

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Central Local Area Committee

Meeting held 27 September 2021

PRESENT: Councillors Bernard Little (Chair), Ben Curran, Neale Gibson, Christine Gilligan, Brian Holmshaw, Douglas Johnson, George Lindars-Hammond, Josie Paszek, Martin Phipps and Kaltum Rivers

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 An apology for absence were received from Councillors Ruth Mersereau and Angela Argenzio.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIR

3.1 **RESOLVED:** That Councillor Josie Paszek be appointed Deputy Chair of the Central Local Area Committee for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 The minutes of the meetings held on 19th May 2021 and 7 July 2021 were approved as a correct record.

6. AUTHORISATION OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER TO TAKE DECISIONS ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE

6.1 The Community Services Manager, submitted a report setting out the mechanism for the Local Area Committee to enable decisions to be taken quickly and to respond to emerging issues by authorising the Community Services Manager to make decisions on expenditure between Committee meetings, subject to certain conditions.

6.2 **RESOLVED:** That the Central Local Area Committee authorises 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 and the Committee
- Spending is in line with any specific purposes of the allocated

budget

- The decision may not approve expenditure of more than £5,000
- A report detailing the delegated spending decisions taken by the Community Services Manager is presented to the next Local Area Committee meeting.

6.3 Reasons for Decision

The proposal to authorise decisions on any budgets allocated to the Committee can be discharged, in part, by the Community Services Manager will ensure the Committees can respond quickly to emerging local issues.

6.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

All decisions relating to budgets allocated to the Local Area Committee could be decided at Formal Committee Meetings only. Whilst this approach would ensure the involvement of all members of the committee, it would mean that decisions to allocate spending for emerging and urgent local issues may not be made in a timely fashion.

6.5 Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted

None

6.6 Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration

None

6.7 Respective Director Responsible for Implementation

Executive Director People Services

6.8 Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

7. LOCAL AREA COMMITTEES - EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

7.1 The Local Area Committee Manager, Adeel Zahman, gave a presentation on empowering communities. The presentation covered:

- What the Local Area Committee would do in terms of engaging, empowering and enabling residents and community organisation on topics of local interest. It would use a range of communication methods both physically and digitally. The committee would engage with the areas residents to empower them to become part of the solution with emerging issues.

- That each Local Area Committee had been allocated £100,000 to spend in line with their community plans along with doubling Ward pots and access to the Fly-tipping and Graffiti budget.
- The Local Area Team would use different communication methods to update members of the public and actively listen to feedback and results from the surveys to help their understanding of what the priorities were in the local area.
- For anyone who wanted to get involved, The Local Area Team encouraged the public to; share their contact details and become a part of the contact database, complete online surveys, attend community events/workshops and to get in touch with the Local Area Team to share any feedback.

7.2 The Local Area Committee Manager introduced the Central Local Area Committee team, this included;

- Lorraine Wood – Head of Service
- Adeel Zahman – Local Area Committee Manager
- Andrew Male – Community Services Officer
- Nesar Miah – Community Services Officer
- Ella Monkcom – Project Support Officer

7.3 Following the conclusions of the presentation, The Local Area Manager played a video on Local Area Committees.

7.4 **RESOLVED:-** that the Local Area Committee noted the presentation.

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

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

(a) Public Questioner 1

1. What is the timescale on producing the community plan?

2. How can members of the public have an influence on the community plan?

In response to question 1, Councillor Josie Paszek informed the member of the public that a draft community plan would be brought to the January Local Area Committee (LAC) meeting.

In response to question 2, Councillor Josie Paszek reassured members of the public that their voice would be fed back through the LAC meetings and other sources of communication such as the LAC survey, this would help Councillors and Officers draft a community plan.

(b) Public Questioner 2

When does the LAC survey finish?

The Head of Communities stated that the LAC survey would end in November 2021.

(c) Public Questioner 3

How can members of the public be assured that people with learning disabilities are heard and engaged in the community plan?

The Local Area Committee Manager explained that it had previously been difficult to reach out and engage with members of the public that had learning difficulties, although the aim was to improve engagement with members of the public. The Local Area Committee Manager added that LAC meetings were a place where members of the public could come and share how they thought the Council could better engage with members of the public with learning difficulties.

(d) Public Questioner 4

How does the Council aim to engage with other organisations to deliver work in the local area?

Councillor Josie Paszek advised that other organisations could be invited to Committee meetings where Councillors can engage with staff and get an understanding of how they could deliver a good service for the area. Councillor Paszek added that ward Councillors would already have contacts with organisations.

(e) Public Questioner 5

How can the Council ensure resources are used effectively?

The Chair responded by informing members of the public that money from government was decreasing all the time therefore the Council needed to make sure that resources were shared appropriately.

(f) Public Questioner 6

It was mentioned by a member of public at a previous LAC meeting that part of the annual budget should be used to generate more investment instead of looking to spend all 100% of the budget of community plans. Is that something that the Central LAC will look to do?

The Chair mentioned that this was a great idea and should be looked into further. The Chair added that the Council also needed to confirm whether budgets could be carried over if a LAC did not spend 100% of their annual budget.

(g) Public Questioner 7

Is the LAC budget separate to CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)?

Councillor Josie Paszek confirmed the two budgets were separate.

(h) Public Questioner 8

How much CIL money is allocated to each ward?

Councillor Josie Paszek informed the members of public that this information was available on the Council website. Councillor Paszek added that each ward would have different amounts of budget to spend as there was different priorities and challenges in each ward therefore some wards may have more allocation of money than others.

(i) Public Questioner 9

Could residents propose that that the CIL money be added to the LAC budget or part of the CIL be accessed by this LAC?

The Chair suggested that the proposal be put forward to Council Officers to review.

- 8.2 Following the conclusions of public questions, the Chair informed Committee that there would be an opportunity for attendees to break out into groups and take part in an exercise where attendees could make comments on their local area.