

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday 16 October 2024 by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee.

Item No

9. SHEFFIELD HOUSING STRATEGY

9.1 The Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services submitted a report seeking approval for a new 10-year Housing Strategy. The report summarises the key content of the Strategy, along with the public consultation results that have been part of its development.

9.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee approves the adoption of the new 10 year Housing Strategy, attached as appendix 1 (Housing Strategy 2024 – 2034) to the report now submitted.

9.3 Reasons for Decision

9.3.1 It is important that a city like Sheffield has a long-term strategic plan for how it will meet the housing needs of our community, now and in years to come. Our current Strategy is out of date and so a new Housing Strategy is needed. It is therefore recommended that the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee consider and approve the adoption of a new 10-year Housing Strategy, as set out in Appendix 1.

9.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

9.4.1 **Alternative Option: Do not develop a Housing Strategy**
The development of a Housing Strategy is not a statutory duty. The Council is not, therefore required to produce one, and other strategies, such as the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy, are produced to consider specific issues. However, this option was rejected on the grounds that a long-term, strategic document is seen as critical to guide planning, development/investment and policy over the next decade, and this is a keystone strategy for the city. A Housing Strategy is produced by local authorities in comparable cities to set their strategic vision and ambition for housing. The approach of not having a Housing Strategy is therefore not recommended.

10. RENEWING OUR APPROACH TO WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITIES OF SHEFFIELD

10.1 The Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement and Director of Customer Experience and Communities submitted a joint report proposing that over the coming year, we work with communities and our Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector to co-create a collective, long-term ambition for communities in Sheffield that helps to deliver our City Goals.

Further, the report provides an initial reflection on the city's response to the violent racially motivated disorder that affected many parts of the country in the summer of 2024 (Appendix 1); and a response to the Full Council resolution on "reaffirming Sheffield as a city of sanctuary" and to agree to seek reaccreditation as a Local Authority of Sanctuary (Appendix 2).

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

(a) requests officers to initiate the development of a new Communities Strategy in collaboration with communities and other partners, with a draft to be presented to the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee in early summer 2025 and a final version of the strategy following formal consultation to be presented to the committee in September 2025;

(b) approves the establishment of a cross-party Member reference group to support the development of the work;

(c) notes the response of the city's communities and the council to the violent disorder that affected many parts of the country in the summer of 2024; and

(d) notes the information contained in Appendix 2 of the report which responds to the Full Council resolution on "reaffirming Sheffield as a city of sanctuary" and agrees to seek reaccreditation as a Local Authority of Sanctuary.

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

10.3.1 To take steps to ensure that Sheffield has an ambitious vision for communities in the city, which is co-created and owned by communities and sets long-term direction for the Council and its relationship with people and partners.

10.3.2 To respond positively to the Full Council motion on "reaffirming Sheffield as a city of sanctuary" and to provide Elected Members with an update on the city's response to the violent, racist and Islamophobic disorder that was seen over the summer.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

10.4.1 Alternative Option 1: Do nothing

We could choose to continue without a Communities Strategy but as detailed above, having a shared vision and set of ambitions with communities is a critical part of the Council Plan and city council's transformation into a community and customer focused council.

10.4.2 Alternative Option 2: Produce a strategy more quickly

Recognising the gap in our Strategic Framework, we could choose to develop the new Communities Strategy more quickly. However, this would significantly limit the extent of community and VCFSE involvement in the co-creation of the strategy and risk the resulting vision and ambitions not being shared by the people of Sheffield.