

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday 15 January 2020 by the Cabinet.

Date notified to all Members: Thursday 16 January 2020

The end of the call-in period is 4:00 pm on Wednesday 22 January 2020

The decision can be implemented from Thursday 23 January 2020

Item No

- 8. SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL TO BE A BREASTFEEDING FRIENDLY LOCAL AUTHORITY AND TO WORK WITH PARTNERS ACROSS ALL SECTORS TO MAKE SHEFFIELD A BREASTFEEDING FRIENDLY CITY**
- 8.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted a report seeking approval for Sheffield City Council to become a Breastfeeding Friendly Local Authority, and to work with partners to make Sheffield a Breastfeeding Friendly City. The aim was to improve breastfeeding facilities in the city and remove some of the barriers to sustained breastfeeding in work and throughout the city.
- 8.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet agrees the City Council should promote and advertise its support of breastfeeding, and officially state that Sheffield City Council is a Breastfeeding Friendly Local Authority and will work with partners across all sectors to make Sheffield become a Breastfeeding Friendly City.
- 8.3 **Reasons for Decision**
- 8.3.1 There are 260 Breastfeeding Friendly venues in Sheffield, all of which are prepared to advertise their support of breastfeeding. Many of these venues are large organisations, including Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield Children's Hospital, Starbucks, Costa Coffee, John Lewis, Kelham Island, The Millennium Gallery and, most recently, Supertram.
- 8.3.2 However, in the City Centre there are department stores with unsatisfactory facilities for breastfeeding and there is a long-standing issue with breastfeeding support in Meadowhall Shopping Centre and on public transport.
- 8.3.3 It is essential that Sheffield City Council and their partners set the standard in this area of Public Health and encourage other large and small organisations to follow their lead. It is recommended that the Council promote and advertise its support of breastfeeding and officially state that Sheffield City Council is a Breastfeeding Friendly Local Authority and will work with partners from all sectors to become a Breastfeeding Friendly City.
- 8.3.4 The main outcomes of these recommendations would be:

- To validate and strengthen the work already carried out by Breastfeeding in Sheffield;
- Increased opportunities to promote the benefits of breastfeeding;
- To normalise the image of breastfeeding and make a cultural change;
- To show breastfeeding mums that they are supported in the city;
- More women encouraged to initiate breastfeeding, leading to more babies and children receiving the relevant benefits;
- More women able to sustain breastfeeding for longer;
- More businesses and organisations to follow the lead of Sheffield City Council by welcoming and supporting breastfeeding mums.

8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

The reputational risk to Sheffield City Council of doing nothing was considered to be high, as this move will impact positively on the health of children, young people and their families. Other large organisations, including Sheffield Hallam University and the Clinical Commissioning Group, are all breastfeeding friendly.

8.5 Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted

None

8.6 Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration

None

8.7 Respective Director Responsible for Implementation

John Macilwraith, Executive Director, People Services.

8.8 Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In

Children, Young People and Family Support.

9. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUSINESS PLAN AND HRA BUDGET 2020/21

9.1 The Executive Director, Place submitted a report providing the 2020/21 update of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan. It includes proposals to:

- Build more council homes and accelerate the current council housing stock increase programme.
- Continue to prioritise investment in fire safety measures.
- Broaden our tenant engagement and consultation channels/streams.

- Plan a programme of environment works to improve future sustainability of our neighbourhoods.
- Transform the way our customers are able to access the Housing and Neighbourhoods Service.
- Develop a pre-tenancy support package/offer to new council tenants to help ensure they are able to sustain their tenancy.
- Continue to review the costs and performance of services provided to the HRA to ensure value for money is achieved and the service continues to improve.
- Bring forward proposals for a charged gardening scheme for tenants who would like assistance with their garden and enhance our vacant gardens.
- Review housing offices and community buildings to ensure these are being fully utilised by tenants and residents.
- Continue to deliver improvements to our tenants' homes to make sure they continue to be well maintained.

9.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet recommends to the meeting of the City Council on 5th February 2020 that:-

- (a) the HRA Business Plan report for 2020/21, as set out in the appendix to the report, is approved;
- (b) the HRA Revenue Budget 2020/21, as set out in the appendix to the report, is approved;
- (c) rents for Council dwellings, including temporary accommodation, are increased by 2.7% from April 2020 in line with the Regulator of Social Housing's Rent Standard;
- (d) garage rents for garage plots and garage sites are increased by 2.7% from April 2020 for those garages tenants that have seen improvements; garage rents for garage plots and sites will not be increased for garages that have not yet received improvements; this increase will be applied to individual units once garage improvement work has been completed;
- (e) the burglar alarm charge is £1.25 per week from April 2020; this is a reduction of £0.36 per week;
- (f) the community heating charge remains unchanged for 2020/21;
- (g) the sheltered housing service charge remains unchanged for 2020/21; and

(h) the furnished accommodation charge remains unchanged for 2020/21.

9.3 Reasons for Decision

9.3.1 To optimise the number of good quality affordable council homes in the city.

9.3.2 To maximise the financial resources to deliver key outcomes for tenants and the city in the context of a self-financing funding regime.

9.3.3 To ensure that tenants' homes continue to be well maintained and to optimise investment in estates.

9.3.4 To assure the long term sustainability of council housing in Sheffield.

9.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

Sheffield City Council has a statutory duty to produce an annual balanced HRA budget, which is evidenced by the Business Plan update, therefore no alternative option was considered to producing this report.

9.5 Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted

None

9.6 Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration

None

9.7 Respective Director Responsible for Implementation

Laraine Manley, Executive Director, Place.

9.8 Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In

N/A

(Note: This is subject to approval at Full Council at its meeting to be held on 5th February 2020 and is not subject to call-in).

10. PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE POLICY 2020

10.1 The Executive Director, Place, submitted a report seeking approval for the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy detailed in the report and set out in appendix A.

The Policy sets out the types of assistance available to private occupants to improve their living conditions and enable independent living, and replaces the previous Assistance Policy approved by Cabinet on 14th November 2007.

10.2 **RESOLVED:** That:-

- (a) the Private Sector Housing Services Policy, approved by Cabinet on 14th November 2007, subject to recommendations (b), (c) and (d), be revoked, with effect from 1st February 2020;
- (b) the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy, detailed in the report and set out in appendix A to the report, be approved and come into operation from 1st February 2020;
- (c) the Assistance Policy, approved by Cabinet on 14th November 2007, which forms part of the Private Sector Housing Services Policy, as amended from time to time, be revoked, with effect from 1st February 2020;
- (d) the Intervention and Enforcement Policy, approved by Cabinet on 14th November 2007, which forms part of the Private Sector Housing Services Policy, as amended from time to time, is not revoked and remains in operation;
- (e) the Director of Housing Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety, be authorised to revise the Intervention and Enforcement Policy; and
- (f) the Director of Housing Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety, be authorised to revise the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy.

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 10.3.1 Revoking the Private Sector Housing Services Policy (PSHSP), to be replaced by the proposed Improving the Private Sector Housing Support and Conditions Strategy 2020-25, shall enable the improvement of standards within private sector homes in Sheffield. The revocation of the Assistance Policy, and the implementation of the proposed Policy outlined in this report, will ensure that the assistance reflects the current policy and funding landscape. It will support the most vulnerable private occupants to make the necessary improvements to their properties so that they can live independently in suitable, safe and energy efficient accommodation. It will also support people to move to more suitable housing and enable foster carers to accommodate more children within the city.
- 10.3.2 The Policy will be kept under review to ensure that it remains relevant, reflects local need and current legislation. To enable revision to the Policy arising from the review, it is recommended that the Director of Housing Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety, is authorised to revise the proposed Policy. A similar delegation of authority is

recommended in respect of the Intervention and Enforcement Policy to ensure it remains relevant and properly reflects local need.

10.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

Do nothing - The main alternative is to not develop a new policy and rely on the 2007 Assistance Policy and other Council programmes to improve the condition, and suitability, of private sector housing. However, the current policy does not reflect the situation within Sheffield's private sector housing market or the flexibility allowed within the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) funding.

10.5 Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted

None

10.6 Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration

None

10.7 Respective Director Responsible for Implementation

Laraine Manley, Executive Director, Place.

10.8 Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In

Safer and Stronger Communities.

11. PROCUREMENT OF THE TIPPING AND COLLECTION OF WASTE MATERIALS TO SUPPORT COUNCIL SERVICES

11.1 The Executive Director, Place, submitted a report seeking approval for procurement and contract award of a Tipping and Collection of Waste Materials Service (including appropriate Treatment, Recycling and Disposal) to support Council Housing, Repairs and Maintenance, and Parks and Countryside Services.

11.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

- (a) approves the re-tendering of the Tipping and Collection of Waste Materials Service, as detailed in the report;
- (b) delegates authority to the Executive Director, Place, in consultation with the Director of Financial & Commercial Services and Director of Legal and Governance, where there is no existing authority, to:-
 - (i) agree the procurement strategy;

(ii) agree, and thereafter award, the new contracts to the successful providers; and

(iii) take all other necessary steps not covered by existing delegations to achieve the outcomes outlined in the report.

11.3 Reasons for Decision

11.3.1 The procurement will enable the Council to:-

- Have a compliant mechanism in place to meet the service requirements.
- Continue to meet its obligations in regard to waste collection and disposal.

11.3.2 Benefits of consolidating requirements across the service areas include:-

- Reduced costs in purchasing and process i.e. procurement process and contract management/administration (ordering and billing efficiencies etc)
- Improved supplier service and support (strategic contract for supplier)
- Improved quality (potential for a seamless service as same/similar approach and systems)
- Improved economies of scale

11.3.3 The advantages of splitting the contracts into specific lots are:-

- Increased competition as more/new suppliers
- Increased innovation due to more suppliers
- Spreads risk, diverse supply chain
- Supports SME's

11.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

11.4.1 The Council can continue to operate the Tipping and Waste Collection on the same basis with 3 distinct contracts that sit across the services as we do now. This would not provide us with potential for savings to be achieved from a consolidated approach from a supply perspective or efficiencies relating to contract management. There would still be a requirement to re-procure the services to comply with PCR 2015 and the Council's Constitution including Standing Orders

11.4.2 We have explored the potential use of Veolia's Energy Recovery Facility, but this would result in the waste all being incinerated for energy recovery without any material being removed for recycling. Putting the waste through processing sites that divert large volumes to recycling would have a positive impact. Colleagues in Waste Management have confirmed that they will be looking to scope options for how the Council may be able to manage its own waste without the need for these external arrangements in the future.

11.5 Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted

None

11.6 Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration

None

11.7 Respective Director Responsible for Implementation

Laraine Manley, Executive Director, Place

11.8 Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In

Economic and Environmental Wellbeing

12. MONTH 8 CAPITAL APPROVALS

12.1 The Executive Director, Resources, submitted a report providing details of proposed changes to the Capital Programme 2019/20, as brought forward in Month 8.

12.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

- (a) approves the proposed additions and variations to the Capital Programme listed in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report, including the procurement strategies and delegates authority to the Director of Finance and Commercial Services or nominated Officer, as appropriate, to award the necessary contract; and
- (b) approves the variations to the Housing Capital Programme as part of the annual programme refresh, as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.

12.3 Reasons for Decision

12.3.1 The proposed changes to the Capital Programme will improve the services to the people of Sheffield.

12.3.2 To formally record changes to 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.

12.3.3 Obtain the relevant delegations to allow projects to proceed.

12.4 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.

12.5 Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted

None

12.6 Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration

None

12.7 Respective Director Responsible for Implementation

Eugene Walker, Executive Director, Resources.

12.8 Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.