

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL**CABINET****Meeting held 24th August, 2011**

PRESENT: Councillors Julie Dore, (Chair), Leigh Bramall, Jackie Drayton, Harry Harpham, Mary Lea, Bryan Lodge, Helen Mirfin-Boukouris and Mick Rooney.

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

3.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13th July 2011 were approved as a correct record.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**4.1 Housing Management Costs**

4.1.1 Mr. Martin Brighton asked how can this new administration show that the total cost of council housing management has reduced proportionately with the reduction in the number of tenants from its maximum level to the present?

4.1.2 Councillor Harry Harpham, Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration, responded that, yesterday, he had signed off the Sheffield Homes Annual Report which every tenant would receive in October and which would contain useful information that he would encourage all tenants to read. It was of the utmost priority that tenants received value for money for the rents they paid in terms of the provision of high quality housing services and the Annual Report would indicate that Sheffield Homes housing management costs were £289 for each property in 2010/11, a reduction of £5 from the previous year and £47 from 2008/09.

4.2 Openness, Transparency and Accountability

4.2.1 Whilst grateful for the reassurance that the principles of openness, transparency and accountability shall be applied throughout the Council, as expressed by the Leader of the Council, what can this Administration do to combat the resistance to these principles within Sheffield Homes, a Community Assembly, and some

Tenants' and Residents' Associations (TARAS), and also ensure that the principles are applied?

4.2.2 Councillor Harry Harpham, Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration, responded that, he would always strive to be open, transparent and accountable and that he had not come across any instances where Sheffield Homes, Community Assemblies or TARAS had not complied with these principles. However, if he did, then he would deal with the situation appropriately.

4.3 West Bar Development Agreement

4.3.1 Mr Gerald Duniec referred to Councillor Julie Dore's comments at the Cabinet meeting on 13th July 2011, that the City Council's reputation and public image was dependent on openness, honesty and transparency, and expressed serious concerns that there had been a lack of openness in respect of the business to be considered under item 10 of the agenda relating to the West Bar Development Agreement. He also asked why was the Council pursuing a policy of transferring the Development Agreement for the West Bar scheme which, he alleged, would not work. Mr Duniec also suggested that the repayments required to be made by the developer to the Council would have an adverse impact on the existing owners within the site and he would, therefore, be seeking further information and documents from the City Development Division on the issue.

4.3.2 Mr Duniec also asked that Councillor Dore should meet with local land owners and their representatives in the area who, he suggested, had suffered economically in the last 10 years as a result of inaction on the regeneration of the area and requested that the Cabinet held consideration of the report on the agenda in abeyance to the next meeting so that the local businesses could discuss the implications of the Agreement with Councillors and officers.

4.3.3 In response to Mr Duniec's questions, Councillor Julie Dore, Leader, advised him that the Cabinet would give due consideration to the report in question at the meeting and, in his presentation of the report, the officer concerned may address some of his queries. She suggested that Mr Duniec should write to her with any outstanding issues which she would respond to in consultation with the appropriate officers.

4.3.4 Mr Graham Oxley, a small business owner in the West Bar area, expressed his disappointment at the delays by the Council in securing the area's regeneration over the last 10 years which had a negative impact on business and he asked how the Council intended to make the new Development Agreement work in light of the current economic situation. In asking the question, Mr Oxley outlined his perspective of the historical background to the report to be considered by the Cabinet and expressed his concern at what he considered to be frustrating delays in securing the regeneration of the area, which had led to serious difficulties for local businesses. He added that business owners in the area would welcome the opportunity to discuss their problems with Members and officers of the Council, who, he alleged had, to date, failed to meet with them.

4.3.5 In response to Mr Oxley, Councillor Julie Dore indicated that the report already

stated clearly why the Council supported the transfer of the Development Agreement, but she advised him to write to the Council on his particular concerns, particularly with regard to the lack of consultation with local businesses.

4.4 Fairer Contributions for Non-Residential Social Care Support

4.4.1 Mr Geoff Pick, Chair of the Care and Support Service Improvement Forum, referred to several points of concern raised by Sheffield citizens who received care or support services regarding the proposed increase in charges for their support and asked the following questions:-

1. Within the consultation on the proposed increase in charges, people felt it was somewhat patronising that after a financial assessment Council officers would decide what people would pay, plus it didn't appear clear as to what process would be used to arrive at this calculation?
2. Are the Government changes to use the Consumer Price Index (CPI) instead of the Retail Price (RPI) for index-linked benefits and pensions being taken into consideration, as this change is causing concern? Mr Pick also suggested that in order to receive Disability Facilities Grant it would, in future, be necessary to be in receipt of some sort of benefit.
3. Would any increase agreed, be ring fenced for social care use only, as people had raised concerns that, at present, it appeared that the 7.5 % increase proposed was the only Council increase in any charge for 2011/12?

Mr Pick indicated that people were scared of not being able to pay their charges due to cuts from central Government even though they had adapted their own homes at their own cost or with assistance from the Council.

4.4.2 Councillor Mary Lea, Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Independent Living, indicated that the Council would carry out a financial assessment of an individual's needs and, in so doing, would follow national guidelines on this. However, people would be able to seek a review of the outcome if they felt that the Council had made a mistake in the financial assessment.

In answer to question 2, Councillor Mary Lea confirmed that the Government changes to use the CPI instead of the RPI for index-linked benefits and pensions was taken into consideration and that it was Council policy, when carrying out adjustments to financial assessments in April of each year, to use the figures for the increase that are used by the Department for Work and Pensions. Therefore, any adjustment made by the Government to the formula used to calculate the increase in benefits would be mirrored by the Authority.

4.4.3 As far as question 3 was concerned, Councillor Mary Lea confirmed that the use of the charges for non-residential social care support would be ring-fenced to the Adult Social Care budget. She accepted the increased burden placed on vulnerable people across the country due to cuts in Government expenditure, but

assured Mr Pick that those vulnerable people who could not afford to pay, would not pay and that over 5,000 people receiving care would not notice a change and two thirds of those 5,000 would not pay at all. She added that a response to Mr Pick's questions had been prepared by the Director of Care and Support and this would be sent to him in due course.

5. ITEMS CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY/REFERRED TO CABINET/COUNCIL

5.1 The Deputy Chief Executive reported that there had been no items of business called in for scrutiny arising from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13th July 2011.

5.2 The Cabinet noted the information reported.

6. RETIREMENT OF STAFF

6.1 The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report on Council staff retirements.

6.2 RESOLVED: That this Cabinet :-

(a) places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by members of staff as follows :-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Years' Service</u>
<u>Children, Young People and Families</u>		
Margaret Addy	Senior Early Years Practitioner	28
Susan Armishaw	Senior Maths Consultant Secondary	36
Brian Atkinson	Assistant Caretaker Resident, Abbeydale Grange School	30
Roger Attwood	Senior Educational Psychologist	22
Richard Ayling	Music Development Teacher	35
Susan Barber	Business Support Assistant	26
Ann Barker	Teacher, Hospital and Home Education Service	21
David Beavers	Informations Systems Manager	35
Kathleen Bishell	Teacher, Hospital and Home Education Service	25
Coral Bloodworth	Supervisory Assistant, Hucklow Primary School	20

Linda Bond	Business Support Officer	24
Susan Bradshaw	Administrative Manager	23
Diane Brookfield	Senior Business Support Officer/PA	31
Margaret Carter	Advanced Practitioner	22
Harold Clarke	Teacher, Hospital and Home Education Service	31
Chris Cowan	Deputy Headteacher, Abbeydale Grange School	27
Andrew Crompton	Analytical Services Manager	35
Marcia Dale	Senior Business Support Officer	25
Linda Dawson	School Point Officer	32
Stephen Draper	Music Development Teacher	31
Geoffrey Evans	Parenting Programme Manager	36
Christine Fearn	Senior Business Support Officer	31
Pamela Fell	Senior English Consultant	21
June Fellows	Administrative Officer	31
Carol Fletcher	Clerical Officer	20
Edward Fogg	Teacher, Chaucer Business and Enterprise College	32
Susan Gardiner	Deputy Headteacher, Key Stage 3 Inclusion Centre	28
Janet Greeff	Supervisory Assistant, Dobcroft Junior School	20
Paul Haigh	Senior Manager	36
David Hill	16-19 Support Officer (Health & Safety)	20
Doreen Hodgkins	Business Support Officer	20
Violet Holland	Senior Teaching Assistant	24
Jenette Hughes	Team Manager	38
Sylvia Hughes	Halfway Nursery Infant School	39

Valerie Hussin	Senior Maths Consultant	22
Susan Illingworth	Business Support Officer	25
Judith Jenkinson	Senior Early Years Practitioner	22
Robert Johnson	English Consultant	35
Russell Johnson	Quality Assurance Manager	30
Robert Johnson	Senior Administrative Officer	38
Peter Joynson	Employment Liaison Coordinator	38
Patricia Kluczewski	Service Manager, Children and Families	26
Jane Litherland	Teacher, Firth Park Community Arts College	31
David Longson	Head of Primary Inclusion	34
Jennifer Mallinder	Youth Offending Team Teacher	30
David Markham	Headteacher, Greystones Primary School	32
Hilary Mason	Supervisory Assistant, Limpsfield Junior School	21
Jean Mason	Advanced Practitioner	28
Susan McDonagh	Early Years Inclusion Teacher	31
Linda Moffatt	Primary Gifted and Talented Consultant	20
David Moore	Lead Behaviour Practitioner	36
Kathleen Moran	Service Manager Strategy and Partnership	31
Sue Nelson	Senior Business Support Manager	37
Dorothy Owen	Senior Teaching Assistant	23
Jean Parker	Business Support Officer	36
Lynne Phillips	Early Years Inclusion Assistant	20
Josephine Pinder	Residential Support Worker	38

Lynne Pinson	Administrative Officer	25
Keith Pitchforth	City Learning Centre Manager	26
Sandra Pollard	Supervisory Assistant, Ecclesfield Primary School	24
Jacqueline Richards	Senior Early Years Practitioner	33
Heather Riley	Early Years Practitioner, Beighton Nursery Infant School	23
Susan Ross	Teacher, King Ecgbert School	33
Basil Sage	Consultant, Community Development	34
Carmen Salgado	Education Welfare Officer	30
John Sanderson	Business Support Manager	36
Jane Sara	English Teacher, King Ecgbert School	31
Glynis Smith	Teacher of the Deaf	28
Linda Smith	Business Manager	23
Lynn Trainor	Principal Advisor Early Years	32
Catherine Waddicor	Extended Service Manager	20
Helen Wain	Early Years Practitioner	21
James Whitham	Teaching Assistant, Porter Croft CE Primary School	29
Merlyn Wiles	Youth Offending Service Officer	22
Lois Williams	Art Teacher, King Ecgbert School	35
Lynda Williams	Senior Teaching Assistant	26
<u>Communities</u>		
Lynda Bamford	Support Worker	25
Pamela Beatson	Senior Support Coordinator	27
Maureen Beck	Support Worker	24
Susan Biggin	Support Worker	29
Jean Brunt	Business Support Worker	30

Ann Carey	Support Worker	28
Amanda Congreve	Quality and Service Standards Manager	26
Susan Cresswell	Business Support Officer	31
Julie Dephley	Support Worker	30
Angela Dinnigan	Business Support Officer	20
Fiona Elsey	Senior Support Manager	28
Shirley Griffiths	Home Support Worker	28
Jane Haywood	Business Support Officer	28
Doreen Harris	Support Worker	26
Elaine Higton	Support Worker	30
Marion Hobson	Support Worker	27
Sally Huckle	Social Worker	28
Rosaleen Illingworth	Care Manager	25
Linda Joel	Senior Support Coordinator	25
Joan Johnson	Support Worker	26
Kitty Lill	Support Worker	26
Ann Molloy	Business Support Officer	23
Marilyn Morton	Support Worker	23
Sandra Nortcliffe	Support Worker	22
Catherine Outram	Support Worker	24
Susan Owens	Support Worker	27
June Peet	Cook	28
Mary Pilkington	Support Worker	25
June Redfearn	Support Worker	23
Christine Rodger	Team Manager	29
Susan Sellars	Support Worker	26

Yvonne Skidmore	Support Worker	30
Sheila Thistlewhite	Support Worker	37
Susan Walker	Home Support Worker	27
Susan Waller	Support Worker	31

Deputy Chief Executive's

Gurjit Bhachoo	Communications Assistant	25
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Place

Trevor Ashton	H3 Labourer, Street Force	39
Ian Armitage	Bricklayer, Street Force	41
James Harmston	Mason Pavior, Street Force	40
Richard Penney	Senior Housing Officer	29
Richard Peterkin	Head of Design and Build, Street Force	42
Michael Shaw	Head of Technical Services, Street Force	37

Resources

Denise Armstrong	Senior Manager – Assets	31
Andrew Bownes	Principal Assets Officer	39
Kevin Clarkson	Head of Premises Management	30
Kathleen Goodwin	Principal Markets Officer	29
Kathryn Grant	Business Support Officer	31
Mike Hardy	Service Delivery Manager	39
Stephen Newton	Principal Markets Officer	23
Angela Nichols	Markets Officer	28

- (b) extends to them its best wishes for the future and a long and happy retirement; and
- (c) directs that an appropriate extract of this resolution under the Common Seal of the Council be forwarded to those staff above with over twenty years service.

7. EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken by the Cabinet.

7.1 AGENDA ITEM 16: FAIRER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIALCARE SUPPORT – OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

7.1.1 The Executive Director, Communities submitted a report referring to the decision of the City Council on 4th March 2011, as part of its consideration of the Revenue Budget 2011-12, to authorise a consultation to take place about changing the Council's Fairer Contributions policy with a view to increasing income from contributions as part of the Council's budget plan for 2011/12 to address central government's reduction in funding to the Council. The Council agreed a planned increase of income from the proposed review of the Fairer Contributions policy of £1.45m in 2011/12, within an overall spending reduction of 7.5% for Adult Social Care compared to 15% for other Council services. The report outlined the results from the consultation, options for changing the policy, their impact on people who received services and potential additional income for the Council.

All contribution calculations were based on an individual financial assessment of a person's ability to pay and two thirds of adult social care users would not be affected by any of the proposed changes. The options for a change in policy did not alter the fundamental principle that a person's contribution would be determined by their ability to pay

7.1.2 DECISION TAKEN:

RESOLVED: That Cabinet in receiving and fully considering the outcome of the consultation on Fairer Contributions for Non-Residential Care Support :-

(a) agrees that, in order to achieve the savings agreed at the meeting of the City Council on 4th March 2011, the following amendments to the City Council Fairer Charging policy be implemented to take effect from 24th October 2011:-

(i) the maximum weekly contribution be raised to £350 per week;

(ii) the percentage support costs used in calculations be raised to 100%;
and

(iii) the way utility costs are taken into account be changed so that no-one gets an allowance made for their heating or utility costs more than once when deciding what their contribution will be;

(b) instructs officers to carry out further work to :-

(i) develop a suitable model for assessing couples; and

(ii) model fully the impact of any changes to City Wide Care Alarm

arrangements would make both in terms of income lost/gained for the Council and in terms of take up by service users; and

- (c) delegates authority to the Director of Care and Support, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Independent Living, to implement changes from this work.

7.1.3 REASONS FOR DECISION

- Sheffield City Council has always sought to keep its fairer contributions levels as low as possible and we are currently significantly out of line with other authorities, of whom 93% make their calculations based on more than 70% of actual cost of the personal budget / traditional social care services, and 94% of whom have a bigger maximum contribution amount than Sheffield. This position is no longer sustainable, given the scale of the reduction in central government funding to the council. (A personal budget is the amount provided to an individual by the council to enable the person to secure their own individually tailored support to meet their assessed needs).
- The 2011/12 budget was based on assumptions to increase income from revising the contributions policy by £1.45m per year. Part of this is to be achieved by increased efficiency and partly from increasing contributions from those customers who are assessed as being able to afford to contribute.
- The decision below is based on a careful consideration of the consultation results, the requirement to achieve a balanced budget, and the requirements for protecting frontline services and the impact of proposed changes on Sheffield residents (especially those currently in receipt of social care services).

7.1.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- During the consultations some alternative suggestions were made. As outlined on page 13 of this report, and the Council has already included these suggestions in its budget plan.
- 60% of respondents wanted no changes to be made to the Fairer Contribution policy. This was never an option for the council as we would have to identify alternative measures to meet the shortfall in the 2011/12 budget of £1.18 million, once the £0.27 million from efficiencies was achieved. In effect the council considered alternative options prior to setting its budget for 2011/12, and this included giving adult social care a level of protection and priority over other council services.
- Alternative measures to find £1.18m would directly impact on frontline service delivery.
- Other combinations for the Fairer Contributions policy have been considered,

and these too would require the council to find alternative savings from frontline services. See (table 1) for details of modelling for alternative options.

- In some initial modelling by officers there was a possibility that a 90% level of a personal budget might be recommended, but the combination of a final budget target approved by council of £1.45m, alongside an October date for the implementation of any changes, necessitates a recommendation of 100% and a maximum charge of £350 per week.

7.1.5 ANY INTEREST DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED

None

7.1.6 REASON FOR EXEMPTION IF PUBLIC/PRESS EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION

None

7.1.7 RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Richard Webb, Executive Director, Communities.

7.2 AGENDA ITEM 10: WEST BAR DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

7.2.1 The Executive Director, Place, submitted a report seeking authority for the transfer and variation of the West Bar Development Agreement following the existing development partners going into administration and a new developer who owns land within the site approaching the Council.

7.2.2 DECISION TAKEN:
RESOLVED: That Cabinet:-

- (a) authorises the transfer and variation of the West Bar Development Agreement on the basis set out in this report;
- (b) authorises the Director of Legal Services and the Director of Property Services to agree and enter into all necessary documentation; and.
- (c) re-confirms the principle that the Council will be prepared to use Compulsory Purchase powers if necessary as a last resort in order to complete the acquisition of the West Bar site, on the understanding that the use of such powers, if needed, will be subject to a further detailed report to Cabinet.

7.2.3 REASONS FOR DECISION

The West Bar project remains vitally important for the regeneration of the City Centre and that the proposals set out in the report will enable the Council to

restart the process of delivering it. The existing legal agreements oblige the Council to appoint a replacement developer in the event of termination of the development agreement. Whilst the agreement has not yet terminated a failure to act at this stage is likely to result in termination.

7.2.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

No alternatives were put forward or considered to be appropriate in the circumstances

7.2.5 ANY INTEREST DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED

None

7.2.6 REASON FOR EXEMPTION IF PUBLIC/PRESS EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION

None.

7.2.7 RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Simon Green, Executive Director, Place.

7.3 AGENDA ITEM 8: REVIEW OF SHEFFIELD LOCAL INVESTMENT PLAN 2010-14

7.3.1 The Executive Director, Place, submitted a report providing an update on the position relating to the housing investment proposals submitted to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) as part of the Sheffield Local Investment Plan in March 2010. The report specifically focuses on the new housing investment environment and identified key projects and initiatives to be progressed.

7.3.2 DECISION TAKEN

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:-

- (a) notes the scale of the change made to the housing investment funds available from the HCA since March 2010, with HCA resources now estimated to be £70.8m over the period 2011-15, a four year period, as opposed to the 2010 bid submission for £134.4m over three years;
- (b) notes the work underway on option appraisals for projects at Arbourthorne Fields, Park Hill and Scowerdons, Weaklands and Newstead which will be the subject of separate Cabinet reports;
- (c) supports the revised set of projects for which the Council now expects or is seeking funds from the HCA to 2015, including the development by Registered Provider partners of new affordable housing, as set out in Appendix C; and

- (d) endorses the City - wide, cross tenure strategic approach to housing investment going forward which targets activities to the specific needs of each area.

7.3.3 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The programme of investment set out in the revised Local Investment Plan is recommended as the best option bearing in mind the much reduced resources available compared with previous years. Used as set out above, the resources will meet as many as possible of the commitments made to tenants, residents and partner organisations. However, tenants and residents involved in the redevelopment schemes at Scowerdons, Newstead and Weaklands, Park Hill and Arbourthorne Fields currently face uncertainty whilst the Council does its utmost to find all available options for replacement funding to maintain progress on these schemes.

The new housing investment funding landscape is still developing, and the Council is working to identify and make the most of all new opportunities to bring resources into the city to improve homes. Over time it is hoped that additional schemes will enter the LIP, subject to individual approval.

7.3.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- (a) The revisions made to the Local Investment Plan have been necessary due to changes imposed by Government on the HCA. The Council is not able to affect these decisions.
- (b) In an environment of severely reduced resources the Council has had to prioritise the use of its own resources to those smaller number of schemes it judges to be of the highest priority. These include:
- Projects mid-way through completion where residents are living through physical change in their neighbourhoods
 - Maintaining progress on providing new affordable homes
 - Improving the supply of homes by bringing more empty homes back into use
 - Maintaining investment in priority city centre regeneration projects
 - Maintaining modest investment in improving district centres to help communities to be sustainable and support the economy
 - Improving energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions at privately owned homes
 - Some support for low income home owner
 - Supporting the Sheffield Housing Company

7.3.5 ANY INTEREST DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED

None

7.3.6 REASON FOR EXEMPTION IF PUBLIC/PRESS EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION

None

7.3.7 RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Simon Green, Executive Director, Place.

7.4 AGENDA ITEM 9 : REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2011/12

7.4.1 The Executive Director, Resources, submitted the Month 2 monitoring statement on the City Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2011/12.

7.4.2 DECISION TAKEN: That Cabinet :-

- (a) notes the updated information and management actions detailed in this report on the 2011/12 budget position;
- (b) approves (i) the remaining budget amendments that require Executive approval and (ii) the transfer of £225,000 from Local Authority Business Growth Initiative (LABGI) reserves to support the Major Events programme; and
- (c) in relation to the Capital Programme, (i) approves the proposed new schemes in paragraphs 68 to 94 and delegates authority to the Senior Construction Category Manager in Commercial Services to approve the award of contracts for all proposed schemes following stage approval by the Corporate Property Group and adherence to the procurement approval process;
 - (ii) approves the proposed variations in paragraphs 95 to 101;
 - (iii) notes the Emergency Approvals in paragraphs 103 to 114 and the Director Variation in paragraph 115; and
 - (iv) notes the financial position on the Capital Programme.

7.4.3. REASONS FOR DECISION

To formally record changes to the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme and gain Member approval for changes in line with Financial Regulations and to reset the capital programme in line with latest information.

7.4.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

A number of alternative courses of action are considered as part of the process undertaken by Officers before decisions are recommended to Members. The recommendations made to Members represent what Officers believe to be the

best options available to the Council, in line with Council priorities, given the constraints on funding and the use to which funding is put within the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

7.4.5 ANY INTEREST DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED

None

7.4.6 REASON FOR EXEMPTION IF PUBLIC/PRESS EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION

None

7.4.7 RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Laraine Manley, Executive Director, Resources.

7.5 AGENDA ITEM 11 – ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING – FEES POLICY IN 2011/12

7.5.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families, submitted a report proposing revisions to the fees policy for adult and community learning, funded by the Skills Funding Agency and commissioned by Lifelong Learning, Skills and Communities (LLSC). The report explained how the proposed revisions arose from the changes in fee remission rules nationally, gave a summary of the guidance, described the strategic approach to fee charging that LLSC proposed to take and set out the implications for adult learners in Sheffield. The changes would particularly impact on the City's English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learners.

7.5.2 DECISION TAKEN

RESOLVED: That Cabinet :-

- (a) notes the contents of the report;
- (b) approves the fees policy set in the report for the LLSC;
- (c) agrees that the LLSC should to continue strategic planning in partnership with other providers to mitigate the negative effects of the new fee regulations, particularly those who are no longer entitled to fee remission for ESOL courses; and
- (d) agrees that a further is submitted to the Cabinet on how ESOL is maintained as a specific resource for the City.

7.5.3 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The decision will allow the City to secure its adult learning funding and allow the engagement into learning of as many vulnerable adults as possible to meet

external funding targets.

7.5.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The option of halting the delivery of those courses for which the fees in now required was rejected as it would not allow equal access for those very vulnerable learners, particularly from the BME communities who need language support to help them to play positive role in their community and to contribute to the local economy.

7.5.5 ANY INTEREST DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED

None

7.5.6 REASON FOR EXEMPTION IF PUBLIC/PRESS EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION

None

7.5.7 RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Sonia Sharp, Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families.

7.6 AGENDA ITEM 12: SHEFFIELD APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

7.6.1 The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report setting out proposals for the establishment of a Sheffield Apprenticeship Programme, designed to help 100 young people into sustained employment.

7.6.2 DECISION TAKEN

RESOLVED: That Cabinet :-

- (a) agrees that, if successfully implemented, the various measures proposed in this report are likely to promote the economic well-being of Sheffield, and in particular the economic and social well-being of young people gaining apprenticeships under the proposed scheme;
- (b) agrees the establishment of the Sheffield Apprenticeship Programme as set out in this report;
- (c) authorises the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business, Jobs and Growth, to take such steps as she shall consider appropriate to finalise and implement the proposed arrangements described in this report, including deciding on the arrangements for employing the apprentices and agreeing to the Council entering into such arrangements or agreements as he may consider conducive to ensuring the successful delivery of the programme and protecting the Council's interests in this matter; and

- (d) directs that a further report be prepared on how other Council resources can be realigned in order to promote opportunities for youth employment.

7.6.3 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Increasing youth employment is a critical challenge for the City which will have long lasting impacts if not addressed. This proposal is designed to make a sustainable difference to 100 young people who may not otherwise have the opportunity to pursue further training or employment in the current economic climate.

£500,000 Local Authority Business Growth Initiative (LABGI) resource has been allocated to this activity. This report sets out the proposed detail of the programme and seeks the approvals necessary to commence implementation

7.6.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- (a) **Do nothing:** given the statistics for youth unemployment, particularly for vulnerable groups, this is not considered an acceptable position;
- (b) **Use the money to directly employ young people within the Council:** this option would offer far less value for money as apprenticeships allows funding for training to be drawn down by the learning providers, thereby making Council resource go further;
- (c) **Pay 100% of the costs:** Given the likely length of time required to complete an apprenticeship, it will be necessary to run a significant number of the courses beyond 12 months duration. Securing other contributions to the cost of the programme is therefore essential. A 50:50 split provides an attractive and de-risked offer for employers as an incentive to take on an apprentice; and
- (d) **Pay employers for their existing apprenticeships:** whilst this would be the easiest route to deliver 100 apprenticeship places, it would simply displace activity that will happen anyway. In order to secure additional outcomes, this programme is targeted at young people who would be unlikely to otherwise get the opportunity of an apprenticeship place.

7.6.5 ANY INTEREST DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED

None

7.6.6 REASON FOR EXEMPTION IF PUBLIC/PRESS EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION

None

7.6.7 RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Lee Adams, Deputy Chief Executive.

7.7 AGENDA ITEM 13:EUROPEAN PROJECT – VALUING ATTRACTIVE LANDSCAPES IN THE URBAN ECONOMY

7.7.1 The Executive Director, Place, submitted a report seeking approval to the City Council (acting as part of the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership) to enter into a contract to extend an existing project under the Interreg IVB North West Europe Transnational Co-operation Programme.

7.7.2 DECISION TAKEN

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (a) agrees that the Council (acting as part of the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership), enter into contract with the Interreg IVB North West Europe Transnational Co-operation Programme to extend the VALUE project and act as the accountable body for (ERDF) funding of €12.8m, on terms agreed with the Director of Legal Services; and
- (b) the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership implements the proposals for the extended 'Value' project

7.7.3 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- Sheffield has been highly successful in securing funding from this very competitive programme, which in the past has delivered extremely valuable benefits to the city, its citizens and wider sub-region of South Yorkshire.
- Approval of a subsidy contract from the EU will result in additional income to the City of approximately €700,000. The risk of delaying or not approving contract negotiations is that these resources will be lost to the City.
- This work will deliver improved environments, better community engagement, improved planning processes and better on-the-ground results. The project will contribute directly to achieving Sheffield's corporate plan priorities of 'An attractive and liveable city' with thriving district and local centres, and with high quality parks, woodlands, countryside and play spaces. Leading such a high-profile European initiative will also help secure the City's ambition to become a city of global significance, distinctive, successful, inclusive, vibrant and sustainable.

7.7.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

No alternatives were put forward or considered to be appropriate in the circumstances.

7.7.5 ANY INTEREST DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED

None

7.7.6 REASON FOR EXEMPTION IF PUBLIC/PRESS EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION

None

7.7.7 RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Simon Green, Executive Director, Place.

7.8 AGENDA ITEM14 : LOCAL GROWTH FUND

7.8.1 The Executive Director, Resources and the Executive Director, Place submitted a joint report referring to the fact that the Council was now entitled to the receipt of a New Homes Bonus from Central Government and proposing that these receipts were allocated to a new Local Growth Fund. An agreed and actionable Strategy was to be developed based on using this incremental funding to promote housing and economic regeneration, with the additional benefit of improving future receipts under the New Homes Bonus scheme. The report also outlined the approvals and monitoring process for the Fund.

7.8.2 DECISION TAKEN

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (a) approve the establishment of a Local Growth Fund initially funded from the New Homes Bonus;
- (b) agrees that a Strategy will be brought forward to a future meeting based on using this incremental funding to promote housing and economic regeneration, with the additional benefit of improving future receipts under the New Homes Bonus scheme; and
- (c) agrees that individual expenditure decisions directly consistent with the Strategy, as approved, will be made by officers, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Finance and for Homes and Regeneration.

7.8.3 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Cabinet agreed that the New Homes Bonus should be reinvested in activities that promote further housing and economic regeneration and also that this calls for a strategic approach as outlined in the recommendation.

7.8.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

No alternatives were put forward or considered to be appropriate in the circumstances.

7.8.5 ANY INTEREST DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED

None

7.8.6 REASON FOR EXEMPTION IF PUBLIC/PRESS EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION

None

7.8.7 RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Laraine Manley, Executive Director, Resources and Simon Green, Executive Director, Place.

7.9 AGENDA ITEM 15: SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL'S ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY

7.9.1 The Executive Director, Resources, submitted a report setting out a plan with recommendations for dealing with the Council's need for office space which aim to deliver a variety of benefits, in terms of reduced costs, reduced environmental impact and improvements in working arrangements. The constraints on budgets and the fact that a number of leases would be coming to an end over the next four years, meant that action needed to be taken to change current arrangements.

7.9.2 DECISION TAKEN

RESOLVED: That Cabinet agrees that:

- (a) the Strategy (Retain Moorfoot) be adopted, including approval of its financing as set out in section 13 of the report and utilisation of the Invest to Save Reserve, on the understanding that any Capital funding approvals will be dealt with through the Capital Approval process with borrowing and revenue support to be in accordance with the profile set out in the report;
- (b) as the project develops, any required variation to the final cost profile be approved through the budget monitoring process for capital and revenue as for any project recognising that, over the lifetime of the project, cash flow requirements will change or need to be modified due to normal project issues or changes in market conditions, particularly with reference to the delivery of capital receipts;
- (c) delegated authority be granted to the Director of Property and Facilities Management to deliver the Accommodation Strategy, in consultation with the Executive Director for Resources, the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Council's Executive Management Team;
- (d) Project governance and monitoring be established through the Modern and Efficient Council Board;

- (e) the implementation of Workstyle, currently being implemented in Redvers House, be used as the standard across all Sheffield City Council office accommodation, the costs for which are included within the revenue cost profile indicated in table 2, section 13 of the report, recognising that, without adopting Workstyle, the required reductions cannot be delivered;
- (f) the Director of Property and Facilities Management and the Director of Legal Services, as appropriate to their respective areas, be granted delegated authority to deal with all estate management issues with regard to existing leasehold office accommodation, including negotiating lease terminations and agreeing and approving expenditure with regard to, for example, dilapidation costs and completing any documentation required to formalise such matters;
- (g) the Director of Property and Facilities Management be granted delegated authority to work with the City Development Division and lead the work on seeking long-term regeneration for Moorfoot with existing adjacent landowners or the wider development market;
- (h) the requirement to centralise all office accommodation costs under Property and Facilities Management be confirmed.

7.9.3 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The current office accommodation model is not sustainable in terms of cost, use of space and environmental grounds.

The use of Moorfoot leaves future options for the site open along with the use of an otherwise redundant building. It provides the greatest flexibility for the Council regarding its own requirements as it will not be tied to any lease or contractual commitment. The Council can therefore use the site or vacate it as needs require in the future.

7.9.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The alternatives considered included building new freehold accommodation and leasing existing or new accommodation as set out in the report. The option chosen, provides the lowest cost over a 10 year financial period and also provides the most flexible option, leaving alternative options open for future consideration needs require in the future.

7.9.5 ANY INTEREST DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED

None

7.9.6 REASON FOR EXEMPTION IF PUBLIC/PRESS EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION

None

7.9.7 **RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

Laraine Manley, Executive Director, Resources.

7.10 **AGENDA ITEM 17:140/142 GRIMESTHORPE ROAD**

7.10.1 The Executive Director, Communities, submitted a report containing proposals to change the leasehold arrangements for 140/142 Grimesthorpe Road, enter into a partnership agreement for the properties and to dispose of the land in question to the South Yorkshire Housing Association (SYHA).

7.10.2 **DECISION TAKEN**

RESOLVED: That Cabinet:

- (a) agrees that the City Council recovers possession of 140/142 Grimesthorpe Road from Places for People;
- (b) agrees that SYHA be granted a lease for 10 years, with an option to extend for a further 10 years, in respect of the land and buildings at 140/142 Grimesthorpe Rd;
- (c) authorises the Director of Property and Facilities Management, in consultation with the Executive Director, Communities, to negotiate and agree the terms of the lease;
- (d) authorises the Director of Property and Facilities Management to instruct the Director of Legal Services to complete any necessary documentation;
- (e) agrees that the agreement between the Council and South Yorkshire Housing Association for the provision of supported housing at Grimesthorpe Road for people with learning disabilities be varied to include the supported living scheme at 140/142 Grimesthorpe Rd;
- (f) authorises the Executive Director, Communities, to negotiate and agree the terms of the variation and to instruct the Director of Legal Services to complete any necessary documentation; and
- (g) notes that SYHA will identify capital funding within their existing reserves to upgrade the relevant buildings to a decent homes standard.

7.10.3 **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

- The lease of the properties to the SYHA and the formal Partnership Agreement will enable the continuation of a successful and well-liked, supported living scheme with minimum disruption for the existing service users.
- The logical link between this scheme and the newly-built flats for people

with a learning disability next door will enhance people's experience in both schemes

7.10.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- There is effectively no other option as the present provider wishes to give up possession and the existing service users wish to remain in the houses. There is some degree of urgency as Places for People have been attempting to terminate their responsibilities for the properties for some time now.
- It would be possible to consider a number of Housing Associations to take on the lease, however it makes most sense to link these properties with the property next door, which SYHA are currently in the process of rebuilding for the same client group. SYHA are a tried and tested Housing Association with the client group concerned and will provide an excellent service.
- The City Council could retain the properties itself but it does not have the in-house expertise to manage the tenancies itself and its ALMO Sheffield Homes does not have the experience of managing this type of supported housing. An appropriate model could be developed but this would take some time. The Council would then need to identify funding to bring the properties up to Decent Homes standard.

7.10.5 ANY INTEREST DECLARED OR DISPENSATION GRANTED

None

7.10.6 REASON FOR EXEMPTION IF PUBLIC/PRESS EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION

This report is presented as an exempt item because it contains exempt information under Paragraph 3 of the Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). The reasons for its exemption are that it includes details of individual rent arrangements which may be sensitive.

7.10.7 RESPECTIVE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Richard Webb, Executive Director, Communities.

NOTE: The next meeting of Cabinet will be held on Wednesday, 14th September, 2011 at 2.00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Councillor

Chair,
Cabinet,
14th September, 2011