

Central Local Area Committee

Meeting held 19 October 2022

**PRESENT:** Councillors Bernard Little (Chair), Maleiki Haybe (Deputy Chair), Angela Argenzio, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Brian Holmshaw, Tom Hunt, Douglas Johnson, George Lindars-Hammond, Ruth Mersereau, Henry Nottage and Martin Phipps

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 An apology for absence were received from Councillor Ben Curran.

**2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

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

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

**4. COST OF LIVING CRISIS PRESENTATION - SCC AND PARTNERS**

4.1 The Committee received a presentation from the Head of Communities, Carl Mullooly. The presentation outlined measures the Council is putting in place to help members of the public through the cost-of-living crisis.

4.2 A member of the public referred to the QR codes, which were to be scanned by mobile devices to provide further information. They asked how people could still be provided with that same information, if they did have access to mobile devices.

The Head of Communities explained that the postcard was for use by front line workers and there would be other ways developed that members of the public could access the same information. This included distributing leaflets and also having notices and flyers in local community buildings.

4.3 A member of the public asked if there were a direct mobile number to call, rather than the Council's general switchboard. It was added that the delays in using the switchboard could be of significant impact in these challenging times.

The Head of Communities appreciated the difficulties in trying to access different Council services through the switchboard. He mentioned that members of the public could also use the LAC services contact details, to get in touch regarding these issues. He also stated that there were other community groups that members of the public could be directed to.

- 4.4 A member of the public asked if any of the services mentioned in the presentation would be available to the public in the evenings/night-time, as well as in the daytime. She added that most people preferred to be around people they knew when in need of support.

The Head of Communities confirmed that evenings/night-time services would be available to some members of the public. He mentioned that we are looking at what was already available and working well in the communities. He agreed with the comment made on people wanting to be close to people they know but added that the Council was aiming to make options available for a wide range of people in the community including those that do not have support of relatives or friends.

- 4.5 A Member of the Committee advised that the Head of Communities attend the Adult and Social Care Policy Committee to update portfolio holders of the work around the cost-of-living crisis.

- 4.6 Kirsty Sandamas (Citizens Advice Sheffield) gave a presentation on what Citizens Advice Sheffield did and how they were committed to helping people through the cost-of-living crisis.

- 4.7 A Member of the Committee asked how many face-to-face services were in the central locality.

Kirsty Sandamas stated there was 26 different locations across the city.

- 4.8 A member of the public mentioned that the Advice and Resource Centre offered similar advice. Therefore, suggested that the 2 services, along with The University of Law liaise with each other.

- 4.9 The two presentations presented at the meeting would be published onto the Council's meeting webpages, following the meeting.

## **5. BREAKOUT AND NETWORKING SESSION**

- 5.1 Following the presentations, Members and Officers broke out into groups with members of the public. The public were asked to give

their ideas on how the Council and Partners can support them during the cost-of-living crisis.

5.2 Members of the Committee fed back a summary of the discussions that took place on their table. Feedback were as follows: -

5.3 Group 1 – Feedback was given by Councillor Phipps.

- Expressed how terrible the cost-of-living crisis situation was.
- That a variety of solutions were needed to relieve some pressure.
- Needed to consider that different people had different needs and ways of being supported.
- People would appreciate warm spaces in day and evenings.
- Delays with the Council's switchboard was an issue.
- The QR codes could be excluding certain people from accessing information.
- Signposting was a good idea.
- Joining up dots where possible.
- Schools could be looked at as an option for a warm space.
- Union representatives should address the current low wages issue.
- Needed as much support as possible in the community.

5.4 Group 2 – Feedback was given by Councillor Gilligan Kubo.

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- Mentioned that activities should be coordinated in a way that is meaningful.
- Nobody knows what everyone else is doing
- Subsiding hot meals in warm spaces.
- Neighbours should come together and help each other, just like they did through the pandemic.
- Look to share information in other ways, other than online, for those who do not have access to it.
- Put information/leaflets in shops.
- Use the postal service to deliver information to residents.
- Display information on the buses.
- Look at whether we are communicating with schools.
- Look at using Football Clubs and their groups to share information.

5.5 Group 3 – Feedback was given by Councillor Nottage.

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- Like the other groups, lots of discussions around communication
- Look to coordinate services on separate days so that the public could use them all.
- Use the parts of the community that everyone uses, to share information.

- Use social-media platforms.
- Get in touch with local big business.
- Find out where people like to go e.g. pubs and shops, and use their platform to share this information.

5.6 Following the feedback, a member of the public stated that this Local Area Committee needed to be promoted more. Another member of the public stated that places of worship would be a good place to share information.

## **6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

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

### **6.2 Public Questioner 1**

– Referred to the transport issues on the Hallamshire routes. This was causing difficulty getting to and from Loxley and Wisewood. They asked if there was any information to share about the future of busses around the Hillsborough locality.

Councillor Gilligan Kubo informed the member of public that she was the Deputy Chair of the Transport and Regeneration Policy Committee. She explained that the Council did not run the bus service, it was run by South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and were currently going through a process for companies to bid on running that service. It was added that funding by the bus service would come to an end in March 2023. Councillor Gilligan Kubo mentioned there was a meeting scheduled with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

### **6.3 Public Questioner 2**

– A member of the public commented that one of the reasons why she moved to the Hillsborough locality was due to good transport services. Although now it was not the same as it once was. She mentioned that people were buying bus passes that they would no longer be able to use.

Councillor Lindars-Hammond informed the member of public that he had met with the managing directors at FIRST bus service, and that there was no intention of them changing their minds on the cuts to the service. He stated that there needed to be cross-party working, with the communities, to try and convince people that there was demand for a good bus service in Wisewood.

6.4 Public Questioner 3

- Commented on South Yorkshire Combined Authority not having the funding to run the bus service. She explained that the people voted for cheap buses in 1971. People did not need to use their cars as there was good transport services in the area. She believed that this would not change until there was a change in Government.

6.5 Public Questioner 4

- Commented that local citizens needed to be prepared to pay more local taxes to get better transport services as these good services required more funding.

6.6 Public Questioner 5

- Commented that there needed to be good working relationships with the public sector. She suggested that the Council looked at the impact bus services were having on people in the area.

6.7 Public Questioner 6

- Commented that these profitable services were not providing an effective service for the people.

She referred to the food banks, which no one wanted to see happen, but ultimately in desperate times, it demonstrated how communities got together. She stated that the LAC could use its network of communication to share information to many citizens.

6.8 Public Questioner 7

- Suggested the Council looked to hire buses from Sheffield Community Transport as they currently provided a service people that requested it. The Council could ask them what services they run and how they can help.

6.9 Public Questioner 8

- Asked if there was anything this LAC could do regarding purchasing guest parking permits as the online process was challenging.

Councillor Argenzio agreed this needed to be better and would follow this up with Customer Services.

6.10 Councillor Hunt commented on the transport issues raised. He referred to the transport services in London stating they were reliable and had a system that met the needs of their residents. He

added that the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority had a new Mayor, and that Sheffield City Council had the ability to feed into that and influence decision-making. It was mentioned that the Tram transport services were back in the public control as of 2024.

Councillor Johnson added that one major factor was that London had approximately four times more funding than South Yorkshire. He agreed that the transport services in South Yorkshire was not where it needed to be.

**7. CENTRAL LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE COMMUNITY PLAN - UPDATE**

7.1 This item of business was not conducted at the meeting.

**8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

8.1 RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13 July 2022, be deferred to next meeting of the Committee due to comments made in regard to the inaccuracy of those minutes.