

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Monday 11 March 2024 by the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee.

Item No

8. 2023/24 Q3 BUDGET MONITORING

8.1 This report brings the Committee up to date with the Council's General Fund Revenue outturn position for 2023/24 as at Quarter 3.

8.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee notes the updated information and management actions on the 2023/24 Revenue Budget Outturn position subject to a correction to paragraph 1.7.6 of the report regarding the overspend forecasted for Community Services: the funding for the Community Support Workers came from the Better Care Fund which was not overspent, the overspend came from the Team Around the Person. Since the month 9 forecast position, the service had now received funding to mitigate the overspend.

8.3 Reasons for Decision

8.3.1 To record formally changes to the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

8.4.1 The Council is required to both set a balance budget and to ensure that in-year income and expenditure are balanced. No other alternatives were considered.

9. SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

9.1 This report sets out the work undertaken to review the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Policy and seeks approval of the final version of the Policy.

9.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee:

1. approves the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy as a statement of the Council's approach to tackling anti-social behaviour subject to the inclusion of 'parking' into the bullet point on anti-social use of vehicles in the list of examples of behaviours generally considered to be anti-social behaviour in section 1.4 of the policy; and
2. grants delegated authority to the Director of Communities to finalise and agree the design and format of the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy document before publication and where necessary to make any minor amendments and updates to the policy required, in order to reflect any organisational or

legislative changes which take place prior to the policy being formally reviewed by the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee.

9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 9.3.1 It is a statutory requirement for all local housing authorities, housing action trusts, non-profit registered providers of social housing and registered social landlords to have an ASB policy and procedures.
- 9.3.2 Sheffield is one of the safest cities in the UK. An effective ASB policy is key to ensuring that ASB is dealt with through proportionate action based on evidence and focussed on finding the best outcome for everyone involved.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 9.4.1 The Council has a statutory duty to have an ASB policy and procedures. Therefore, no alternative options have been considered.

10. **PROPOSAL FOR ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF PARKS GRANT TO GREEN ESTATE**

- 10.1 This report proposes that the existing funding and management arrangements with Green Estate for the Manor Fields site are continued for a 12-month period, with a further £141,481 being granted to Green Estate, subject to the prior completion of a subsidy control assessment and the approval of the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services. During this 12-month period a proposal for renewing arrangements for the Manor Fields and associated sites will be developed, along with any necessary processes required for an appropriate longer-term management arrangement.

- 10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee:

1. approves in principle the extension of existing funding arrangements by 12 months with Green Estate, with a further £141,481 being granted to Green Estate for their management and maintenance of Manor Fields and associated sites for 2024/25; and
2. delegates approval of the extension of existing funding agreements (and award of £141,481 to Green Estate) to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services, subject to the prior completion of a subsidy control principles assessment to demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services that the extension of the funding agreements (and award of £141,481 to Green Estate) is compliant with the subsidy control principles.

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 10.3.1 Continuing the existing arrangements for one-year provides Green Estate with

the necessary security to continue their operations for the next 12 months. It also provides time to review the required processes to offer longer term security for the Manor Fields site, rather than relying on year-by-year arrangements.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

10.4.1 The 'Do Nothing' option has been discounted as to cut or change the grant funding support to Green Estate with very little notice would be detrimental at this time to the Green Estate organisation, the people they work with and ultimately Council services. An alternative to the Green Estate's management of the Manor Fields site would also be required, so costs would likely increase in the short term.

11. **LIBRARY OPENING TIMES**

11.1 To provide an update and ask the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee to endorse the current extended Library Opening Hours. The report further sets out a proposal to open all Council run libraries from lunchtime for one day each month to allow for staff training and development.

11.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee:

1. notes the contents of the report;
2. notes the data analysis in Appendix 1;
3. endorses the change in opening hours and that these will continue as the standard opening hours for Council run libraries; and
4. approves the proposal for Council run libraries to open at a later time on day per month to allow for staff training and development.

11.3 **Reasons for Decision**

11.3.1 The new opening hours provide library customers with the optimum available hours.

11.3.2 The new opening hours provide stable staff resources.

11.3.3 The proposed monthly half day late opening will enable investment in our staff, furthering their development and ensuring they can offer the highest quality service to customers.

11.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

11.4.1 We could revert to the original opening hours. However, the way our service is currently structured, coupled with our available budget resources, mean that we would not be able to offer our customers consistency or the high-quality service

they are now receiving.

- 11.4.2 Operating the previous opening hours often meant that we had to close our libraries at short notice because we cannot provide the right resources and the new opening hours has mostly prevented this from happening once the Service recruited to a significant number of vacancies over the summer of 2023.
- 11.4.3 There may be opportunities to integrate and co-locate library services with other government and partner agencies who share library values in the future, and we will continue to explore these opportunities. Any changes would need to include an impact assessment for customers and would be subject to further consultation.
- 11.4.4 There is an option to pay additional overtime for staff training and development. However, this would adversely impact our staff teams as they would need to complete all training and development activities outside of their normal working hours and full-time staff would routinely work 6 days a week. This would also adversely impact the libraries budget which is already committed to savings targets.
- 11.4.5 There is an option to not close our libraries for half a day each month to allow for staff training and development. However, this would mean that staff would need to take ad hoc time out of their working day to complete the necessary training, one to ones and any personal development. This would likely have an impact on customers as libraries would not be able to provide a consistent service.

12. FEEDBACK FOLLOWING TASK AND FINISH GROUP CONCLUSION

12.1 This report seeks agreement from the Committee to endorse the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group which met between July 2023 and January 2024 and to approve the First Consideration for Biodiversity Report.

12.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee:

1. notes the contents of the report and thanks everyone involved in the productive and useful discussions had during the Task and Finish Group;
2. endorses the recommendations proposed by the Task and Finish Group; and
3. approves the First Consideration for Biodiversity Report.

12.3 Reasons for Decision

12.3.1 The Task and Finish Group brought together a focused group of Members, Officers and external partners to examine key challenges around the nature emergency and provide clear advice and direction to officers developing an action plan for the Council and city.

12.4.1 The breadth and scale of the challenge means that the work of the Task and Finish Group represents one stage in a wider strategy that the Council and city work on to support nature recovery and the scale and cross cutting nature of this agenda is not yet fully understood.

12.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

12.4.1 Do nothing. Not responding to the nature emergency declaration and working across the Council and with partners across the city would prevent us capturing the work being undertaken and understanding the scale of the challenge going forwards.

13. **VERBAL UPDATE ON TRAMLINES**

13.1 The Head of Parks and Countryside gave an update on the Tramlines event that takes place annually in Hillsborough Park. The Charity Trustee Sub-Committee, who are responsible for charitable parks, considered a report on the ongoing hosting of Tramlines at their meeting on 4 March 2024.

13.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee:

1. notes the update; and
2. agrees to add an item to the work programme for the next meeting of the Committee to review the wider implications for parks regarding events following the decision at the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee on 4 March 2024.

13.3 **Reasons for Decision**

13.3.1 To keep informed of decisions that impact parks and to enable early input into the implications on parks where events take place.

13.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

13.4.1 The update was for noting only.

14. **YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE**

14.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Policy Committee of the work of the Sheffield Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament in providing a local, regional and national voice for the young residents of the city.

14.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee:

1. notes the update about the Sheffield Youth Cabinet (SYC) Elections and

the work of young residents through SYC and the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP); and

2. notes the increase in participations of young residents in local democracy and decision making in their communities, across the city and nationally.

14.3 **Reasons for Decision**

14.3.1 The elections to the SYC have been a great success, engaging over 12,000 young residents across the city in electing their representatives.

14.3.2 SYC and UKYP enable young residents to have a say on issues that matter to them and to influence decision making at a local, regional and national level. SYC members represent the voice, views and opinions of their peers in their local areas.

14.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

14.4.1 None.