

Central Local Area Committee

Meeting held 13 July 2022

PRESENT: Councillors Bernard Little (Chair), Maleiki Haybe (Deputy Chair), Angela Argenzio, Ben Curran, Brian Holmshaw, Tom Hunt, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Henry Nottage and Martin Phipps

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors George Lindars-Hammond and Christine Gilligan Kubo.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

- 2.1 There were no items that excluded the public and press.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1 No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 4.1 A Member of the public mentioned that 'Traffic Calming' had been missed off the 21 March 2022 minutes at 5.12.
- 4.2 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 21 March, 2022 and 18 May, 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

5. CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE COMMUNITY PLAN - UPDATE & REVIEW OF THE LAST 12 MONTHS

- 5.1 The Community Services Manager for The Central Local Area Committee, Adeel Zahman gave a presentation to the Committee and members of the public.
- 5.2 It was explained that the presentation highlighted the projects that were already been supported and then the proposed allocation of the £100,000, following engagement and feedback over the previous 12 months.
- 5.3 The Council had funded over £70,000 already to local projects across all 4 wards.

- 5.4 The Community Services Manager gave a brief update on what the Local Area Committees (LACs) were.
- 5.5 It was mentioned that each LAC had been allocated £6,000 to fund the Queens Jubilee celebrations in their areas.
- 5.6 The proposed total spend, for the following themes were as follows: -
- Transport & Highways – £22,000
 - Environment – £25,000
 - Community & Neighbourhoods - £36,000
 - Community Safety & Crime - £9,000
 - Business, Employment & Skills – £8,000
- 5.7 The Community Services Manager explained that LACs were constantly evolving therefore the momentum and engagement needed to continue. The Central LACs contact details were shared with the public.
- 5.8 A Member of the Public asked that some of the proposed funding allocated to Community Safety & Crime, looked at improving women safety in the City.
- The Community Services Manager explained this had been picked up as a priority through the public engagement and will be part of the Community Safety theme.
- 5.9 Following the presentation, a Member of the Committee proposed the Committee do not approve the recommendations outlined in the report. The Member mentioned that the recommendations looked like Council Officers making decisions on spend when it should remain with the Committee. It was suggested that decisions on spend be taken in align with the ward pot process, so that Members had control over their spend.
- This was proposed by Councillor Douglas Johnson, seconded by Councillor Angela Argenzio but not agreed by the Committee.
- The Head of Communities, Lorraine Wood informed the Committee that a decision needed to be made at the meeting. The Committee were advised that the recommendations needed to state that an Officer would make decisions in consultation with the Chair, although confirmed the decisions would remain with the Committee.
- 5.10 Another Member of the Committee referred to the 27 September 2021 Central LAC meeting where Members agreed to add 'and the Committee' to the reports recommendations. It was

mentioned that this wording had not been put into these recommendations. Therefore, again it seemed that Officers were taking control of decisions.

5.11 Following the discussion around the recommendations, the Committee agreed to approve the recommendations, subject to the addition of 'and the Committee'.

5.12 **RESOLVED:** That the Central Local Area Committee:-

(i) noted the proposed anticipated expenditure against the £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the Central LAC Community Plan in 2022/23, as detailed in the report, be noted

(ii) to the extent that it is not covered by existing authority, authorises the Community Services Manager to make decisions on expenditure relating to the priorities set out in the report provided that:

- the decision is taken in consultation with the Local Area Committee Chair and the Committee,
- the decision may not approve expenditure on any element in excess of the anticipated limit for that element set out in the report, and
- a report detailing the delegated spending decisions taken by the Community Services Manager is presented to the next Local Area Committee meeting.

5.13 **Reason for Decision**

The Central LAC is asked to note 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.

5.14 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

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

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

6. COST OF LIVING CRISIS

- 6.1 The S6 Foodbank Manager, Chris Hardy gave an update on the cost of living crisis and how Foodbanks were supporting this change.
- 6.2 There were 11 Foodbank sites across Sheffield and in total they were feeding approximately 60,00 people per year. It was added that these figures are increasing year on year. Pre pandemic there was approximately 8,000 people using these emergency food services.
- 6.3 The approximate amount of food provided was 500 tons on non-perishable food per year. Approximately 70% of the food was purchased with the remaining 30% coming from community donations.
- 6.4 It was explained that the Foodbanks were community led. Therefore, the community led all the projects, with the foodbanks support.
- 6.5 The S6 Foodbank Manager stated that those who used the foodbanks often felt shamed, isolated, angry and frustrated. People also mentioned that this had affected their mental health.
- 6.6 Foodbanks commonly had individuals attend them to use their services although it was mentioned that over the last year, more families were using foodbanks.
- 6.7 The Foodbanks also had a phone line which people could ring for information. This phone line received approximately 700 phone calls a week.
- 6.8 The S6 Foodbank Manager stated he was working with utility companies around how to support people who were unable to pay their gas and electric. This cost of living had become very challenging for people who had pre-paid meters.
- 6.9 5 of the 11 Foodbank sites in Sheffield now had a citizen advice worker present. If foodbank attendees found their advice useful then the Foodbank Manager would look to extend workers to the remaining 6 sites.
- 6.10 The Chief Executive of Voluntary Action Sheffield, Helen Sims gave an update to the Committee and members of the public.
- 6.11 Voluntary Action Sheffield worked with voluntary groups and organisations across Sheffield. They focused on community

impact, influencing decision makers and champion volunteering as a force for positive action.

- 6.12 The Chief Executive of Voluntary Action Sheffield mentioned she would work alongside the foodbank network in the coming months, to identify minority groups and organisations in need of emergency food services.
- 6.13 It was mentioned that communication and information sharing were critical in order to improve people cost of living crisis. It was added that people were unaware of what benefit services were available to them.
- 6.14 Voluntary Action Sheffield had worked with Sheffield City Council on developing a website (sheffieldmoneysupport.co.uk). This website was built to help local people easily find accurate information about money support services in Sheffield.
- 6.15 It was stated that there needed to be more access to community spaces so that services can offer their support in more areas across the city.
- 6.16 Voluntary Action Sheffield were collecting a wide range of data so that they could understand the bigger picture around the cost of living crisis. It was added that landlords were an area that needed to be investigated, in particular private landlords in the city.
- 6.17 The Chair thanked Chris Hardy and Helen Sims for attending the LAC meeting and providing their updated on the cost of living crisis.

7. TRANSPORT UPDATE

- 7.1 The Transport, Planning and Infrastructure Manager, Matthew Reynold gave a presentation to the Committee and members of public on transport issues across the city.
- 7.2 The presentation covered the challenges and opportunities in Sheffield, the funding position, current and future projects, and information on the new speed indicator displays.
- 7.3 Summary of the Introduction: -
- Traffic levels are higher than they were pre pandemic.
 - Bus operation was around 70% therefore it was anticipated that the bus services would reduce their service.

- Needed to look at changing Sheffields behaviour on their mode of transport. This would also have health and environmental benefits.
- SYPTE (South Yorkshire) was now known as SYMCA (South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority)
- COVID 19 bus finding was ending on October 2022.

7.4 Summary of Challenges and Opportunities: -

- The Transport Service at Sheffield City Council received approximately 13,000 request per year. An example of some requests was for double yellow lines or crossings ect. The Council followed a process to eliminate proposals that are not suitable.

7.5 Summary of Fundings: -

- The Transport Service received funding for their Local Transport Plan which covered Local Safety Schemes, 20 mph Zones, Crossings, Network Management, Cycle Infrastructure and Bus Hotspots.
- They also received a Road Safety Fund which accelerated the delivery of 20 mph zones, crossings and speed indicator displays and an Active Travel Fund.
- There was also Strategic and Major Schemes for connecting Sheffield.

7.6 Summary of Live Projects: -

- The Council had introduced a Pavement Parking Ban for vehicles that parked on pavements in the City Centre.
- A Zebra Crossing will be introduced on Clarkhouse Road.
- The subway on Netherthorpe Road was being looked at for improvements.
- There will be one Speed Indicator Display provided in each ward.
- Sheaf Valley Cycle Route which went through City ward via Shoreham Street. It was added that this was a trial route.
- Active Neighbourhoods in Crookes and Walkley. This Scheme aimed to reduce traffic flows in these areas as it looked at better provision for those who were able to actively travel.

7.7 Summary of Future Projects: -

- Local Transport Plan Fund had been confirmed. Therefore, the Transport Service will monitor new Active Neighbourhoods and include schemes where necessary.

- The City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement would look at improving the bus services on Penistone Road into Hillsborough and beyond.
- Active Travel Fund 4 which was yet to be identified.
- Shalesmoor Gateway which looked at remodelling Shalesmoor Roundabout.

7.8 The Transport Update presentation would be published on the Council's website following the meeting.

7.9 A Member of the Public raised concern around the level of engagement at the LAC meetings. They felt they should have more opportunity to engage in discussions at the meeting as public voice was a crucial part for LACs and the Schemes mentioned been a success.

7.10 A Member of the Committee made comments on both the cost of living and transport update presentations. It was mentioned that the majority of requests received by that Member was around issues mentioned within the transport update and not so much on the cost of living crisis. It was suggested that the Central LAC had the cost of living crisis as a consistent theme at future meetings.

7.11 A Member of the Public anticipated around a 40% reduction in bus services due to a lack of funding. It was mentioned that this issue would impact other schemes mentioned in the transport update presentation.

7.12 A Member of the Public raised concerns around the increase in price for Petrol/Diesel. Although, it was stated that converting car users to active travel should not be the priority, it should be to ensure that roads were useable and accessible to everyone.

8. BREAKOUT GROUPS

8.1 Members of the Committee then broke out into tables with members of the public to consider the following two questions.

What can the LAC do to increase engagement and consultation with the communities in the LAC Area?

What projects would members of the public like the money to be spent on under each theme mentioned in the report?

9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

9.1 The Committee received the following questions from members of the public, in attendance at the meeting.

9.2 **Andy Chaplin** (on behalf of Hillsborough businesses and local residents)

Why have our local councillors appeared to have been so powerless in securing better arrangements for the local community?

Why have council officers appeared to issue a statement in support of Tramlines showing no awareness of the issues?

Why are Hillsborough residents and businesses not considered a vital voice in the arrangements that apply to Tramlines (and for other potential events)?

Will the Central LAC help the campaign to reinstate the previous leave and re-enter options?

Will the Central LAC help local traders who lose out during the event weekend?

Councillor Henry Nottage agreed there was a lack of communication to local residents and that was frustrating. He added that a meeting will be arranged in Hillsborough Ward after the event, to look at improving the issues mentioned going forward and improve engagement. Councillor Nottage stated that Mr Chaplin along with local residents, had full support from the three local councillors on these issues.

Councillor Nottage stated there would be a meeting between Councillors and officers to discuss the statement submitted to the press by officers.

Councillor Nottage explained the Council had recently passed a motion to improve Community Wealth Building. It was added that the Council will look at how events, like tramlines, communicated with local resident and businesses in the future.

Councillor Brian Holmshaw believed that funding for signage should come from Tramlines, rather than the Council.

The Community Services Manager agreed to look at fundings for festival signage.

The Chair (Councillor Bernard Little) mentioned there was an upcoming festival which had also raised concerns with local businesses. The Chair stated that local councillors

would work with those event organisers to ensure that local businesses can benefit from that event.

9.3 **Andrea Flutter**

Asked the LACs to clarify the Council's ability to enforce a re-entry policy for the Tramlines event.

Councillor Nottage advised that the intention was to work with Tramlines on a re-entry policy although, was unable to confirm whether this would be implemented.

Councillor Douglas Johnson mentioned the policy around parks and their use for events needed to be looked at again.

9.4 **Dean crouch**

How was Hillsborough Park benefitting from hosting the Tramlines event if they were not receiving any funding for it.

Councillor Ben Curran mentioned he was previously a Cabinet Member for Finance therefore understood the financial situation between the Council, events and parks. Councillor Curran explained that the direct income from the events contract would support the parks budget, which was one way the Council kept parks open. Hillsborough had also benefitted as they had received infrastructure improvements such as pathways and anti-flooding provisions.

In addition, Councillor Curran believed Tramlines was good for Sheffield and should not be lost. The important aspect was ensuring it worked better in the future.

The Chair requested that the issues raised at the meeting, in relation to Tramlines Event at item 9 of these minutes, be referred to the relevant policy committee.

9.5 **RESOLVED:** That the issues mentioned above, at item 9 of these minutes, be referred to the relevant Policy Committee.

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