

## PART A - Initial Impact Assessment

**Proposal Name:** Communities Strategy

**EIA ID:** 2857

**EIA Author:** Laurie Brennan (CEX)

**Approval Status:** Approved

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**Proposal Outline:** Our Council Plan sets out our ambition to put people at the heart of everything we do. We are making significant progress to deliver the outcomes set out in the Council Plan and through the Future Sheffield Programme, we are transforming the City Council to make us a customer and community-focused organisation. The development of our Strategy Framework has enabled us to quickly identify gaps in our strategic architecture – where we haven't got a longer-term, tier 1 strategy that provides direction, focus and enables us to prioritise our resources. We have recognised that we lack a clear, consistent and co-created overarching ambition for how we work with and for the communities of Sheffield. Therefore, we have proposed that over 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.

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**Proposal Type:** Non-Budget

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**Year Of Proposal:** 24/25

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**Lead Director for proposal:** James Henderson (CEX)

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**Service Area:** Policy and Democratic Engagement

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**EIA Start Date:** 07/10/2024

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**Lead Equality Objective:** Understanding Communities

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**Equality Lead Officer:**

Ed Sexton

## Decision Type

**Committees:** Policy Committees

- Strategy & Resources

## Portfolio

**Primary Portfolio:** Policy and Democratic Engagement

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**EIA is cross portfolio:** Yes      Neighbourhood Services

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**EIA is joint with another organisation:** No

## Overview of Impact

**Overview Summary:** The proposed strategy should set out a long-term vision for communities in Sheffield. It will be co-created with communities, VCFSE and partners and will be a single framework that succinctly sets out what we want to achieve over the coming years and why. It should reflect the ambitions of all communities and protected characteristics, setting direction for underpinning strategies and delivery plans, ensuring that all future action is prioritised and focused on contributing to the ambitions that we have agreed with communities and VCFSE partners. The key to this is co-creation and engaging communities and VCFSE partners from the start. We will need to ensure that we actively seek to connect to seldom heard people, harnessing community insight, the expertise of our VCFSE sector and our existing insight and intelligence base to ensure all communities have a change to shape the new strategy.

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**Impacted characteristics:** •

## Consultation and other engagement

**Is consultation or other engagement required:**

Yes

At this stage, there has not been any dedicated citizen engagement on the proposed Communities Strategy but as set out in the above, the intention is co-create the Strategy with communities, VCFSE partners and stakeholders over the coming year. However, it is important to recognise that we have significant insight from recent involvement and engagement activity which we will draw upon to help shape the Strategy. This includes the Collaborative Conversations, sentiment and statistical that supported the development of Sheffield's City Goals, insight from Local Area Committees, and drawing on wider engagement activity such as from the Housing Strategy. We will also ensure that we link to the ongoing work of the Governance Committee on a new Community Engagement Framework for the city and utilise the learning and guidance in the recent 'Foundations for Good Engagement' which was presented to S&R Committee in July 2024. As part of its ongoing work on community engagement, the Governance Committee will shortly receive the write-up from a workshop that the committee ran with community representatives; this will also be highly relevant to this work. The Communities Strategy has the potential, directly or indirectly, to address inequalities in community participation, some of which may be deep-seated and long-standing. For example, developing accessible approaches could help to address inequalities associated with financial exclusion, geographical barriers, age (particularly younger people and older people), race (including communities whose first language isn't English), disability and health. The strategy development should also take account of other communities of interest (for example, LGB or Transgender) that may often be less represented. Moreover, the strategy is being developed at a time of significant community interest in social events with strong equality connotations. For example, the protests and disorder referred to above, community responses relating to the conflict in Gaza, gender-based disagreements and protests, safer streets awareness. There are national debates about equality and diversity that speak directly to the experience of communities. Public authorities need to respond to these in the exercise of their functions, in fostering good relations and other duties, and when developing community-focused strategies. Age-Friendly City, Disability Confident and other equality-based initiatives are also important reference points for the strategy.

## Cumulative Impact

**Does the proposal have a cumulative impact:** No

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**Impact areas:** Year on Year

## Initial Sign-Off

**Full impact assessment required:** Yes

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**Review Date:** 01/12/2024

## PART B - Full Impact Assessment

### Action Plan & Supporting Evidence

**Outline of action plan:**

**Action plan evidence:**

**Changes made as a result of action plan:**

### Mitigation

**Significant risk after mitigation measures:**

**Outline of impact and risks:**

## **Review Date**

**Review Date:**

01/12/2024

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