all the Parish Council owned benches;
- Internal auditor gave the Parish Council’s financial and governance policies and procedures a clean bill of health;
- Delivered a successful community clean-up day in Thorncliffe;
- Progressing preparation for the local commemorations of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings;
- Continuing to give much needed grants to local community groups and organisations; and
- Progressing a meeting with the South Yorkshire Mayor about bus service provisions in the parish.

## **9. PARKS UPDATE**

9.1 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 with the North 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 burial grounds and boating facilities. Budget cuts due to austerity had meant more creativity was needed around spending, along with the need to look at other funding opportunities. She acknowledged the invaluable work of ‘friends’ groups across the city, particularly around fundraising and identifying needs. Other challenges across green spaces included anti-social behaviour, flytipping, litter and tree disease. Use of green spaces had increased since Covid, and more ‘friends’ groups had been set up. Approximately 78% of green sites in the North of Sheffield met the current ‘Sheffield Standard’. It was hoped that further improvements could be made to increase this to 100%, and there were some capital improvement plans that aimed to work towards that goal. Ms Bell praised the work of volunteers in leading activities across green spaces. She noted that the waiting list for allotments was long in some areas, and work was needed to manage this. She believed that rents were reasonable and there was a generous discount scheme for those claiming benefits. Fees had not been increased, meaning that site improvements were not currently possible. She also outlined improvements made to Ecclesfield Park and, Oxley Park and Newhall Woods.

9.2 The Chair thanked Ms Bell and attending and invited questions from those present.

### Adam Hurst

A lot of our country parks have problems with off-road biking. What is being doing about this, and is it possible to identify alternative sites for this activity?

In response Ms Bell advised that complaints regarding off-road biking were dealt with on a case-by-case basis, working in conjunction with the police to identify and review access points, and noted a suggestion that was made to look at alternative sites for off-road biking.

Robert Marsden, Friends of Ecclesfield Park

We have received feedback that there is not enough seating in the play area in Ecclesfield Park. We provided 3 benches and litter bins last year.

My wife was Chair of Friends of Ecclesfield Park, until she passed away five years ago, and she had raised the question as to what had happened to the money from the pavilion.

Ms Bell advised that she would investigate these issues and provide the questioner with a full response.

Trevor Bagshaw

1. One-third of the city was situated within the Peak District National Park. To what extent do your activities connect with the Peak District National Park Authority to address the issues that occur in those parts of Sheffield, and how do they work together to work to address those needs?
2. Over the last five years, the Sheffield Wildlife Trust and its partners have secured £3.2m of the National Lottery Heritage Fund. That project closes in spring, and the money is all spent but there is a 10 year forward plan. How does Sheffield City Council plan to invest in those parts of north Sheffield that are not park sites or woodland? Should we be doing more to publicise what the Council is trying to do, and open up volunteering opportunities for people?

Ms Bell advised that Sheffield City Council had very strong links with the Peak District National Park, and noted that some sites were managed by partnerships that has faced similar budget challenges.

In response to the second question, Ms Bell noted that these issues would be discussed with relevant partners, such as Sheffield Wildlife Trust and Green Estate. She explained that the Parks and Countryside team had an oversight of woodland areas and public rights of way. She advised that any further queries could be directed to her at [ruth.bell@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.bell@sheffield.gov.uk)

The Chair noted that three of the Councillors present were members of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee, and had received a briefing on the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Project. He also advised that Mr Marsden speak to his local councillors present regarding seating in Ecclesfield Park play area.

Councillor Richard Williams added that the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Project had been an excellent project, and although coming to an end, had now been extended. He suggested that it would be useful to bring a summary of the project to a future Local Area Committee, to discuss its achievements.

**10. PLAYZONES PROJECT**

- 10.1 Josh Blunkett and Thea Kerwick, Project Officers in the Sports, Leisure and Events team, provided an update on the PlayZones Project.
- 10.2 Mr Blunkett advised that the project was still in its infancy, and involved looking at developing outdoors sports facilities, funded by the Football Foundation, which was a collaborative approach from the Football Association, the Premier League and national government. He explained that the overall aim of the project was to increase physical activity and recreation through sport and play via improved multi-game uses rather than the traditional model currently seen in parks. There had been a thorough site identification process to look at where best these might fit, and which areas might benefit most from the first phase. One of those identified was Ecclesfield Park. The current site had been identified as needing improvement, and had not had a lot of use recently due to its low quality, which led to people travelling outside the area to alternative sites. A consultation process had been carried out between July and September 2023, aiming to get as much engagement as possible, and to spread awareness of what a PlayZone could look like. The Football Foundation had carried out some research and discovered areas that were not commonly used and, in order to increase usage, had set some criteria. This included having floodlights to enable year-round usage, having high quality surfacing, having a viewing area and having an activation plan. Work was being carried out with community organisations and providers to see what opportunities they could offer for a mixed-use approach, i.e. some 'free to use' time, private 'pre-paid' bookings and also activity session bookings. The report was almost finalised, and it was hoped to get the community's thoughts on design aspects of a PlayZone, and how it might best serve the community. The engagement included an online survey and targeted outreach to provide representative views. The response had been positive and had given the team the confidence to progress the project. A full application for Ecclesfield Park would now be submitted to the Football Foundation by the end of 2023, which would then be subject to feasibility funding and evaluation before progressing in 2024.
- 10.3 Andrew Towler of Ecclesfield Parish Council queried whether there would be any basketball provision, as he knew there were many people who were keen to see this.
- 10.4 Mr Blunkett confirmed that basketball had been the second highest priority for the area, and he hoped that this could be offered. Engagement had taken place with the national governing body for basketball and local community groups that were able to provide this.
- 10.5 Adam Hurst asked how the floodlighting would be managed and policed, whilst also preventing anti-social behaviour.
- 10.6 Ms Kerwick advised that a bat survey would be carried out, and lighting would come on automatically as the site was accessed for a booking, so as to reduce energy costs.
- 10.7 Mr Blunkett added that as part of the activation plan, different times for preferred usage were being considered. There was anticipated to be management and/or

community organisation presence on site, thus reducing the risk of anti-social behaviour.

- 10.8 Councillor Julie Grocutt noted the need for a bat/ecology survey. She added that Sheffield Sharks carried out community outreach work and that they had some knowledge on dealing with anti-social behaviour at the design stage.
- 10.9 The Chair thanked Mr Blunkett and Ms Kerwick for the update and noted that it was a very useful pilot scheme for North Sheffield.
- 10.10 The Chair expressed his thanks to Isabel Male, Local Area Committee Officer, who was leaving her post at the Council. He noted that she had been an excellent team member and had been a valuable asset to the North Local Area Committee.
- 10.11 David Luck added that Ms Male had always had a very positive approach to her work and had been a huge asset to the team and to the city, and would be hugely missed.

**11. FRIENDS OF GRENSIDE PARK UPDATE**

- 11.1 No update was available for this meeting.



# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## North Local Area Committee

### Extraordinary Meeting held 6 December 2023

**PRESENT:** Councillors Alan Hooper (Chair), Penny Baker, Mike Levery, Robert Reiss, Ann Whitaker, Richard Williams and Alan Woodcock.

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

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lewis Chinchin, Craig Gamble Pugh, Julie Grocutt and Janet Ridler.

#### **2. EXCLUSIONS 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. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE**

4.1 Councillor Alan Hooper, Chair of the Committee, invited nominations for Deputy Chair of the Committee.

4.2 It was moved by Councillor Robert Reiss, and seconded by Councillor Richard Williams, that Councillor Ann Whitaker be appointed as Deputy Chair of the Committee.

4.3 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Councillor Ann Whitaker be appointed as Deputy Chair of the North Local Area Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/24.

This page is intentionally left blank



**Author/Lead Officer of Report:** Dave Luck  
North LAC Community Services Manager  
**Tel:** 07795637875

**Report of:** Community Services Manager  
**Report to:** North Local Area Committee  
**Date of Decision:** March 5<sup>th</sup> 2024  
**Subject:** North LAC Budget 2023-24

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? 2149				
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 (<b>report/appendix</b>) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (<b>insert relevant paragraph number</b>) 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 funding allocated to the LAC for 2023/24 and reports on delegated spending decisions.

**Recommendations:**

That the North Local Area Committee:

- Notes the expenditure against the £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the North LAC as detailed in the report.
- Notes the expenditure against the £18,550 North LAC Cost of Living fund as detailed in the report.

**Background Papers:**

<b>Lead Officer to complete:-</b>	
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: Andrea Simpson
Equalities: Louise Nunn	
<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	<b>Head of Service who approved submission:</b> Carl Mullooly
3	<b>LAC Chair consulted:</b> Cllr Alan Hooper
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.
	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> Dave Luck
	<b>Job Title:</b> North LAC Community Services Manager
<b>Date:</b> 5 March 2024	

## 1. PROPOSAL

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 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.

An updated community plan was agreed at the September 2023 North LAC meeting.

1.1.2 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 per item.
- A report detailing the delegated spending decisions taken by the Community Services Manager is presented to the next Local Area Committee meeting.

1.1.3 Funding delegated by the Council to LACs in 2023/24 amounts to £100,000 per LAC (£25,000 per ward) plus a total sum of £400,000 for Cost of Living related work, allocated to LACs by Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) so that the North LAC's share is £37,100.

1.1.4 At its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 the LAC agreed to use part of its budget of £100,000 to establish two grant funds of £25,000 each: the Greatest Need fund to support work amongst those in demonstrable need, and the Big Idea fund to support new approaches to meeting the priorities of the North LAC.

1.1.5 At the same meeting the LAC agreed the use of the £37,100 LAC Cost of Living budget as follows: 50% (£18,550) awarded as a grant to Citizens Advice Sheffield to support its advice line; the remaining 50% (£18,550) used to create a new North Cost of Living fund providing support to people in North Sheffield with cost of living related issues, such as: support to Welcoming Places operating in the area; providing activities and advice; and practical food donation support or other items.

1.1.6 Authority was delegated to the Community Services Manager, in consultation with the LAC 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.

1.1.7 Successful applications to the Greatest Need fund (totalling £25,027) and Big Idea fund (totalling £25,190) were reported to the meeting of the LAC on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023. The report noted in both cases that the excess above £25,000 was met from the wider LAC budget; that both funds were oversubscribed; that applicants for the Greatest Need fund were also able to be signposted to the Cost of Living Fund; and that as the Big Idea fund had a greater volume of bids a second round would be run with up to £25,000 being allocated in January 2024. The Community Services Manager, in consultation with the LAC Chair, was again given delegated authority 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.

**1.2 Spend to report**

1.2.1 The successful applications are set out below. Where funds exceeded £25,000 these costs were met from the wider budget.

1.2.2 Big Idea fund round 2 awards:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Funds Agreed</b>
Rivelin Co	Community events and development	£4764
Stannington Library	Community information screen	£1600
Stocksbridge British Legion	Development of community website	£4550
Westwood	Local heritage & history events	£4588
Food Matters	Development post	£5000
SLC	Funds to operate a community minibus.	£5000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£25,502</b>

1.2.3 The further items to note agreed under delegated powers since the last meeting are:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Date chair consulted</b>
Big Idea round 2 additional costs	£502	26/01/2024
Half term activity costs, Stocksbridge Leisure Centre	£900	17/01/2024
Advice worker costs, Food Matters	£2500	27/11/2023
ANPR project costs	£2161	20/12/2023
Stocksbridge noticeboards	£1900	06/02/2024

1.2.4 The costs previously reported for the Bolsterstone speed survey (£150) will now be met via the Highways budget. On this basis, funds allocated are £93,077 and funds remaining for the LAC would be £6923.

This figure of £93,077 is comprised of:

- Big Idea rounds 1 and 2: £50,692
- Greatest Need fund: £25,017
- Spend under delegated powers: £17,358

A further report will be provided at the first public meeting of the LAC in 2024/25 to outline use of these funds.

1.3 Cost of Living spend

At its meeting of September 26<sup>th</sup> 2023, the North LAC agreed to create a Cost of Living fund with £18,550 available for applications of up to £2500 to address cost of living issues in the North of the city. The projects funded through this were as follows:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding agreed</b>
Stannington Food Bank	Fuel/ Grocery vouchers and food parcels	£2500
St Pauls Church	Weekly coffee drop in's	£1,000
The Hygiene Bank Sheffield and Barnsley	Provide Hygiene products within the North LAC area, buy 10 donation boxes	£2,500

Stocksbridge Leisure Centre	Run and promote sessions relating to Cost of Living	£1,300
Friends of Ecclesfield Library	Cost of utilities and refreshments to run as Warm Space	£2,500
Ecclesfield & Montenev TARA	Buy new utensils (Mugs, Cups, kettle etc) and run the coffee morning twice per week	£369.39
Brightholmlee Social Club	Monies to help launch a lunch club	£2,500
Cornerstone Café (Christian Centre)	Utility bills for running of social cafe	£2,310
HGDT	Energy Vouchers	£2,500
Stannington Library	Establish new social café	£350
Chapelgreen Community Hub	Purchase of air fryers & guides for healthy eating	£965.86
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£18,795.25</b>

The additional sum of £245 was met from the wider LAC budget.

## **2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?**

- 2.1 Local Area Committees directly support the Communities and Neighbourhoods and Our Council commitments in the 'Our Sheffield: One Year Plan' and contribute to the priorities in 'Together we Get Things Done, the emerging Sheffield City Council Plan 2024 - 2028, 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; engagement activity 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.

Further online and in person consultation took place in summer 2023 in order to give Members information to agree the new community plan that was agreed at the September 26<sup>th</sup> 2023 meeting.

#### **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.

##### **4.1.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA 2149) has been developed to reflect the ongoing allocation of the LAC's budget, assessing the range of groups of people and interests likely to be impacted in equality terms. This has identified positive impacts associated with the protected characteristics of age, disability, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief; and other areas of inequality associated with health, poverty and financial inclusion, and social cohesion.**

The overall impact of this decision is likely to be positive and not disproportionate from an equality, diversity and inclusion perspective. In developing a Community Plan, local communities have been given the opportunity for a greater say in local decision making for services which impact their daily lives.

##### **4.1.3 The devolution of responsibilities will improve inclusion for local people and the work of the Sheffield Equality Partnership will support and enhance the approach from a citywide and underserved communities' perspective.**

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

## 4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 This report concerns expenditure of the LAC's allocated budgets in 2023/24 of £100,000 (£25,000 per ward) plus a Cost of Living budget of £37,100. These budgets must not be exceeded.

Procurement of supplies and/or services and the award 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, (namely pursuant to Part 3 para 3.3,) reflecting the committee system of governance, by Full Council at its Annual Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> 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 This report is in line with the previous decision of September 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 regarding expenditure below £5000 and the North Community Plan agreed on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2023.

## **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The North LAC is asked to note the use of funding under delegated authority to address the identified local priorities.