

Agenda Item 5

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

South West Local Area Committee

Meeting held 26 September 2024

PRESENT: Councillors Andrew Sangar (Chair), Tim Huggan (Deputy Chair), Rebecca Atkinson, Sue Alston, Peter Gilbert, Barbara Masters, Ruth Milsom, Shaffaq Mohammed, Minesh Parekh and Cliff Woodcraft

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Joe Otten and Martin Smith.

5. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

6.1 There were no declarations of interest.

7. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

7.1 The minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 22 February and 15 May 2024 were approved as correct records.

8. LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETINGS

8.1 Carl Mullooly, Head of Local Area Committees, provided a background on the origination of Local Area Committees (LACs), and explained that the meetings had been formally constituted in 2021. They were held four times per year, and their purpose was to engage, empower and enable local communities, and to bring local decision-making into communities. LACs had evolved based on feedback from participants, and agendas had become more flexible and themed, based on local needs and issues. Meetings had become more interactive, including holding workshops to discuss themes, and inviting Council services to attend to share information.

8.2 Carl Mullooly noted that the following observations had been made by participants, communities and the LAC teams:-

- Challenges were faced when selecting venues that were convenient and accessible;
- The formal element of the meeting felt intimidating for some people;
- Variation in attendance levels had led to discussions about the best value

for money;

- Few decisions were made at the meetings;
- Webcast viewing figures were low; the timing of meetings was important so as not to be a barrier to attendance/viewing; and
- The 'Future Sheffield' programme had been set up to improve the ambition and service of Sheffield City Council over the next four years, and community engagement was a key part of this process.

9. ROAD SAFETY AND PARKING

9.1 Inspector Nik Dodsworth (South Yorkshire Police, Sheffield North West), Tracy Hendry (Road Safety Manager, Sheffield City Council) and Claire Crofts (Operations Manager, Enforcement, Sheffield City Council) were in attendance for this item.

9.2 Inspector Nik Dodsworth gave a presentation on 'Solutions to Parking Issues', and noted that parking issues were dealt with jointly by South Yorkshire Police and Sheffield City Council. The Police dealt with dangerous parking, and the Council were responsible for enforcing lower level contraventions, for example, parking on dropped kerbs. He explained that 'Operation Parksafes' had been a popular and effective scheme aimed at reducing road danger, but noted that the volume of incidents reported had taken valuable resources away from tackling other crimes. The reporting scheme had been fairly indiscriminate, and had, in some cases, led to summons being issued for the wrong offence, or cases pursued that were not in the public interest. The scheme was not able to carry on without additional staffing, training and funding, so had been discontinued.

9.3 Tracy Hendry gave a brief overview of the work of the Road Safety Team around the South West of Sheffield. She explained that Sheffield City Council worked with partners to deliver a 'Safe Systems' approach to road safety. She referred to the five 'pillars' to this approach: safe roads and road signs, safe road users, safe speeds, safe vehicles and post-crash response. She also noted the 'Vision Zero' approach to road safety management, based on the belief that no death or serious injury was acceptable on roads, and a combination of education of key groups, engineering schemes and enforcement measures were utilised in this approach.

9.4 Claire Crofts explained that the Civil Enforcement Officer team patrolled many areas throughout Sheffield, including main arterial routes at peak times. She advised that incorrectly parked vehicles could be reported via Parking Services for breaching parking restrictions (<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/parking/report-incorrectly-parked-vehicle>), or to the police if they are breaching legal restrictions. She added that, in some circumstances, vehicles could be towed

away.

10. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SESSION ON ROAD SAFETY AND PARKING

10.1 The Committee went into a breakout session, during which the members of the public in attendance were given the opportunity to join an engagement session on road safety and parking.

11. FEEDBACK ON ENGAGEMENT SESSION

11.1 The following feedback from the breakout session was noted:-

- Enforcement of parking restrictions/contraventions was a common issue of concern;
- Any new road safety/parking initiatives should be communicated widely;
- Safe routes for cyclists, cycle theft, and education around cycling should be considered;
- Education and/or measures around parking near schools at drop-off/pick-up time should be considered. The Local Area Committee team could liaise with headteachers of local schools/Learn Sheffield on this issue;
- Linking of community, voluntary and youth groups would be useful; and
- A change of day or change to a central venue for Local Area Committee meetings might encourage more attendance.

12. SOUTH WEST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2024/25

12.1 The Committee considered a report of the Community Services Manager on the funding allocated to the South West Local Area Committee and the proposals for its allocation and expenditure for 2024/25 in line with the priorities of the South West Local Area Committee.

12.2 The proposed expenditure and budget allocation for 2024/25 was as follows:-

Priority & Element	Anticipated Expenditure
Community Speed Watch	Up to £1,000
Schools Good Parking / Bad Parking Project	£400
Funding for management of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) in the Area	Up to £1,200
Allocation of funding to support Environmental Groups activities in the area through grants.	£10,000

SW LAC Eco Fair	£2,000
Greenhouses for schools	£3,600
Bug Houses	Up to £1,000
Thermal Imaging Camera	£2,000
Support Litter Pickers with equipment	£1,000
Support Isolation and Loneliness and Cost of Living Activities	£20,000
Community Cinema Event	£2,000
Support Unpaid Carers	£2,000
Local Business Network Event and funding to support local businesses	£5,000
Events and Festivals	£4,000
Engagement and Public meeting costs	£2,000
SW LAC Ward Funds, to allocate to local projects	£40,000
Total	£97,200

12.3 **RESOLVED:** That the South West Local Area Committee approves the proposed allocated expenditure against the £100,000 budget to address local priorities in the South West LAC Community Plan in 2024/25.

12.4 **Reasons for Decision**

The South West Local Area Committee 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.

12.5 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

All decisions on expenditure could be reserved to the Local Area Committee but this would inevitably delay delivery of priority actions to address specific issues identified in the Community Plan.

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

12.6 Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed noted that following the Full Council meeting on 4 September 2024, the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee had been requested to consider commissioning services to urgently commence an awareness campaign to maximise uptake of Pension Credits.

13. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

13.1 The Committee received the following questions from members of the public:-

(a) Peter Lowe (present at the meeting):

Pavement parking and speeding are a particular problem on our street. This includes parking close to driveways making it difficult to get a car out safely. Is street parking of motor homes allowed, and for how long?

Councillor Andrew Sangar, Chair of the Committee, advised that a written response would be provided to the questions raised.

Inspector Nik Dodsworth confirmed that there were no rules affecting on-street parking of motor homes, unless they were untaxed, uninsured or abandoned.

(b) Chris Stewart (question read out by the Chair):

I would like to ask a question about disabled parking in Crosspool shopping centre, I am a disabled driver with a blue badge and often I cannot get parked because none blue badge drivers park in the spaces and a lot of delivery vans and lorries also park in the blue badge spaces, more than once I found a delivery van in the single blue badge space and on the other side of the road a large lorry parked in the double blue badge bay leaving no space at all for disabled drivers, this is more than frustrating.

How can blue badge spaces be more enforced to only blue badge holders and not delivery and nonblue badge drivers?

The Chair advised that a full written response would be provided to the questions raised.

Claire Crofts noted that limited resourcing meant that attendance had to be prioritised, but confirmed that patrols had taken place in this particular area.

(c) Crosspool Local Residents (spokesperson present at the meeting)

1. Has the Council an update on the missing post box at the junction of Hagg Lane and Manchester Road? Many residents, including myself, have been affected by this inconvenience and are eager to know when it will be replaced or if there is an alternative solution in place.

Tania Bustamante advised that she had been in contact with Royal Mail and would update the questioner when she had further information.

2. A request for the name and contact details of the current delegating officer for Highways at the Sheffield Council? This information has been requested for correspondence with regards to local highway matters.

The Chair of the Committee asked the questioner to provide further details of the query at the end of the meeting to ensure it was passed to the relevant team.

The questioner confirmed that his third question to the Committee had been

withdrawn.

- 13.2 A member of the public referred to the upcoming consultation on the A625 Safer Roads Scheme, and noted that there was an upcoming meeting, for those who might be interested in attending.
- 13.3 The Chair confirmed that feedback from the consultation would be brought to the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee in due course.
- 13.4 Tracy Hendry added that residents would receive a letter on 3 October 2024 inviting comments, and comments were also welcome via 'Have Your Say'.
- 13.5 Councillor Peter Gilbert made a suggestion to set up a task force to tackle pavement parking issues across the city. The Chair noted this suggestion.