

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## Strategy and Resources Policy Committee

### Meeting held 25 September 2024

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tom Hunt (Chair), Fran Belbin (Deputy Chair), Angela Argenzio, Kurtis Crossland, Dawn Dale, Dianne Hurst (Group Spokesperson), Douglas Johnson (Group Spokesperson), Abdul Khayum, Shaffaq Mohammed (Group Spokesperson), Zahira Naz, Joe Otten and Penny Baker (Substitute Member)

#### **42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

42.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ben Miskell and Martin Smith.

#### **43. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

#### **44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

44.1 There were no declarations of interest.

#### **45. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

45.1 The minutes of the previous meetings held on 29 August 2024 were approved as a correct record.

#### **46. APPOINTMENTS TO SUB-COMMITTEES**

46.1 It was noted that, on 3 September 2024, the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the relevant political group whip, has authorised the appointment of Councillors Karen McGowan and Tony Downing to the substitute member vacancies of the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee

#### **47. PUBLIC PETITIONS, QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS**

47.1 There were no public questions or petitions.

#### **48. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

48.1 There were no Members' questions.

#### **49. RETIREMENT OF STAFF**

49.1 The Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement submitted a report on Council staff retirements.

49.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

(a) places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by the following staff in the Directorates below:-

**Children's Services**

Sally Lambert	Teacher of Visually Impaired Children	38
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**Neighbourhood Services**

Ashley Taylor	Team Leader	39
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**Strategic and Enabling Services**

Cath Egan-Bennett	Workforce Development Consultant	35
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(b) extend to them its best wishes for the future and a long and happy retirement; and

(c) directs that an appropriate extract of the resolution now made, under the Common Seal of the Council, be forwarded to those staff with over 20 years' service.

**50. WORK PROGRAMME**

50.1 The Committee received a report containing the Committee's Work Programme for consideration and discussion. The aim of the Work Programme is to show all known, substantive agenda items for forthcoming meetings of the Committee, to enable this committee, other committees, officers, partners and the public to plan their work with and for the Committee. It was highlighted that this is a live document and Members input to it was invaluable.

It was noted that, subsequent to the publication of the agenda papers, it was now intended that the (i) Housing Growth Delivery Plan item be submitted to the November meeting, rather than October. This was to allow for the extra work needed to support the Local Plan examination and (ii) the Working Better Together item would now be a broader report with a new title.

In addition it was proposed that the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee agree that Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee should consider the Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Principles (Gambling Policy) 2025 item at it's next meeting on 8 November and submit the item straight to Full Council on 4 December.

50.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

(a) agrees the Committee's work programme, as set out in Appendix 1,

including the additions and amendments identified in Paragraph 4 of the report;

(b) that the Housing Growth Delivery Plan item be moved to the list of items for the November meeting in the Work Programme, rather than the October meeting, as now reported;

(c) agrees that that Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee should consider the Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Principles (Gambling Policy) 2025 item at it's next meeting on 8 November and submit the item straight to Full Council on 4 December;

(d) that it be noted that the Working Better Together item will now be a broader report with a new title; and

(e) that approval be given to the consideration of cross cutting issues as detailed in Paragraph 5 the report.

## **51. ELECTRICAL TESTING 2024-2030**

51.1 The Executive Director Neighbourhood Services submitted a report outlining proposals for Sheffield City Council to carry out five yearly electrical testing and condition reports for all domestic Council dwellings rented to customers. The report outlines the budget requirement to deliver this programme of work and requests the additional budget allocation needed in order to deliver all necessary aspects of this work.

51.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

(a) approves the additional revenue budget allocation required within the Housing Revenue Account as set out in sections 2.14, 2.15 and 2.16 of the report now submitted; and

(b) endorses the proposed approach for the Council to commission two external contractors to deliver the carrying out of five yearly electrical testing and condition reports for domestic council dwellings let to customers.

### **51.3 Reasons for Decision**

51.3.1 The Council is required by law to ensure that we carry out regular electrical inspections of domestic dwellings that it lets to customers, and it is current best practice that these inspections should be undertaken at least every 5 years.

### **51.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

51.4.1 As described above, the Council is required by law to ensure that we carry out regular electrical inspections of domestic dwellings that it lets to customers. Therefore, no other alternatives were considered. There are consequences of not carrying out these inspections and these are outlined in more detail in item 8.17 of this report.

## **52. UPDATE ON THE HOMEWARDS PROJECT**

- 52.1 The Strategic Director Adult Care and Wellbeing, supported by Michael Corbishley and Hannah Crossan-Smith (The Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales) presented a report providing information about and seeking endorsement for the Council's partnership with The Royal Foundation Homewards Programme.

The Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales have launched Homewards: a transformative five-year, locally led programme that will aim to demonstrate that together it's possible to end homelessness – making it rare, brief and unrepeatable.

Sheffield is one of only six locations selected by The Royal Foundation along with Newport, Northern Ireland, Aberdeen, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and Lambeth.

- 52.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

(a) notes the Homewards Sheffield programme, its aims and ambitions and progress made;

(b) endorses Sheffield City Council's involvement in the Homewards Sheffield Programme and partnership with The Royal Foundation;

(c) notes that once the Local Action Plan is developed, implications of the Plan will be considered by the Strategic Director Adult Care and Wellbeing including any approvals required; and

(d) requests that the Strategic Director Adult Care and Wellbeing provides an update in 12 months on delivery of the programme.

### **52.3 Reasons for Decision**

- 52.3.1 The Homewards Programme provides the opportunity to accelerate improving the prevention outcomes for customers and making transformative change to systems and services. It provides the opportunity to work with individuals at an earlier point where there is a greater chance to identify the underlying causes, tackle hidden homelessness and manage the risk of housing insecurity.

- 52.3.2 Endorsement of the Councils involvement in the programme, enables the Council to work with Homewards Sheffield to agree a Local Action Plan, Coalition and Governance which will provide the foundations to enable delivery of a transformation programme for Sheffield.

- 52.3.3 Asking for an update in 12 months will provide transparency and assurance regards delivery upon the programme.

## 52.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 52.4.1 Alternative Option: To not endorse Sheffield City Council involvement in the Homewards Programme. Although the Council currently has no formal arrangements, in the form of contracts and Memorandum of Understanding. However, the Programme is high profile and the Council's involvement is well known, not endorsing the Programme would result in significant reputational damage. In addition, the Programme will support the Council in upstreaming prevention and will support the delivery of the Homeless Prevention Strategy. Therefore, it is recommended the option of not endorsing is discounted.