

South Local Area Committee

Meeting held 13 October 2021

PRESENT: Councillors Simon Clement-Jones (Chair), Ian Auckland, Sue Auckland, Steve Ayris, Alexi Dimond, Peter Garbutt, Cate McDonald, Maroof Raouf, Richard Shaw, Alison Teal and Paul Turpin

.....

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1.1 Councillor Simon Clement-Jones, Chair of the Local Area Committee (LAC) introduced himself and outlined his vision for the LAC. He referred to the work that had been ongoing since May, 2021 and welcomed everyone to the first public meeting of the South LAC. He then invited officers and Ward Councillors to introduce themselves. Councillor Clement-Jones said he proposed to take written questions he had received in advance and move the public questions item further down the agenda, after the formal business and presentation on LAC's, as he felt that this could answer some of the questions members of the public might have.

1.2 Various Members gave a brief detail of initiatives that had been undertaken in each of the four Wards i.e. specific donations to food banks, work to ensure digital inclusion for all, the Terminus Initiative at Lowedges, work with TARAs, the Double Six Club at Woodseats, improvements to playgrounds.

1.3 The Committee received the following questions from members of the public who had submitted the questions prior to the meeting, and who were in attendance to raise them: -

1.3.1 Martin Lawton

I wish to ask questions firstly on the Ward pots. How much does each Ward have in their Ward pots. I have been given the impression that most of the money depends on the index of deprivation. If this is correct how are Councillors going to make sure the spend is mainly allocated to those areas and targets lifting those residents out of poverty?

In response, the Chair gave an overview in terms of the Ward Pot allocations for the South LAC area (this includes a small amount of funding rolled over from the 2020-21 budget as follows:-

Ward Pot Allocations 2021-22

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Beauchief & Greenhill | £22,381.71 |
| Gleadless Valley | £22,138.26 |
| Graves Park | £10,367.28 |
| Nether Edge | £18,263.60 |
| Total | £73,150.85 |

Indices of Multiple Deprivation (the following additional information had been

provided to Martin Lawton by email)

The total agreed Ward Pot for the city for 2021-22 is £460,000. From this each of the 28 wards in the city has been allocated a standard budget of £4,000, leaving £348,000 which is then allocated based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).

The greater the IMD score means the greater the levels of deprivation in an area. The IMD for Sheffield is currently 736.00 – as an example the IMD score for Beauchief and Greenhill is 33.9. So to determine the percentage allocation to be made to be added to the standard budget of £4,000, $33.9 / 736$ equals 4.6% of the IMD for Sheffield.

The IMD is historically updated every 4-5 years and is produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – and can be found via this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

How are these meeting communicated to all the residents of the four wards?

In response, the Chair stated that public meetings will be promoted using a range of approaches to reach out to local people across all 4 wards. We're also very aware that a significant number of people are digitally excluded and so don't have access to the internet and so we need to find ways of reaching these people,

Each Local Area Committee covers 4 electoral wards and will hold 4 public meetings a year. Our plan is to rotate the public meetings around the 4 wards.

Some of the ways we will promote the meetings include:

- Through social media, including our Facebook Site - <https://www.facebook.com/southsheffield/>
- Through our regular email bulletins which have over 6,000 people signed up so far
- Through the Nextdoor App (which reaches over 8,000 people in South LAC area)
- Through posters and updates in local publications
- Through the Council's Libraries Service
- Through other established mechanisms such as Councillors' Ward Surgeries
- Through our partners (e.g. SY Police) and local voluntary, community and faith organisations

Covid-19 and Council precautionary measures, including social distancing mean that the capacity in meeting rooms is reduced at present, so we are more limited on the number of people who can attend public meetings and we are currently using a booking system to help manage this. We expect that as measures are able to be relaxed, we will be able increase the number of attendees at meetings.

1.3.2 Helen Brown

I would like to ask what plans there are for active travel infrastructure to connect Nether Edge and Sharrow? School catchments span the busy arterial road of

Psalter Lane and there is only currently a single pedestrian crossing at Junction Road which is insufficient.

Also, what is happening with plans for school streets (closing the roads adjacent to schools at drop off and pick up times) to be rolled out more to more schools in Nether Edge and Sharrow? This is needed in order to reduce congestion and pollution around schools, to force more cars off the roads at peak times and to protect children's' mental and physical health.

The Chair said he was aware of the recent petition that had been submitted to a meeting of full Council in relation to the request for an additional pedestrian crossing on Psalter Lane and understood that a written response in relation to this request had been sent. The Chair stated that in relation to school streets, a response had been requested from colleagues in the Planning and Highways Department and a written response from them would be given to Helen Brown.

He said that school streets would be considered alongside the safer streets initiatives and notices would be put up in the school areas to notify local residents.

Councillors Alison Teal and Maroof Raouf were keen that school streets be given priority and supported the introduction of Modeshift STARS, a national schools awards scheme established to recognise schools that have demonstrated excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel. As a first step, they advised contacting the School Headteacher as any application would need to be strongly advocated by them

- 1.4 *Jean Cromar stated that she lived in the Sharrow area and felt the meeting tonight was too far for people in her area to attend.*

In response, the Chair said that it was intended that the venue for meetings would change and that meetings would be online, through webcast from the new year. Notices of the meeting had been published on the Council website, through Council mailing lists and via social media and also through an advertisement in the "Active 8" publication.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sophie Thornton.

3. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

- 3.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be passed 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 meetings of the Local Area Committee held on 19th May and 7th July, 2021 were approved as correct records.

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

6.1 Nik Hamilton, Interim Head of Communities, submitted a report setting out the mechanism for the South Local Area Committee to enable decisions to be taken quickly and to respond to emerging issues by authorising the Community Services Manager, in discussion with the Chair, to make decisions on expenditure between Committee meetings, subject to certain conditions.

6.2 **RESOLVED:** That the South 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
- 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

- 7.1 The Committee received a presentation from the Community Services Manager on Local Area Committees (LACs).
- 7.2 Diane Owens reported on the operation and role of the LAC, the initial funding allocation for the Committees, engagement activity, how the public could get involved, details of the Members of the Committee and the South Local Area Committee Team and contact details relating to the LAC. She outlined the role of Local Area Committees and the ability for residents to input into decision making on a local level, adding that the Committee's main role was to include the voice of local residents and that communicating the voice of the people could be heard digitally through Facebook, Twitter, via email etc. or by contacting their local Ward Councillor in person. The South LAC wanted to hear from residents about things that matter to them and their local area, so that their input, along with those of the voluntary, community and faith sectors could be included in the development of the Local Community Plan. Diane Owens said that residents would have an increased ability to influence decision making and the LACs would work with key services within the Council and their partners to address and deal with any issues that might arise.
- 7.3 Diane Owens stated that there were seven LACs across the city, all having been allocated £100,000 and also have been allocated a share of the City-wide fly-tipping and graffiti budget. This funding was in addition to existing Ward pots, which had doubled this year.
- 7.4 Finally, Diane Owens referred to the booklets that had been placed around the room and invited residents to provide their feedback by completing the short survey, she shared contact details for the LAC and invited attendees to add their details to the LAC's mailing list and encouraged them to tell their colleagues, friends and neighbours about the LAC.
- 7.5 The Committee noted the information now reported as part of 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.

Q1. **Sharrow/Nether Edge** – *A petition had been organised regarding the work to the road and pavement on Sheldon Road. This road hadn't been included as part of the StreetsAhead scheme and not been repaired at all during the past 20 years. The resident asked what could be done to get the works carried out?*

The Chair stated that through LACs a number of senior Link Officers would be identified from Council services, who could support with addressing priority issues.

The Chair felt that some of the work and influence of the LACs should lead to some policy influence / change in areas. However, it was stated that the LACs have no control over the work carried out by Amey in prioritising roads in disrepair. Some Members said they felt that Amey had let the people of Sheffield down and felt it was now up to Councillors to hold Amey and the StreetsAhead project to account.

Q2. Whilst welcoming the introduction of LACs and it was felt that they could be a real voice in democracy, how are you going to make sure that the process was working and the £100,000 spend would make difference to the areas it was needed the most and the make sure the result of the Our City Referendum takes place?

In response, the Chair stated that through the LAC, there would be a direct link to an officer in Amey to help resolve any issues and the focus of the LACs was how to work with communities to respond to local priorities. There was a new Council governance structure emerging and it was hoped that the LACs could have an input into the structure to make the right decisions to make things better locally and act upon what we have heard from people in the community. Councillor Cate McDonald, Executive Member for Finance and Resources, advised that she felt the Administration had made a further recent commitment to the LACs by signing off funding for webcasting local meetings.

Q3. How ambitious were the plans for this area? Have they been as a red herring rather than look at the big issues?

In response, the Chair stated that he wanted the area to be the best it can be, and that hopefully the power of the LACs would influence higher level strategic issues.

Q4. What has happened to the Gleadless Valley Masterplan?

In response, it was acknowledged that due to the pandemic, things had been put on hold but it was felt that the wheels were now in motion and Members were optimistic that the Masterplan was now starting to pull together. It was hoped that there would be more detail on this at the next meeting to be held in January.

Q5. What is the Council planning to do with the boarded up public house across the road from these premises? The premises could be used as a community building, at present it was just an area for fly tipping which was costing a lot of money each month to clear.

In response, it was stated that the premises had just come to the attention of the Council and there needed to be a full health and safety inspection to be carried out before any decisions on its future use could be made.

Q6. How will the Local Area Plan fit in and will it form part of other plans such as the Neighbourhood Plan?

The LAC would be taking in the results of surveys and feedback received and it was hoped to bring the South LAC draft Community Plan and priorities to the

meeting in January for further consideration before being signed off.

Councillor Teal added some information to help with clarity in terms of the different kinds of plans. She stated that the Sheffield Local Plan is a citywide planning-based document, which will guide the future of the city by setting out how and where development will take place up to 2038, it is called the 'Sheffield Plan' and is in development. Neighbourhood Plans, such as those previously seen in Dore and Broomhill were community led. The Government's Localism Act 2011 offers rights and powers for communities which includes Neighbourhood Planning where a community can come together and produce a plan to shape how their local area should develop and grow. The plans were subject to an independent examination and a local referendum before they could be adopted. The LACs were more community based and not tied into planning. The South LAC Community Plan will reflect local priorities as identified through data analysis and community feedback.

Q7. What was being done to ensure that those learning with learning disabilities were included and understood what was happening with the LACs?

In response, the Chair said that the Communications Team was committed to providing materials in adapted formats to help overcome barriers to involvement, this could include easy read etc.

In addition, Diane Owens, South LAC Manager added that Sheffield Equality Partnership were also supporting with some of the engagement work taking place in the city, this would include some work being led by Disability Sheffield, who work directly with people with learning disabilities. At a local level, Heeley City Farm were also supporting the engagement work, this will include talking to a group people with learning disabilities to capture their feedback. The South LAC Team would also support with any reasonable adjustments to enable people to attend or take part in the public meetings.

Q8. Before lockdown, work had been carried out regarding Greenspace, since lockdown, nothing?

In response, workshops on greenspace have not been revisited, due to time restraints but that doesn't mean that there would not be an opportunity to feed into the Masterplan the issues around greenspace, alongside discussions around public realm projects.

Q9. With regard to the Gleadless Valley Masterplan, will there be an opportunity for integration of the retro project. This was a prime opportunity to get houses in the area ready for climate change. Are there any assurances that there will be a co-ordinated retro fit scheme involving local women and young people?

In response, it was stated that there was a call for training and upskilling local people to deal with home insulation in an attempt to tackle fuel poverty. There was work ongoing with the Council to help create 10,000 citywide "green jobs" which would include retro fitters. The Council was trying to influence the City Region. Ideally, a Jobs Hub would be created to build homes in the Gleadless area in order

to help improve life opportunities.

Q10. What is being done regarding food banks and is anything being done so that people don't have to rely on them?

In response, it was stated that the Council was holding a summit at the end of the week on poverty. It was acknowledged that there was a need to pull everything together, recognise the support of the voluntary and community sector and decide what action could be taken city wide, including in relation to the recent cut to the Universal Credit. Some members commented on the way the Government has handled the pandemic, and felt that millions had been wasted, including on the track and trace scheme, Councillors would have to work with partners and communities to decide on the local action we can take to help lift people out of poverty

Q.11 I have been to all LACs and have seen all the buzz words, but I am unclear on empowerment – who is empowered through the LACs, how is power devolved?

In response, the Chair stated that the LACs were evolving and would be shaped in the future based on learning and engagement. The LACs were in development and the Chair hoped that from next May, the City Council would give LACs further powers to be able them to do so much more. The population in the four Wards in the South LAC area was approximately 40,000 and it was hoped to reach out and engage widely in the area before putting together the final South LAC Community Plan together. One Member stated that the LACs were new and there was a desire to get everyone involved, for residents to communicate and get in touch with their Ward Members. The funding was there, and residents might have burning issues for where the money was to be spent, so urged everyone to get in touch.

9. UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY PRIORITIES - FEEDBACK SESSION

9.1 The meeting then moved into an informal feedback session on community priorities which included members of the public being able to talk to Ward Councillors and the staff of the South Local Area Committee Team.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10.1 The date of the next meeting will be on a date to be arranged.