

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday 20 January 2021 by the Cabinet.

Date notified to all members: Thursday 21 January 2021

The end of the call-in period is 4:00 pm on Wednesday 27 January 2021

The decision can be implemented from Thursday 28 January 2021

Item No

9. MONTH 8 CAPITAL APPROVALS 2020/21

9.1 The Executive Director, Resources, submitted a report providing details of proposed changes to the Capital Programme as brought forward in Month 8 2020/21.

9.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

(a) approves the proposed additions and variations to the Capital Programme listed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, including the procurement strategies (including a Measured Term Contract for Asbestos Removal that will also be utilised for revenue activity) and delegate authority to the Director of Finance and Commercial Services or nominated Officer, as appropriate, to award the necessary contracts;

(b) approves the variations to the Housing Capital Programme as part of the annual programme refresh as detailed in Appendix 3; and

(c) approves the making of grants to 3rd Parties as detailed at Appendix 4.

9.3 Reasons for Decision

9.3.1 The proposed changes to the Capital programme will improve the services to the people of Sheffield.

9.3.2 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.

9.3.3 To obtain the relevant delegations to allow projects to proceed.

9.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

9.4.1 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.

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

Eugene Walker, Executive Director, Resources

9.8 Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

10. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET 2021/22

10.1 The Interim Executive Director, Place, submitted a report providing the 2021/22 update of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan. The report includes proposals to:

- Deliver our stock increase programme to build and acquire more council homes and develop plans to expand our current programme;
- Invest in further health and safety measures including fire safety improvements;
- Deliver improvements to our tenants' homes to make sure they continue to be well maintained;
- Develop plans to respond to the Council's ambitions to address climate change and how council housing can contribute to achieving zero-carbon emissions by 2030;
- Proactively manage our neighbourhoods, supporting existing, new and prospective council housing tenants;
- Make improvements to our estate services; and
- Review housing offices and community buildings to ensure these are being fully utilised by tenants and residents

10.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet recommends to the meeting of the City Council on 3 February 2021 that:-

- (a) the HRA Business Plan report for 2021/22 as set out in the appendix to the report is approved;
- (b) the HRA Revenue Budget 2021/22 as set out in the appendix to the report is approved;
- (c) rents for council dwellings are increased by 1.5% from April 2021 in line with the Regulator of Social Housing's Rent Standard;
- (d) rents for temporary accommodation remain unchanged for 2021/22;
- (e) garage rents for garage plots and garage sites are increased by 1.5% from April 2021;
- (f) the community heating standing charge is increased by £0.60 per week from April 2021 (The unit kWh price will remain unchanged for 2021/22);
- (g) the sheltered housing service charge remains unchanged for 2021/22;
- (h) the burglar alarm charge remains unchanged for 2021/22; and
- (i) the furnished accommodation charge remains unchanged for 2021/22

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 10.3.1 To optimise the number of good quality affordable council homes in the city;
- 10.3.2 To maximise the financial resources to deliver key outcomes for tenants and the city in the context of a self-financing funding regime;
- 10.3.3 To ensure that tenants' homes continue to be well maintained and to optimise investment in estates; and
- 10.3.4 To assure the long-term sustainability of council housing in Sheffield.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 10.4.1 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.

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**

Mick Crofts, Interim Executive Director, Place

10.8 **Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In**

Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

11. **SHEFFIELD STREET TREE PARTNERSHIP WORKING STRATEGY - CONSULTATION FEEDBACK**

11.1 The Interim Executive Director, Place, submitted a report summarising the feedback from the consultation on the Sheffield Street Tree Working Strategy that ran for 12 weeks from Thursday 16th July until Thursday 8th October 2020.

11.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

(a) Receive the feedback from the consultation, as detailed in the report;

(b) agrees that the consultation feedback will be used in the following ways:

- To inform the final Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Strategy to be brought to Cabinet in March 2021
- To help shape the future arrangements for a new Sheffield Street Tree Partnership
- To help shape the future programme of work for the partnership
- To inform and help shape Council policies and processes.

11.3 **Reasons for Decision**

11.3.1 The recommendations are made on the basis that:

- This honours the commitment made by the Council, Amey and STAG in the Joint Position Statement to develop an exemplary new street tree strategy for Sheffield.
- This honours the commitment that further consultation with key stakeholder groups and with the public would be part of the work to develop the new street tree strategy.
- Along with other city and Council strategies that are already in place, the street tree strategy will be instrumental in helping to develop and shape guidance and policies that determine the future of the city in a range of areas including climate emergency; development of the city centre, district centres and local neighbourhoods; and the health and wellbeing of residents.

11.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

11.4.1 Two alternative options are:

- No new street tree strategy
- Maintain and manage the highway network without taking account of the value of the benefits provided by street trees in decisions about whether to retain or replace them.

11.4.2 Neither of these options would be in line with the commitment set out in the Joint Position Statement agreed between Sheffield City Council, Amey and STAG to develop an exemplary new street tree strategy for Sheffield

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**

Mick Crofts, Interim Executive Director, Place

11.8 **Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In**

Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee