

Agenda Item 5

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

East Local Area Committee

Meeting held 24 September 2024

PRESENT: Councillors Mary Lea (Chair), Qais Al-Ahdal, David Barker, Elle Dodd, Mike Drabble, Mia Drazaic, Dianne Hurst and Laura Moynahan

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Terry Fox, Ben Miskell, Nabella Mowlana and Zahira Naz.

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 meeting of the committee held on 28 February 2024, and 15 May 2024 were approved as a correct record.

8. COMMUNITY AND COHESION UPDATE

8.1 The Chair (Councillor Mary Lea) referred to the recent riots that had taken place and mentioned that the Government and the Council had taken action against these issues and were forming a response. Huda Ahmed added that the Local Area Committee (LAC) had some funding to address community engagement and therefore if anyone had any ideas of how the LAC could improve that, then to get in touch.

9. EAST LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET REPORT 2024/25

9.1 The Committee considered a report of Huda Ahmed, Community Services Manager, on the proposed allocation of funds to address local priorities for the East Local Area Committee for 2024-25.

9.2 Funding delegated by the Council in 2024/25 amounts to £100,000 per LAC to address issues in the East LAC Community plan. Following consultation with East LAC members it is proposed that this budget should be allocated so that £25,000 is spent per ward to address the priorities in the East LAC Community Plan.

9.3 The East LAC priorities are Children and Young People, Communities and Neighbourhoods, Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour, Health and Wellbeing, Environment, and Highways and Transport.

9.4 To enable financial decisions to be made, given the delays caused by the two pre-election periods (local election and general election) it is recommended that the level of expenditure that can be approved by the Community Services Manager in consultation with the LAC Chair under the delegated authority described above in 1.1.2 is raised to sums of up to £10,000.

9.5 **RESOLVED:** That the East Local Area Committee:

1. agrees the approach set out for use of the 2024/25 budget to address local priorities in the East LAC Community Plan as detailed in the report; and
2. authorise the Community Services Manager to make decisions on expenditure from any budgets allocated to the Local Area Committee provide 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 £10,000
 - A report detailing the delegated spending decisions taken by the Community Services Manager is presented to the next Local Area Committee meeting.

9.6 **Reasons for Decision**

9.6.1 The East LAC is asked to approve the approach to the 2024/25 budget outlined in the report to address the identified local priorities within the East LAC Community Plan.

9.7 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

9.7.1 The LAC could choose not to allocate budgets at this stage, but this would delay local projects and facilities for local communities. All decisions on expenditure to support Community Plan priorities could be delegated to officers. However, this would restrict and undermine the LACs ability to monitor its delegated budget and delivery of the Community Plan.

10. LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

10.1 Carl Mullooly, Head of Local Area Committees, provided a background on the 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.

10.2 Carl Mullooly outlined some of the challenges that the Council had experienced since the LACs were formed. These were:

- Governance element of LACs was very formal
- Location and Venue challenges
- The attendance varied
- Timing of meetings
- Webcasting statistics showed that meetings were rarely viewed
- Very few decisions were made

10.3 The Council had an ongoing project called 'Future Sheffield' and the discussions from the meeting would feed into that piece of work.

10.4 Those in attendance were asked to consider the following:

1. What has worked well?
2. What can be improved?
3. Is this the right approach to engage, empower and enable?

Members of the Committee, Officers and members of the public broke out into workshops to discuss the above questions. A summary of the feedback was as follows:

Positives

- Good to have meetings in each ward
- Food aspect before meetings was good for socialising
- Good opportunity for people to come together
- People attend when they are interested in an item, so they are able to get information on that issue
- Good to have themes

Challenges

- People needed to be more identifiable (name badges ect)
- LACs needed to be promoted better
- Need to give members of public more updates in between meetings
- Need to target different groups
- Online surveys are not working
- If decisions are not escalated, then causes mistrust
- PA system needs to be upgraded
- Need community posters and advertisements
- People do not want to come to a formal committee meeting
- Was not aware the meetings were webcasted
- Not seen any feedback from earlier decisions
- LACs should continue but also need other methods of engagement
- Carry out formal business at the end of the meeting

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11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

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

11.2 Public Questioner 1

Can the LAC ward pot be used for road safety issues such as corner mirrors, extending double yellow lines ect?

The Chair explained that ward councillors can look at priorities and decide how their ward pot was used. People can apply for funding to address issues like this although for this particular issue, it would be better if the funding came from the Highways service. The Chair asked the member of public to email the LAC for further information.

11.3 Public Questioner 2

Also referred to road safety issues in their area. They asked if there would be a review of road safety issues in particular on Harborough Avenue.

Councillor Laura Moynahan explained that she had already raised the issue relating to Harborough Avenue as it clearly was not safe. She mentioned that at the Manor Park TARA meeting the same issue was raised again. She explained that the issue was the funding but ward councillors had to put forward schemes for funding and therefore she would be putting forward this area along with some other areas in that ward.

Councillor Elle Dodd explained that the Transport service had recognised that their surveys used for consultation were addressing the issues that received the most responses. Therefore, this time they had consulted more widely with the community so that more issues can be addressed.

Councillor Dianne Hurst added that there was only limited funding therefore the Council had to address to most urgent issues and although every road safety risk was a priority, based on a risk assessment, other areas may need the funding first.

11.4 Public Questioner 3

The property neighbouring our God of Prophecy Church (123 - 131 Duke Street) seemed to be derelict and had a boundary wall that was affecting the Church. She asked if she could be signposted to who owned the property so that she could contact them.

The Chair explained that LAC officers would talk to the Planning Service and provide the member of public with a response. The

member of public was asked to leave their details so that they could be contacted.

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