

# Cabinet

---

**Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 2.00 pm**

**To be held as an online video conference**

**The Press and Public are Welcome to Attend**

---

## **Membership**

---

Councillor Bob Johnson	(Leader of the Council)
Councillor Jackie Drayton	(Cabinet Member for Children & Families)
Councillor Terry Fox	(Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)
Councillor Julie Grocutt	(Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)
Councillor Mazher Iqbal	(Cabinet Member for Business and Investment)
Councillor Mark Jones	(Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)
Councillor Mary Lea	(Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure)
Councillor George Lindars-Hammond	(Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care)
Councillor Abtisam Mohamed	(Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)
Councillor Paul Wood	(Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)

---

---

## PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING

---

The Cabinet discusses and takes decisions on the most significant issues facing the City Council. These include issues about the direction of the Council, its policies and strategies, as well as city-wide decisions and those which affect more than one Council service. Meetings are chaired by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Bob Johnson.

A copy of the agenda and reports is available on the Council's website at [www.sheffield.gov.uk](http://www.sheffield.gov.uk). You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain confidential information. These items are usually marked \* on the agenda. Members of the public have the right to ask questions or submit petitions to Cabinet meetings and recording is allowed under the direction of the Chair. Please see the [website](#) or contact Democratic Services for further information regarding public questions and petitions and details of the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at council meetings.

Cabinet meetings are normally open to the public but sometimes the Cabinet may have to discuss an item in private. If this happens, you will be asked to leave. Any private items are normally left until last. Please see the Council's website for details of how to access the remote meeting.

Cabinet decisions are effective six working days after the meeting has taken place, unless called-in for scrutiny by the relevant Scrutiny Committee or referred to the City Council meeting, in which case the matter is normally resolved within the monthly cycle of meetings.

If you require any further information please contact Craig Rogerson on 0114 273 4014 or email [craig.rogerson@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:craig.rogerson@sheffield.gov.uk).

---

**CABINET AGENDA  
20 JANUARY 2021**

**Order of Business**

---

- 1. Welcome and Housekeeping Arrangements**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Exclusion of Public and Press**  
To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public
- 4. Declarations of Interest** (Pages 5 - 8)  
Members to declare any interests they have in the business to be considered at the meeting
- 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 9 - 24)  
To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on
- 6. Public Questions and Petitions**  
To receive any questions or petitions from members of the public.  
  
(NOTE: In accordance with the arrangements published on the Council's website in relation to meetings of the Cabinet held remotely, questions/petitions are required to be submitted in writing, to [committee@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:committee@sheffield.gov.uk), by 9.00 a.m. on Monday 18th January.)
- 7. Items Called-In For Scrutiny**  
The Director of Legal and Governance will inform the Cabinet of any items called in for scrutiny since the last meeting of the Cabinet
- 8. Covid-19 Update**  
Update by the Director of Public Health
- 9. Retirement of Staff** (Pages 25 - 28)  
Report of the Executive Director, Resources
- 10. Month 8 Capital Approvals 2020/21** (Pages 29 - 74)  
Report of the Executive Director, Resources
- 11. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and Budget 2021/22** (Pages 75 - 128)  
Report of the Executive Director, Place

- 12. Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Working Strategy -  
Consultation Feedback**  
Report of the Executive Director, Place

(Pages 129 -  
178)

**NOTE: The next meeting of Cabinet will be held on  
Wednesday 17 February 2021 at 2.00 pm**

---

## ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

---

If you are present at a meeting of the Council, of its executive or any committee of the executive, or of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of the authority, and you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)** relating to any business that will be considered at the meeting, you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

You **must**:

- leave the room (in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct)
- make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of any DPI at any meeting at which you are present at which an item of business which affects or relates to the subject matter of that interest is under consideration, at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.
- declare it to the meeting and notify the Council's Monitoring Officer within 28 days, if the DPI is not already registered.

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your **disclosable pecuniary interests** under the new national rules. You have a pecuniary interest if you, or your spouse or civil partner, have a pecuniary interest.

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner undertakes.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period\* in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

\*The relevant period is the 12 months ending on the day when you tell the Monitoring Officer about your disclosable pecuniary interests.

- Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority –
  - under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
  - which has not been fully discharged.

- Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.
- Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) –
  - the landlord is your council or authority; and
  - the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -
  - (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
  - (b) either -
    - the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
    - if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

If you attend a meeting at which any item of business is to be considered and you are aware that you have a **personal interest** in the matter which does not amount to a DPI, you must make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of that interest at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. You should leave the room if your continued presence is incompatible with the 7 Principles of Public Life (selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership).

You have a personal interest where –

- a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing (including interests in land and easements over land) of you or a member of your family or a person or an organisation with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council Tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Authority's administrative area, or
- it relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests that are defined as DPIs but are in respect of a member of your family (other than a partner) or a person with whom you have a close association.

Guidance on declarations of interest, incorporating regulations published by the Government in relation to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, has been circulated to you previously.

You should identify any potential interest you may have relating to business to be considered at the meeting. This will help you and anyone that you ask for advice to fully consider all the circumstances before deciding what action you should take.

In certain circumstances the Council may grant a **dispensation** to permit a Member to take part in the business of the Authority even if the member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest relating to that business.

To obtain a dispensation, you must write to the Monitoring Officer at least 48 hours before the meeting in question, explaining why a dispensation is sought and desirable, and specifying the period of time for which it is sought. The Monitoring Officer may consult with the Independent Person or the Council's Audit and Standards Committee in relation to a request for dispensation.

Further advice can be obtained from Gillian Duckworth, Director of Legal and Governance on 0114 2734018 or email [gillian.duckworth@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:gillian.duckworth@sheffield.gov.uk).

This page is intentionally left blank



Cabinet

Meeting held 16 December 2020

**PRESENT:** Councillors Julie Dore (Chair), Jackie Drayton, Terry Fox, Bob Johnson, Mark Jones, Mary Lea, George Lindars-Hammond, Abtisam Mohamed and Paul Wood

.....

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mazher Iqbal.

**2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 were approved as a correct record.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

5.1 Public Questions Concerning Street Tree Archive

5.1.1 Justin Buxton commented, further to the council's promise to archive information relating to the scandalous street tree felling programme in Sheffield, can the Council confirm and categorically ensure that all information and data related to and associated with the Streetsahead contract and indeed the contract procurement project itself, is retained and not deleted prior to archiving, whether or not the information is considered suitable for public release?

5.1.2 Councillor Mark Jones commented that, as a result of the significance of the street tree archive and the information that will be included, the Council will be preserving data beyond the normal time frame requirements. He stated that the Council was eager to get the archive established as soon as possible and to cover the period outlined by the Ombudsman's report and then, once established we will add all pertinent information that we can, going further back, including information from the previous administration. He stated that legal advice will be taken in respect of whether information is considered suitable for public release and requested that details of any particular documents be forwarded on to him to check on their suitability for inclusion in the archive.

5.2 Public Questions Concerning Interpretation of Meaning of 'May' and 'Shall'

- 5.2.1 Justin Buxton commented, with respect to the Council's 'Standing Orders', sometimes referred to as rules. Please can the Council specify and explain in detail their interpretation of the word 'may' and furthermore also confirm or deny that in law the words 'may' and 'shall' have very different and distinct meanings?
- 5.2.2 Councillor Terry Fox commented that it is difficult to provide a precise answer without details of the full context but on face value "may" implies a discretion and "shall" implies an obligation, but you can often have a discretion as to how an obligation is actually implemented.

5.3 Public Questions Concerning Street Tree Felling

- 5.3.1 Justin Buxton commented, further to Councillor Dore's statement made at Cabinet on 18th November 2020. Can the Leader of the Council, Cllr Dore, confirm that all the decisions made, that resulted in the 'illegal' and very costly, in terms of both cash and reputation, pursuit of the street tree felling programme in Sheffield by Amey, pursuant to the Streets Ahead contract, were as a result taking officers advice? Why were pertinent questions not asked by the leader and Cabinet Members when it became clearly apparent something very wrong was happening and in turn avoid a less than positive legacy?
- 5.3.2 The Leader confirmed that no action taken had been deemed illegal and therefore, in the absence of the withdrawal of this aspect of the question, declined to allow the question. She reaffirmed that all decisions taken were based on officer advice.

5.4 Public Questions Concerning Forestry Commission Investigation

- 5.4.1 Justin Buxton commented that the Leader of the Council, Councillor Dore, has previously stated on record that the first she heard of the Forestry Commission investigating the legality of the street tree felling programme in Sheffield was from me on a Radio Sheffield 'phone in' no less than four months after officers were informed. Is this true? If so, is this acceptable? Was any review of officers concealing information commissioned by yourself or indeed any disciplinary action taken and if not, why not?
- 5.4.2 The Leader commented that, no doubt that Mr Buxton was aware of the Forestry Commission investigation before she was, as a result of his involvement with the campaign group that requested such investigation.

5.5 Public Questions Concerning Waggon & Horses Public House – Involvement Table

- 5.5.1 Mike Hodson commented, could Cllr Lea update us on the status of the Council's Involvement Table, published in 2016, and the Council's Guidance for Consultations; and comment on the conflict between those and the current consultation about the extension of the Waggon & Horses Public House into

Millhouses Park?

5.5.2 Councillor Mary Lea commented that there was no conflict between the Involvement Table and the Council's guidance on consultations with regards to the proposals for the Waggon & Horses development at Millhouses Park. Consultations are currently undertaken exclusively online because of the global pandemic and the desire and need to keep people safe.

5.6 Public Questions Concerning Waggon & Horses Public House - Consultations Received

5.6.1 Mike Hodson commented, could Cllr Lea inform us how many specific responses to this consultation have been received to date, and what if any further measures are being taken to inform the public, and local residents in particular, that this consultation is taking place?

5.6.2 Councillor Mary Lea commented that the Council had received 641 responses to the consultation so far. Such consultation has been widespread and includes posters which include QR codes linking directly to the consultation which have been displayed in Millhouses Park. Secondly the information was sent out in Parks and Countryside email bulletins, reaching about thirteen and a half thousand people. The consultation has also been promoted on the Parks and Countryside social media channels, reaching thousands of followers. She stated that the level of responses received so far is considered excellent for this kind of consultation.

5.7 Public Questions Concerning Tall Residential Blocks

5.7.1 Nigel Slack commented, with the news on Saturday that a Sheffield block of apartments has had its top four floors evacuated for fire regulation failures, affecting 35 residences, what steps will Council take to ensure that the current popularity within planning for very tall residential blocks are not putting residents at risk?

Will the Council also be undertaking reviews of previously accepted applications to ensure the builders and developers are meeting the exact conditions of the planning approvals, unlike the Hanover Tower situation?

5.7.2 Councillor Bob Johnson clarified that planning approval does not deal with construction or internal building safety issues, instead those issues are controlled at the construction stage under the building regulations. Developers have a choice now, whether they use our local authority building control or whether they use the private sector and that is their choice to use an approved building inspector. In the case of this site, it is understood that it was the latter route that the developer chose.

Subsequent maintenance of the building, in compliance with fire safety regulations, are the responsibility of the building owner. It is for the building owners to ensure that once completed and occupied safety regulations are adhered to. If matters come to the Council's attention whereby buildings are

subsequently altered by removal of key internal fire protection systems, then the Council will look at each case as it arises and take action where necessary with fire authority partners. The Private Sector Housing Team routinely inspect private sector buildings and regulate this. They collect all the data regarding the sector and risks are assessed and addressed through their powers. Post construction the Council has successfully taken enforcement action on a number of buildings in the City recently, where some building owners and management agents are not maintaining their buildings and not addressing fire safety breaches. For the buildings in the news recently, where prohibition notices have been served, we are reviewing what was installed at construction stage and how the block has been maintained in the following years to understand legal responsibilities and to ensure that leaseholders are not being over charged for works that should have been addressed prior to the completion stage.

The Council's priority is as ever with resident safety. We have a board of governance in place which is also attended by the fire service. The oversight of all existing building, all new buildings and those coming through the planning system will go through that process.

Councillor Wood commented that he would like to thank the staff that have been involved with this matter for their quick response. He stated that once we have any notification from South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue we act immediately. In this case, within an hour of the prohibition notice being introduced staff acted and within a number of hours everyone was rehoused. He stated that he had written to the government minister, resulting in a telephone conversation yesterday on how we can try and resolve this to get people back in their homes as quickly, but safely as possible. We are waiting for confirmation of details from government but if we get them, we will be able to get people returned soon. As a council we continue to make representations to government on building control issues, in particular that we feel the service should be back within the council. Representations have also been made with the Shadow Housing minister.

#### 5.8 Public Questions Concerning Cabinet Membership

5.8.1 Nigel Slack commented, can the Council comment on whether there is any plan to re-shuffle the Cabinet following the installation of the new Leader and whether this is in the best interest of the city in the midst of the current crisis?

5.8.2 Councillor Bob Johnson stated that he was not in a position to comment on this matter right now.

#### 5.9 Public Questions Concerning Alleged Wrist Injury

5.9.1 Russell Johnson commented, at a previous meeting, I asked when and how the Leader became aware of the alleged wrist injury suffered by a member of Amey/Servoca staff during the opposition to tree felling on Meersbrook Park Road.

If the Leader was not aware, did Mr Mothersole fail to inform her? The then Chief Executive told me of the incident in a private meeting. The question was passed

to Cabinet Member Cllr Jones, who said he would investigate.

Despite a reminder, no response has been forthcoming, either from Cllr Jones or from the Leader. Could the Leader please honestly answer the question now and have this minuted for the public record?

5.9.2 Councillor Mark Jones commented that he was liaising with officers on this matter and was carrying out ongoing investigations to enable him to get a fuller understanding of the position before providing a complete response.

5.10 Public Questions Concerning the Leader's Legacy

5.10.1 Russell Johnson commented, whilst wishing Cllr Dore well in her life post-SCC, I would like to ask whether, on balance, she believes her period as Leader will be seen as enhancing the reputation of my City, or will the well-known catalogue of embarrassing failures over the past decade or so overshadow any meagre achievements when people come to evaluate her legacy? Also, may I reserve a place in the queue for a signed copy of Cllr Dore's Memoir, should she decide to pen such a work?

5.10.2 The Leader commented that it was not just her legacy, but a joint, shared legacy under my leadership. She stated that it was important to note that her time in office as Leader coincided with the harshest central government cuts we've ever had to make. During that time, we have sought to give the greatest protection to council services, to the people in the greatest need and the most vulnerable in our City. Despite that austerity and the impact that it had we have done a number of things which made a difference to our City and our citizens: The introduction of the Fairness Commission; paying the living wage and becoming a living wage foundation accredited employer; insourcing a number of services back into the council, including the Council Housing Service, Repairs and Maintenance, Customer Services, Youth Services and others; and the regeneration of the city centre which is now taking hold - the Council's role in this and Heart of the City 2 has been significant.

We have projects such as the Outdoor City and the award-winning Grey to Green project. We negotiated the retention of World Snooker for a further ten years and the economic benefit that this brings to the City. We developed a major events programme with support for many award winning national and international events, including the amazing celebration of the 2012 Olympics.

Immediately on taking office we saved our museums and galleries from closure from our predecessors and I was the first Member representing Sheffield on the Arts Council England. We have overseen many award winning cultural and sporting venues and events. We have built new council housing and invested in our housing and neighbourhoods. We have had investment and management of our parks and our environment, including receiving a number of awards. I personally have planted numerous flowers, bulbs and trees. I have worked with the women of steel to create the award-winning statue in Barker's Pool. We have seen the successful development of the Olympic Legacy Park, including Sheffield's first three to 19 through school, technical college (with Sheffield being

the only city with two technical colleges), an advanced wellbeing centre, a food technology centre, alongside the stadium and youth stadium for rugby and football.

We have strengthened the advanced manufacturing sector in our City, including welcoming the likes of McLaren, Boeing and Rolls Royce. We have produced a new Local Plan which protects the green belt from development, despite the level of new house building targets imposed by central government. I have worked with other leaders of the core cities to put devolution on the agenda and have helped get the South Yorkshire devolution deal done and an elected Labour mayor. As a member of the HS2 taskforce and Transport for the North I have ensured that the route of HS2 brings high speed rail into our city centre. I was involved in the creation of Transport for the North, the only statutory transport body outside of London and the subsequent investment into the transport network across the North.

I have worked collectively and collaboratively with all our partners across the City Region at many levels, including South Yorkshire and City Region Leaders, Local Enterprise Partnership, Fairness Commission, Health and Well-being Board, Business Advisory Panel, Sheffield Strategic Advisory Group and most recently, on probably the most emotional and difficult thing that we've done is to support the City through the Covid pandemic. My only one disappointment is not seeing Sheffield Wednesday make it to the Premier League which I'll leave for my successor!

5.11 Public Questions Requesting Independent Inquiry

5.11.1 Russell Johnson commented, I wonder whether, as a positive parting gesture and as a step towards detoxifying the Sheffield Labour 'brand', Cllr Dore might advise her successor to initiate an Independent Inquiry or a meaningful Truth & Reconciliation process around the Street Tree Scandal? This could be achieved without loss of face as part of the transfer of leadership and be presented as a welcome 'new broom' approach, beginning the necessary rehabilitation of our City in the perception of people locally and nationally.

5.11.2 The Leader to respond in writing.

5.12 Public Questions Concerning the Climate Emergency

5.12.1 Russell Johnson commented, why, yet again, does Sheffield lag behind Leeds in innovative ideas to help address the Climate Emergency? For example, Leeds has the largest plant nursery in the country, the 'Arium', capable of growing over 5m plants each year and supplying community groups and the public. That forward-looking Authority is also planting millions of trees, embarking on educational programmes and other initiatives. Their Climate Action Network sets the gold standard for Local Authorities. What is Sheffield doing? A bit of greenwashing at best or something more profound?

5.12.2 Councillor Mark Jones commented that Sheffield was already globally recognised for the innovative work around the Grey to Green project, which will tackle some

of the climate change issues. With regards to tree planting there had been much activity by many people over many years, this city has approximately 21 to 22% of our area covered by trees, 18% of which is in the urban environment. As part of our tree strategy we will be planting 10,000 trees per year and, we have submitted two bids, one which has been successful and one where we are awaiting the outcome, which will hopefully double that, increasing the tree numbers that we are planting. He stated that it has to be noted that tree stocks across the nation face many challenges, including diseases and viruses. We in Sheffield are taking actions now to address those issues and make sure that the legacy of our tree stocks and the viability of our tree stocks continue into the future. We have also converted 20 hectares of unproductive forest to broadleaf forest to increase biodiversity, to somewhat address the challenges of climate change, which we are already witnessing.

He stated that, in terms of the street tree strategy that we are currently formulating, we hope to become an exemplar for Leeds and others to follow in terms of how we manage our trees. With the tree wardens initiative, we hope to be able to push forward the education elements of this.

He confirmed that the climate changes that we all face is something that we take very seriously. We have a comprehensive study ongoing at the moment that is being undertaken by consultants, who will be reporting via the Green City Partnership Board, a cross city and cross party board that we've established to ensure that all stakeholders in this city have an opportunity to input into our climate actions. We will be rolling out a comprehensive programme of education and engagement policies with the citizens of our city. The report, which will be public, will identify significant challenges and we will not shy away from that and we are determined to stick to our 2030 commitments. We will look to deliver everything that we can to tackle climate change, because it is happening now, it is something we recognise as being an issue we must tackle now for ourselves, our children and all future generations.

## **6. ITEMS CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY**

6.1 It was noted that:-

(a) there had been no items called-in for scrutiny since the last meeting of the Cabinet; and

(b) the call in of the Cabinet decision of 21st October regarding the Sheffield COVID Business Recovery Plan was considered at the meeting of the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on Tuesday 24th November and they:

- noted the contents of the report; and
- agreed to take no action in relation to the called-in decision, but requests that the Director of City Growth and the Interim Director of Sheffield Chamber of

Commerce and Industry be invited to a future meeting in March/April 2021, to provide an update on the progress of the Sheffield Covid Business Recovery Group, including information on how resources from the Covid Relief Fund had been allocated to date.

## **7. RETIREMENT OF STAFF**

7.1 The Executive Director, Resources submitted a report on Council staff retirements.

7.2 **RESOLVED:** That this Cabinet :-

(a) places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by the following staff in the Portfolios below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Years' Service</u>
<b><u>People Portfolio</u></b>		
Mark Hinchliff	Headteacher, Brook House Junior School	21
Mandy Squire	Senior Teaching Assistant Level 3, Broomhall Nursery School	40
Lynne Walker	Senior Teaching Assistant Level 3, Broomhall Nursery School	42
<b><u>Place Portfolio</u></b>		
Simon Ogden	Programme Director	35

(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 with over 20 years' service.

## **8. UPDATE ON COVID-19 TESTING AND VACCINATION STRATEGIES**

8.1 The Director of Public Health submitted a report advising Cabinet of the current position regarding COVID-19 testing and vaccination strategies in Sheffield and seeking support to continue this work.

8.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

(a) supports the Sheffield testing strategy, which prioritises testing people with symptoms over people who are asymptomatic, as this has maximum impact on reducing disease transmission;

(b) notes that testing is only effective as part of a whole programme with all other



interventions in place and working well, such as contact tracing and the ability to isolate;

(c) agrees that the approach to identifying cohorts for asymptomatic targeted testing will be based on a clear rationale;

(d) supports the piloting of asymptomatic targeted cohort testing with winter resilience business critical staff;

(e) supports the decision not to pilot community (whole town) asymptomatic testing at the moment, based on evidence from the Liverpool pilot;

(f) notes the significant resource implications of doing asymptomatic targeted cohort testing;

(g) continues to seek funding and identify other means of support for people to self-isolate, recognising that increasing adherence to self-isolation is the key to successful transmission interruption;

(h) supports communications and engagement work about vaccination programmes including the need to continue to maintain other preventative measures; and

(i) supports continuing messages on the basic prevention measures such as social distancing, limiting contact with others, face coverings and handwashing, as these remain critical to controlling the disease over the next 4-6 months.

### **8.3 Reasons for Decision**

8.3.1 As discussed in sections 2.4 and 2.5 of the report, asymptomatic testing needs to be done as part of an overall testing strategy, and as part of a comprehensive programme that includes contact tracing and self isolation. Asymptomatic testing can also do harm as well as having benefit, so in considering options we also took into account current evidence of the balance of benefit to harm, to resource required, to deliver an asymptomatic testing programme.

8.3.2 We discounted doing no asymptomatic testing, as the current evidence suggests there may be a favourable balance of benefit to harm to cost from doing frequent repeated testing in targeted cohorts of people.

8.3.3 We discounted doing community testing, as the current evidence, particularly from Liverpool, suggests the balance of benefit to harm to cost is not favourable. The evidence on Lateral Flow Devices does not support one-off use with large numbers of asymptomatic people, as it does not seem to have any meaningful impact on overall infection rates at a city level, and the potential to do harm (through false negatives, false positives, and widening inequalities) is too great.

### **8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

8.4.1 No alternative options were considered for the COVID-19 vaccination programme,

as this is being led by the NHS under direction of NHS England

8.4.2 Alternative options were considered for the asymptomatic testing strategy. These were:

- Doing no asymptomatic testing
- Doing community asymptomatic testing (eg like Liverpool)
- Doing targeted cohort testing (the recommended option).

## **9. COVID-19: COMF GRANT APPROVAL**

9.1 The Director of Public Health and the Executive Director, Resources submitted a report (a) to inform Cabinet of additional funding received from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) towards expenditure incurred in relation to the mitigation and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19 for public health purposes to break the chain of transmission and protecting the most vulnerable from catching the virus; (b) seeking approval for the acceptance of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) and to seek authorisation for the Executive Director Resources, in consultation with the Director of Public Health, to expend the DHSC funding; and (c) seeking approval for the acceptance of future COMF Funding being received January to March 2021.

9.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

(a) notes that in October, November and December, Sheffield City Council (SCC) was allocated a number of grants known as the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) totalling over £8million, from DHSC towards expenditure incurred in relation to the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19;

(b) notes that £8.020m of COMF grant has already been received;

(c) approves the acceptance of the £8.020 COMF Grant;

(d) approves acceptance of up to £7.020m of COMF grant funding being received (Jan – Mar 2021);

(e) approves the expenditure of the COMF grant (up to £15.040m);

(f) delegate the authority to finalise future allocations of COMF grant to the Executive Director of Resources, in consultation with the Director of Public Health; and

(g) delegates authority to the Executive Director Resources, in consultation with the Director of Public Health, to make the final decisions regarding the use of this fund, in consultation with the Cabinet Member responsible for Public Health.

## **9.3 Reasons for Decision**

9.3.1 The recommendations described in this report will enable Sheffield City Council to expend funds incurred in relation to the mitigation and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19 for public health purposes to break the chain of

transmission and protect the most vulnerable from catching the virus.

#### 9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

9.4.1 This report describes what officers believe to be the best way of preventing, mitigating and controlling the virus in Sheffield. However, this will be kept under review and the approach described may need to change.

### 10. **MONTH 7 CAPITAL APPROVALS 2020/21**

10.1 The Executive Director, Resources, submitted a report providing details of proposed changes to the Capital Programme as brought forward in Month 7 2020/21.

10.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

(a) approves the proposed additions and variations to the Capital Programme listed in Appendix 1 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 contracts; and

(b) approves the acceptance of grants as detailed at Appendix 2

#### 10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

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

10.3.2 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.

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

#### 10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

10.4.1 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.

### 11. **STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN FUND**

11.1 The Director of Legal and Governance, submitted a report seeking delegated authority for her, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business and Investment, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance and the Executive Director of Resources to submit the Stockbridge Town Investment Plan to secure up to £25M of Central Government Funding for the regeneration of

Stocksbridge.

11.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet delegates authority to the Director of Legal and Governance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business and Investment, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance and the Executive Director of Resources to submit the Stockbridge Town Investment Plan to secure up to £25M of Central Government Funding for the regeneration of Stocksbridge.

11.3 **Reasons for Decision**

11.3.1 The deadline for the submission of the Town investment Plan (TIP) is end of January 2021. Although the final agreed list of priority projects has not yet been agreed, it is apparent that there is an emerging consensus on the top priorities, reflecting both local residents aspirations as well as deliverability of the projects within the 4-5 year timescale.

11.3.2 There remain some issues regarding ownership and management of the “assets”, including associated risks and how that is addressed. However, this and other similar technical and legal issues will be addressed at the detailed planning and design stage when Members will have an opportunity to guide and ultimately take the final decision before committing on the ground.

11.3.3 Fundamentally this is a once in a generation opportunity to address some key infrastructure problems faced by Stocksbridge with its unique geography and challenges, compounded by the pandemic.

11.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

11.4.1 Do nothing – we could choose not to bid for the funding by not submitting a Town Investment Plan or bid for much reduced funding. There are no benefits under either option as it would simply mean a missed opportunity to regenerate one of the City’s neighbourhoods suffering from decline of the High Street and job losses

12. **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) - OMBUDSMAN REPORT**

12.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted a report setting out the outcome of the recent ombudsman report into Miss B and her son G in relation to fault regarding his education provision between 2014 and 2019, for Members’ consideration. He confirmed that the Council accepted all the recommendations of the Ombudsman report and had issued a sincere apology to Miss B and her son G in respect of the matter.

12.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet agrees the actions taken following publication of the Ombudsman report.

12.3 **Reasons for Decision**

12.3.1 Sheffield has a statutory and moral duty to provide appropriate education provision

for children with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans.

#### 12.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

12.4.1 No alternative options have been considered.

### 13. **PROCUREMENT OF A VACANT PROPERTY SECURITY AND CLEANING CONTRACT**

13.1 The Executive Director, Place, submitted a report seeking authority to procure the contracts for the supply of Vacant Property Security and Cleaning to support the in-house Repairs and Maintenance Services, in line with the contents of this report.

13.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

(a) approves the tendering of the contract for Vacant Property Security and Cleaning and related services, via a new Council framework following a tender exercise, as outlined in the report, to ensure the continuation of the ongoing support provision for the Vacant Property Security and Cleaning services, and associated work for the Repairs and Maintenance services to maintain our corporate, void and acquisitions properties; and

(b) delegates authority to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Commercial Services and the Director of Legal and Governance to:

1. decide the award of the new contracts to the successful suppliers chosen by the Council following the procurement; and

2. take all other decisions necessary in order to meet the aims, objectives and outcomes of this report which are not already covered by existing delegations in the Leader's Scheme of Delegation.

#### 13.3 **Reasons for Decision**

13.3.1 The procurement will enable the Council to:

- Have a compliant and flexible mechanism in place to meet the service requirements, whilst allowing for a thorough review in the medium term to identify any further savings/efficiencies as part of the ongoing Repairs & Maintenance TOM (target operating model) project. In addition, other Council clients will have access to a compliant Framework without the need to source their own requirements with the added efficiencies this will drive.
- Harness any immediate savings and economies of scale that can be realised by re-engaging the market, with any savings realised that can be cashable in nature will contribute to the services' savings target.
- Realise the Council's Social Value ambitions by driving further value added

impact through this supply chain.

#### 13.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

##### 13.4.1 Alternative Option 1 – Do not Procure.

If the Council did not carry out this procurement then the Repairs and Maintenance (R&M) Service would not be able to maintain the Council's Housing Stock in as timely a manner and many properties would remain empty until the decent homes upgrade could be carried out. This impacts on the Council's ability to take rental income from these properties.

The Housing R&M service are however committed to more self-delivery with less reliance on third party contractors and service providers – this is a future aspiration and will take time to realise, in the interim the support will continue to be required.

We are bound by the Public Contracts Regulations and Council Governance to conduct a procurement where the level of financial spend indicates this, alternatives around the route to market will be options appraised, considered and benchmarked and fully documented in the Procurement Strategy.

##### 13.4.2 Alternative Option 2 – Extend the contract with the current supplier.

The current contract will expire on the 31st March 2021 and there are no further extensions possible under the framework agreement.

##### 13.4.3 Alternative Option 3 – procure via a fully compliant Framework

As stated, there are a number of fully compliant frameworks offering all the services we require – these are dominated by three companies one of which is our incumbent - Orbis.

ORBIS PROPERTY SERVICES – Wakefield, Manchester & Birmingham  
SPECIALIST PROPERTY SERVICES – Leicester  
VACANT PROPERTY SERVICES – Rotherham based service centre.

Whilst these are tried and tested suppliers and much of the due diligence around their appointment has been previously managed none are local and we feel there is a local market to tap into – there are a number of suppliers in the Sheffield area who could offer these services and by using a framework these potential suppliers would be excluded.

We require a reactive and responsive service on both the clear and clean services and the vacant property security services. In addition, we have extensive Health & Safety requirements and adherence to these needs to be evidenced via the tender, subsequent contract documentation and ongoing contract management.

Whilst the national Framework requirements can be tailored to meet our needs the Framework market is covered by three suppliers only and the market has many more which we would exclude via this route.

In addition to this narrow Framework market a number of other considerations have driven the decision namely the overarching lack of local competition, the work required making the Framework representative of our needs and broader health and safety compliance requirements are directing us to letting a fully compliant framework in our own right. This may lead to a more diverse and local supply chain, which will provide some additional Social Value benefits, and potentially a more flexible approach to service delivery.

The use of a Sheffield City Council Framework will offer the greatest flexibility for service delivery where peaks and troughs can be managed and third party support can be tailored to supplement the in house capability and flex with this as services move to more self-delivery over time.

#### **14. THANKS TO COUNCILLOR DORE**

- 14.1 Councillor Terry Fox commented that he would like to place on record the thanks of Cabinet Members, staff and the City of Sheffield to Councillor Dore for the work she has undertaken as Leader of the Council over many years. In particular he highlighted the way that she had skilfully and professionally navigated this Council through many years of severe austerity, enabling the Council to move forward positively as we prepare for next year's budget. On behalf of everyone he wished her well for the future.

This page is intentionally left blank





**Author/Lead Officer of Report:**  
Craig Rogerson/Principal Committee Secretary

**Tel:** 27 34014

**Report of:** *Executive Director, Resources*

**Report to:** *Cabinet*

**Date of Decision:** *20 January 2021*

**Subject:** *Staff Retirements*

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>	
- Affects 2 or more Wards	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? <i>N/A</i>		
Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to? <i>N/A</i>		
Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? <i>(Insert reference number)</i>		
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-		

**Purpose of Report:**

To report the retirement of the following staff from the Council's Service and to convey the Council's thanks for their work.

**Recommendations:**

To recommend that Cabinet:-

- (a) place on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by the members of staff in the Portfolios stated;
- (b) extend to them its best wishes for the future and a long and happy retirement; and
- (c) direct that an appropriate extract of the resolution now made, under the Common Seal of the Council, be forwarded to those staff with over 20 years' service.

**Background Papers: None**

**1. PROPOSAL**

- 1.1 To report the retirement of the following staff from the Council's Service and to convey the Council's thanks for their work:-

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Post</u></b>	<b><u>Years' Service</u></b>
<b><u>People Portfolio</u></b>		
Denise Clift	Teaching Assistant Level 2, Ecclesfield Primary School	20

This page is intentionally left blank



**Author/Lead Officer of Report:**

Damian Watkinson,  
Finance Manager

**Tel:** 0114 273 6831

**Report of:** *Eugene Walker*

**Report to:** *Cabinet*

**Date of Decision:** *20<sup>th</sup> January 2021*

**Subject:** *Capital Approvals for Month 08 2020/21*

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
- Affects 2 or more Wards		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? ***Finance and Resources***

Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to?  
***Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee***

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken? Yes  No

If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? *(Insert reference number)*

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes  No

If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-

**Purpose of Report:**

*This report provides details of proposed changes to the Capital Programme as brought forward in Month 8 2020/21.*

**Recommendations:**

- Approve 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 .
- Approve the variations to the Housing Capital Programme as part of the annual programme refresh as detailed in Appendix 3
- Approve the making of grants to 3<sup>rd</sup> Parties as detailed at Appendix 4

**Background Papers:**

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: <i>Tim Hardie</i>
		Legal: <i>Sarah Bennett</i>
		Equalities: No
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>		
2	<b>EMT member who approved submission:</b>	<i>Eugene Walker</i>
3	<b>Cabinet Member consulted:</b>	<i>Terry Fox</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> <i>Damian Watkinson</i>	<b>Job Title:</b> <i>Finance Manager Business Partner Capital</i>
	<b>Date:</b> 21/12/20	

# MONTH 08 2020/21 CAPITAL APPROVALS

## 1. SUMMARY

1.1 A number of schemes have been submitted for approval in line with the Council's capital approval process during the Month 08 reporting cycle. This report requests the relevant approvals and delegations to allow these schemes to progress.

1.2 Below is a summary of the number and total value of schemes in each approval category:

- 7 additions of specific projects to the capital programme creating a net increase of £1.293m;
- 7 variations creating a net increase of £1.948m;
- 1 variation to procurement route with no impact on budgets
- 24 re-profiles of budget with no impact on overall budget
- 5 changes to funding sources with no impact on overall budgets
- Revisions to the Housing Capital Programme including the addition of the 2025/26 indicative allocations creating a net increase of £69.7m

1.3 Further details of the schemes listed above can be found in Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

## 2. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE

2.1 The proposed changes to the Capital programme will improve the recreational leisure facilities, schools, roads and homes used by the people of Sheffield, and improve the infrastructure of the city council to deliver those services.

## 3. BACKGROUND

This report is part of the monthly reporting procedure to Members on proposed changes to the Council's capital programme.

## 4. OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

4.1 By delivering these schemes the Council seeks to improve the quality of life for the people of Sheffield.

## 5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

### 5.1 Finance Implications

The primary purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the proposed changes to the City Council's Capital Programme further details

on each scheme are included in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 in respect of schemes to be delivered and Appendix 4 in relation to grants to be issued.

## **5.2 Procurement and Contract Award Implications**

This report will commit the Council to a series of future contracts. The procurement strategy for each project is set out in Appendix 1. The award of the subsequent contracts will be delegated to the Director of Financial and Commercial Services.

## **5.3 Legal Implications**

Any specific legal implications in this report are set out in Appendices 1,2 and 3 in respect of projects to be delivered and Appendix 4 in relation to grants to be issued.

## **5.4 Human Resource Implications**

There are no direct Human Resource implications for the Council.

## **5.5 Property Implications**

Any specific property implications from the proposals in this report are set out in appendices 1,2 and 3.

## **6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 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.

## **7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The proposed changes to the Capital programme will improve the services to the people of Sheffield
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 Obtain the relevant delegations to allow projects to proceed.

**Finance & Commercial Services | Commercial Business Development**

**December 2020**



Scheme name / summary description		Value £'000
<b>A</b>	<b>Economic growth</b>	
	New additions	
Page 33	<p><b>Little Kelham Bridge</b></p> <p><b>Why do we need the project?</b></p> <p>There is a significant disconnect at Kelham Island in the Upper Don Trail, (a 17 km strategic riverside walking and cycling route connecting the City Centre with the Peak District). The new Little Kelham mixed housing and employment area has no direct connection to Kelham Island and the Museum, shops and other attractions around Kelham Square.</p> <p>The viability and success of the Little Kelham scheme, a flagship for the introduction of higher quality and family housing in the City Centre, is in part dependent on a well-connected and vibrant series of public spaces around Green Lane and Eagle Works enjoying strong footfall. Access to the Sheffield Industrial Museum at Kelham Island, one of Sheffield's key tourism destinations, is currently from a cul-de-sac with no passing footfall. This creates problems of accessibility and visibility, seen most acutely in events such as the Christmas and Summer Markets.</p> <p><b>How are we going to achieve it?</b></p> <p>The project proposes a simple new pedestrian/cycleway Bridge over the goyt at Kelham Island, between Kelham Island Museum and the Little Kelham housing development (Green Lane). The bridge will form a key missing link in both the proposed Low Traffic Neighbourhood and the Upper Don Trail long distance active travel route from the City Centre to Stocksbridge and the Peak District.</p> <p>The bridge will be constructed by the developers of the Little Kelham site, CITU who will also be responsible for the maintenance of the bridge.</p> <p>Sheffield City Council will be contributing £212.5k, subject to signed legal agreement. The project will have a £220k budget funded by Section 106 which includes £7.5k of SCC fees. A further contribution of £20k has been secured from the Upper Don Walk Trust and this will be paid direct to CITU by the Trust.</p> <p><b>What are the benefits?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completes the direct off-road riverside route</li> <li>• Supports the Museum</li> <li>• Supports the Little Kelham mixed use development</li> <li>• Complements the Low Traffic Neighbourhood</li> </ul> <p><b>When will the project be completed?</b></p> <p>[2021-22]</p>	+220

	<b>Funding Source</b>	Section 106	<b>Amount</b>	220k	<b>Status</b>		<b>Approved</b>		
	<b>Procurement</b>		Grant to be made to CITU (See Appendix 4)						
Variations and reasons for change									
Page 34	<b>Upper Don Valley Flood Defence Scheme</b>								
	<b>Scheme description</b>								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The confluence of the River Loxley and the Upper Don’s relatively steep channel, with several weirs and river crossings in the area, results in communities and businesses being at high risk of flooding from flood events that exceed the channel capacity, with river crossings trapping debris and restricting channel conveyance.</li> <li>Due to the steep topography of the area, once flood waters leave the river channel they can travel some distance out of channel, resulting in a widespread impact. The most recent flood event occurred in 2007 and resulted in widespread damage to local homes and businesses, causing great distress to residents and forcing many businesses to suspend operations for many months.</li> <li>The Loxley Confluence Flood Alleviation Scheme will deliver the long-awaited flood defences needed to reduce flood risk to sustainable levels and support the long-term viability of the local community and businesses.</li> </ul>								
	<p><b>What has changed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delays to the scheme have been experienced due to delays obtaining work permits from the Environment Agency and a dispute with a landowner.</li> <li>The element of SCC match funding will now be provided from Community Infrastructure Levy rather than capital receipts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Variation type: -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slippage</li> <li>Funding change</li> </ul>								
	<b>Funding</b>	Environment Agency / SCRIF / CIL							
	<b>Procurement</b>		Unchanged.						
<b>B</b>	<b>Transport</b>								
New additions									
None									

20/21 -366  
21/22 +366

Variations and reasons for change				
Page 35	<p><b>Hillsborough 20 mph Scheme</b></p> <p><b>Scheme description</b></p> <p>On 8 March 2012, the City Council Cabinet Highways Committee approved the 'Sheffield 20mph Speed Limit Strategy', the long-term aim of which is to establish 20mph as the maximum speed in appropriate residential areas of Sheffield.</p> <p>In June 2019, Cabinet approved feasibility, consultation and design works to be carried out in Fox Hill, Hillsborough and Sharrowvale with a view of implementing 20 mph zones.</p> <p><b>What has changed?</b></p> <p>The 20mph scheme for Hillsborough is now ready for implementation and is planned to be completed in 2020-21. Initially the scheme had been reported to cost a total of £120k however the costs have now increased by £82k due to the area being larger than initially anticipated resulting in an increase in construction costs, an increase in signage, electrical works and traffic management costs.</p> <p>The full scheme cost is expected to be £202k and the increase will be funded by Local Transport Plan. The commuted sum for the project is estimated at £32k.</p> <p><b>Variation type: -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [budget increase]</li> </ul>	+82		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Funding</b></td> <td>Local Transport Plan</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Funding</b>	Local Transport Plan	
	<b>Funding</b>	Local Transport Plan		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Procurement</b></td> <td>Unchanged.</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Procurement</b>	Unchanged.		
<b>Procurement</b>	Unchanged.			
	<p><b>Transforming Cities Fund Budget Increases</b></p> <p>Sheffield City Council has previously been awarded funding through the Transforming Cities Fund Phase 1 (TCF) to invest in schemes that promote active travel (cycling and walking) to enable people to access jobs, education etc. through greener and healthier forms of travel and two projects are currently underway to utilise this funding.</p> <p><b>What has changed</b></p> <p>In February 2019 cabinet approved the use of £1.5m of corporate resources to begin development work on projects to be funded by Phase 2 of TCF. The first stage of TCF funding agreements for £944.5k have been signed and the TCF2 budgets are to be increased by this value in addition, a number of the budgets have been re-profiled to reflect the project delivery.</p> <p>Refer to the table below:-</p>	+945		

		Approved Budget All Years [000]	TCF Stage 1 Increase [000]	CRP Adjustment All Years [000]	Revised Budget All Years [000]	
93083	TCF City Centre	336	187	0	523	
93085	TCF Nether Edge Wedge	218	158	-78	299	
93089	TCF South West Bus Corridors	149	76	172	398	
93090	TCF Housing Zone North	232	188	-94	326	
93086	TCF Magna	193	56	107	357	
93087	TCF AMID	331	279	-107	503	
		<u>1,460</u>	<u>945</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,405</u>	
<p>The TCF City Centre project scope has been extended to include bus re-routing works on Rockingham Street.</p> <p>Due to Covid social distancing measures, buses were temporarily re-routed down Carver Street, to enable the pedestrianisation of Pinstone Street. Further works are now required to re-route the buses again, to remove bus services from Carver Street and direct along Rockingham Street. This is to enable the partial closure of Carver Street required for the Heart of the City II development.</p> <p><b>Variation type: -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [budget increase]</li> <li>• [reprofile]</li> <li>• [scope]</li> </ul>						
<b>Funding</b>	Transforming Cities Funding					
<b>Procurement</b>	Unchanged.					
<p><b>Various Transport Schemes Slippage / Reprofiles</b></p> <p>Following an extremely challenging year for project delivery largely due to the impact of COVID 19, a number of transport schemes have submitted requests for reprofile / slippage of budgets to reflect the revised delivery timescales reflected in their recovery plans. Details of these schemes and values are detailed in the Slippage / Reprofile summary document. <b>See appendix 2 for details</b></p>						<p>20/21 -5,666</p> <p>21/22 +5,666</p>

<b>C</b>	<b>Quality of life</b>	
	New additions	
	None	
	Variations and reasons for change	
Page 37	<p><b>General Cemetery Phase 2</b></p> <p><b>Scheme description</b> In June 2018, SCC was successful in securing a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant offer towards the Sheffield General Cemetery (SGC) project.</p> <p>This funding has given SCC the opportunity to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health &amp; Safety / repair liability: The value of capital repair work required to address just the high risk repairs needed is estimated at £536K. This does not included fees for procurement, project management, specialist experts to design and specify work to RIBA 4 and fees associated with discharging planning / Listed Building consents.</li> <li>- Statutory obligation: The site is of national historic importance and is Grade II* on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens), as such SCC has a statutory duty to appropriately manage and maintain the property. The poor / declining condition of the site and inappropriate management / maintenance has resulted in the site being on the HE 'Heritage at Risk' register for many years. The site is also on the SCC Asset risk Register as a result of H&amp;S issues relating to structures.</li> <li>- Open space deficit in the area: The area has a recognised open space deficit and this is the largest park within the Sharrow catchment. However it is not currently fit for purpose and as a result is under-used.</li> </ul> <p><b>What has changed?</b> The project is now ready to seek approval for the procurement of a main Contractor to carry out works. This stage follows on from the appointment of Colvin &amp; Moggridge as the Lead Consultant (FBC for £1,207.5K approved in March 2020) to develop the project through RIBA stages 4-6.</p> <p>The appointment of a main contractor is the next step towards completion of the project in line with the HLF approved programme to ensure all works and financial closure are achieved before, or as close to a possible, the grant expiry date of 31/03/2024. As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, HLF has given a relaxation on the programme/grant expiry date but the approved funding remains the same. The Project Team and Design Team are committed to completion as close as possible to the original programme to realise benefits to stakeholders as soon as possible in these uncertain times.</p> <p><b>Variation type:</b> Re-profile and Procurement Strategy</p>	<p>20/21 -86 21/22 -711 22/23 +942 23/24 -145</p>

Page 38	<p><b>Costs</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>CDS Fees</td><td>£241.3K</td></tr> <tr><td>Surveys</td><td>£322.2K</td></tr> <tr><td>Lead Consultant</td><td>£274.5K</td></tr> <tr><td>Other Fees</td><td>£214.2K</td></tr> <tr><td>Construction</td><td>£2,673.9K</td></tr> <tr><td>Contingency</td><td>£155.4K</td></tr> <tr><td><b>TOTAL</b></td><td><b>£3,881.5K</b></td></tr> </table> <p><b>Budget</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Actuals 19/20</td><td>£49.7K</td></tr> <tr><td>Current 20/21 Budget</td><td>£404.6K - £85.5K = £319.1K</td></tr> <tr><td>Current 21/22 Budget</td><td>£1,994.7K - £710.7K = £1,284.0K</td></tr> <tr><td>Current 22/23 Budget</td><td>£1,152.5K + £941.6K = £2,094.1K</td></tr> <tr><td>Current 23/24 Budget</td><td>£279.9K - £145.4K = £134.5K</td></tr> <tr><td><b>TOTAL 19-24</b></td><td><b>£3,881.5K - £0.0K = £3,881.5K</b></td></tr> </table>		CDS Fees	£241.3K	Surveys	£322.2K	Lead Consultant	£274.5K	Other Fees	£214.2K	Construction	£2,673.9K	Contingency	£155.4K	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,881.5K</b>	Actuals 19/20	£49.7K	Current 20/21 Budget	£404.6K - £85.5K = £319.1K	Current 21/22 Budget	£1,994.7K - £710.7K = £1,284.0K	Current 22/23 Budget	£1,152.5K + £941.6K = £2,094.1K	Current 23/24 Budget	£279.9K - £145.4K = £134.5K	<b>TOTAL 19-24</b>	<b>£3,881.5K - £0.0K = £3,881.5K</b>	
	CDS Fees	£241.3K																											
	Surveys	£322.2K																											
Lead Consultant	£274.5K																												
Other Fees	£214.2K																												
Construction	£2,673.9K																												
Contingency	£155.4K																												
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,881.5K</b>																												
Actuals 19/20	£49.7K																												
Current 20/21 Budget	£404.6K - £85.5K = £319.1K																												
Current 21/22 Budget	£1,994.7K - £710.7K = £1,284.0K																												
Current 22/23 Budget	£1,152.5K + £941.6K = £2,094.1K																												
Current 23/24 Budget	£279.9K - £145.4K = £134.5K																												
<b>TOTAL 19-24</b>	<b>£3,881.5K - £0.0K = £3,881.5K</b>																												
<b>Funding</b>	HLF £3,098.4K + S106 £91.3K + RCC £347.8K + Capital Receipts £344.0K = £3,881.5K																												
<b>Procurement</b>	i. Capital works by restricted procedure with SSQ.																												
<b>D</b>	<b>Green and open spaces</b>																												
	New additions																												
	<p><b>Westfield Playground</b></p> <p><b>Why do we need the project?</b></p> <p>The purpose of the project is to provide a new playground in the Westfield Community. This is part of a wider project led by local residents and supported by Westfield Big Local, Local Councillors and other partners working in the neighbourhood.</p> <p>This is a part of the city which has no playground facilities and there has been a campaign led by a local community group 'Let's Get Westfield a Park' over a number of years to raise interest in this as an important need, and to plan and fundraise to enable this facility to be provided.</p> <p>The Westfield estate is situated within the Mosborough Ward and is predominantly made up of social housing in the inner core, surrounded by owner occupied housing. The area is geographically isolated, and as recognised social and economic disadvantage.</p>	+183																											

**How are we going to achieve it?**

Deliver a new playground on the open space site at Westfield Northway.

**What are the benefits?**

*Objectives*

- Create an accessible and safe new playground in Westfield

*Outputs*

- Play equipment for a range of ages and abilities (climbing unit, swing set, inclusive basket swing, inclusive roundabout, play panels)
- 122m fencing and 2 gates to ensure safety of the playground users
- Soft landscaping tree planting & bulb planting
- 1 bike track for balance bikes and scooters
- 1 seating area

*Benefits*

- Health and wellbeing improvements for local communities, through the establishment of a new outdoor play facility that encourages children and families to be active
- Improved quality of an existing open space
- Increase the positive use of the 'Westfield Park'

**When will the project be completed?**

July 2021

**Costs**

Feasibility	£2.7K
CDS Fees	£14.0K
UED Fees	£9.2K
Commercial Services	£1.0K
Construction	£142.0K
Contingency	£14.1K
<b>Total</b>	<b>£183.0K</b>

**Budget**

20/21	£8.2K
<u>21/22</u>	<u>£174.8K</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£183.0K</b>

**Funding**

Westfield Big Local	£108K
Parks Investment Fund	£15K

Public Health £45K Housing Services RCC £15K Total £183K							
<b>Funding Source</b>	See Funding details above	<b>Amount</b>	£183K	<b>Status</b>	All funding secured	<b>Approved</b>	Green & Open Spaces PG Dec20
<b>Procurement</b>		i. Supply and installation of the new playground via competitive tender with suitability assessment. ii. Surveys by quotation.					
<b>Page 40</b>	<b>Forge Dam Heritage and Wildlife Improvements</b>  <b>Why do we need the project?</b> The Friends of the Porter Valley have raised funds for the restoration of the mill pond at Forge Dam, including de-silting, engineering works, access improvements, better visitor welcome and wildlife improvements. This work is the second phase of the 2011 Porter Valley Masterplan; the first phase, which was the restoration of the Shepherd Wheel, was successfully completed in 2012.  Forge Dam is popular with families, walkers, cyclists, dog walkers and horse riders. It is also used by school groups and organised health walk groups from across the city. It has been particularly busy during lockdown periods of the pandemic, providing a “Peak District experience” walking / cycling distance from the city centre. It is anticipated the importance of Forge Dam as a visitor hub and gateway location will continue to grow. Improving the visitor amenity will support the sustainability of Better Parks commercial partners such as Forge Dam café.  In times of low rainfall, the silt is visible at the surface of the millpond. Continual deposition is forming terrestrial areas which further slow the flow of water and exacerbate the issue. The silt is a hazard to visitors, deep silt represents an increased risk of drowning even to people who can swim. It’s not apparent to visitors how deep the silt is and continued silting of the pond will result in the eventual loss of pond habitat and reduced amenity.  <b>How are we going to achieve it?</b> The site will be restored to an open body of water of varying depths, with a reprofiled island and banks adding to wildlife habitat. An engineered barrier will direct the main flow of the Porter Brook over the spillway, reducing future sediment deposition, and making future maintenance manageable. The sediment from the pond will be used as a cover material for a closed landfill site (currently proposed as Beighton).  Funding allowing, the footpath around the Dam will be resurfaced and new interpretation boards about the history and wildlife of the site will be added for the benefit of visitors.  It will be a 2 stage Design and Build open tender, with a suitability assessment to enable early contractor involvement to fully understand scope and risks of project.						+327



**What are the benefits?**

*Objectives*

- Restore the millpond to an open body of water
- Enhance visitor experience but providing history and wildlife information

*Benefits*

- The pond will be restored to be an attractive feature of a popular destination
- A long-term solution will be put in place to reduce future sediment deposition and therefore maintenance costs
- The value of the site to wildlife will be enhanced

**When will the project be completed?**

March 2022

**Costs**

CDS Fees	£25.0K
Other Fees	£1.5K
Surveys	£17.5K
Contractor Fees Stage 1	£42.0K
Construction Stage 2	£240.7K
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£326.7K</b>

**Budget**

20/21	£21.5K
21/22	£305.2K
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£326.7K</b>

**Funding**

S106 Agreement 564	£25.6K
S106 Agreement 871	£41.0K
Friends of Porter Valley	£260.1K
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£326.7K</b>

**Further notes on Friends of Porter Valley Donation**

The Friends of Porter Valley have spent 8 years fundraising for this project and are happy to pay over those funds as a donation on the condition that SCC use them for this purpose specifically. They have asked for a letter of acknowledgement to formalise that and therefore given SCC an opportunity to formalise the payments they will make.

Page 42	<p>Should the recommendations be approved to proceed with the project, then the Council will need to accept the donation from FoPV. The donation has some conditions attached to it and it is proposed that an acknowledgement letter will be issued to FoPV from the Council. This letter, which has been drafted in readiness and will be issued following Cabinet approval of the Project, details the proposed donation and outlines what the Council will do. For example, that the Council will use the contribution for the restoration of the Forge Dam project only and that the Council will contribute s106 funds. Any of the contribution which remains unspent at the end of the project will be returned to FoPV. By issuing this letter the Council would be committed to its contents.</p> <p>Please note if any of the proposed donation is not received then it is stated within the letter that the project may not commence or may not be completed in full.</p>							
	<b>Funding Source</b>	S106 Friend of Porter Valley Contribution	<b>Amount</b>	£326.7K	<b>Status</b>	S106 Funding Available Commitment received from FoPV	<b>Approved</b>	Green & Open Spaces PG Dec20
	<b>Procurement</b>	i. Waterways management contractor by an open, two-stage tender procedure with suitability assessment.						
Variations and reasons for change								
None								
<b>E</b>	<b>Housing growth</b>							
New additions								
<p><b>New Build Council Housing - Titterton Close General Needs FEASIBILITY</b></p> <p><b>Why do we need the project?</b></p> <p>This site is part of the Attercliffe regeneration proposals and is HRA land that is proposed to be developed to provide affordable housing alongside the nearby proposed open market sale housing developments. This proposed Housing Growth Stock Increase project to provide General Needs properties is part of the New Homes Delivery Plan and the HRA Business Plan, and aims to deliver new homes in line with the identified need.</p> <p>The Attercliffe area is an SCC priority for regeneration and it is critical to provide a mixed tenure offer in order to create a balanced and sustainable neighbourhood.</p> <p>SCC need to quickly provide an affordable rental housing offer to ensure a balance of tenures remains available in the area. Without this, there is a risk of the exclusion of the section of the community with a need for this type of housing</p> <p><b>How are we going to achieve it?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct feasibility to provide approximately 20nr SCC affordable units on HRA brownfield</li> <li>• Produce Concept Design Options and Select Preferred Option</li> </ul>								+56

An initial assessment for the site shows it could achieve approximately 20nr SCC affordable rental properties, with a mix of 1 and 2 bedroom flats and 3 and 4 bed houses, to the current standards being delivered by the new build element of the Stock Increase Programme. This is in line with the identified need for family housing in this area.

The site has been historically used for industrial and housing purposes and is believed to have old underground basements that will need removing and potential land contamination due to the previous use. Desktop and intrusive surveys will be required to confirm the condition of the land and sub-strata an enable further assessment to be made of the remediation, engineering and environmental solutions required to make this land suitable for housing.

This proposed feasibility will determine the possibility of providing SCC housing on this site (in line with the identified need), the relative cost of development, identify constraints and identify potential site abnormalities, following completion of Phase 1 and Phase 2 Geotechnical surveys on the site.

**What are the benefits?**

*Objectives*

- Phase 1 & Phase 2 Geotechnical Survey data
- Massing options and reflective indicative masterplans
- Feasibility cost data for the proposed development to enable viability assessments to take place
- Budget cost estimate of £3,350K to be tested

*Benefits*

- Proposals to provide approximately 20nr SCC rent new build properties
- Proposals to regenerate an area of brownfield HRA land within a priority regeneration area

**When will the project be completed?**

Feasibility completion: May 2021

Project completion: February 2023

**Costs**

CDS Fees £45.8K

Surveys £10.0K

TOTAL £55.8K

**Budget**

20/21 £40.5K

21/22 £15.3K

TOTAL £55.8K

	<b>Funding Source</b> HRA Block Allocation	<b>Amount</b> £55.8K	<b>Status</b> Allocation available in the Stock Increase Programme	<b>Approved</b> Housing Growth PG December20	<b>Procurement</b> i. Feasibility undertaken in-house by the Capital Delivery Service. ii. Surveys by quotation via the Delivery Partner framework.	
Variations and reasons for change						
Page 44	<p><b>Meersbrook Park Road Council Housing Temporary Accommodation</b></p> <p><b>Scheme description</b> Following a review of temporary emergency accommodation for the Homeless in 2017, a proposal to develop a new purpose built facility that will integrate provision for all customer groups with assessment as well as accommodation services has been approved. However it is anticipated that this new facility will not become available until 2024 so interim solutions are therefore required to meet current need in the city and this is to include the purchase of suitable existing properties from the market and the remodelling and refurbishment of sundry properties within existing Housing stock.</p> <p><b>What has changed?</b> Identified as time critical due to the need to increase temporary accommodation as a result of the COVID pandemic and the continued high demand for temporary accommodation, the options appraisal process has been removed to enable a shorter delivery period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 new flats for use as temporary accommodation, reducing emphasis and expense on private facilities currently used for temporary accommodation.</li> <li>• Ability for flats to be converted to General Needs housing once a purpose-built facility is established (estimated 2024) increasing stock</li> <li>• Improve a SCC property which is current is disrepair, reduction in maintenance budget required to keep the property in decent condition</li> <li>• Ability to accommodate an office for SCC employees to provide on-site support, greater support for users and lead to fewer issues</li> </ul> <p><b>Variation type:</b> Budget increase</p> <p><b>Costs</b>                  CDS Fees    £127.3K                  Surveys        £6.5K                  Other Fees    £3.0K                  Construction £670.0K                  Contingency   £33.2K                  Total            £840.0K             </p>					+793

	<p><b>Budget</b>                  Current 20/21 Budget £46.9K - £3.5K = £43.4K                  Current 21/22 Budget £0.0K + £796.6K = £796.6K                  Current Total Budget £46.9K + £793.1K = £840.0K</p>													
	<p><b>Funding</b>      Stock Increase Programme HRA Block Allocation</p>													
	<p><b>Procurement</b>      i. Contractor by mini-competition via the YORbuild2 Framework.</p>													
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 45</p>	<p><b>New Build Council Housing – Derbyshire Lane</b></p> <p><b>Scheme description</b>                  A decision to increase the Council’s Stock Increase Programme (SIP) target to 3,100 was taken in October 2019. This expanded programme consists of new build homes on existing HRA land, the acquisition of properties (existing or new build), and an assumption that land in private ownership would need to be acquired to help deliver a balanced programme. Land acquisition and the subsequent development of Council homes on these ‘newly acquired sites will enable much needed affordable housing to be delivered in areas where there is currently limited suitable land in Council ownership. At the start of 2020 an opportunity was identified to acquire a site on Derbyshire Lane and produce apartments over 4 floors, including parking.</p> <p><b>What has changed?</b>                  Following completion of a feasibility and options appraisal the scheme now has a way forward and a cost plan to provide 13 apartments over 4 floors with a reduced top floor as advised by planners to mitigate the impact on the street scene.</p> <p>The purchase of the land is expected to go through by February 21, and once finalised tendering needs to be able to take place straightaway with a view to having a Contract Award in April21.</p> <p><b>Variation type:</b> Budget Increase</p> <p><b>Cost</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Purchase of Land</td><td>£442.0K</td></tr> <tr><td>CDS Fees</td><td>£237.4K</td></tr> <tr><td>Surveys</td><td>£16.0K</td></tr> <tr><td>Construction</td><td>£1,855.0K</td></tr> <tr><td>Contingency</td><td>£250.0K</td></tr> <tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td><b>£2,800.4K</b></td></tr> </table> <p><b>Budget</b>                  Current 20/21 Budget £500.5K - £14.0K = £486.5K</p>	Purchase of Land	£442.0K	CDS Fees	£237.4K	Surveys	£16.0K	Construction	£1,855.0K	Contingency	£250.0K	<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,800.4K</b>	<p>2,300</p>
Purchase of Land	£442.0K													
CDS Fees	£237.4K													
Surveys	£16.0K													
Construction	£1,855.0K													
Contingency	£250.0K													
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,800.4K</b>													

	<p>Current 21/22 Budget £0.0K + £1,783.9K = £1,783.9K                  Current 22/23 Budget £0.0K + £530.0K = £530.0K                  Total 20-23 Budget £500.5K + £2,299.9K = £2,800.4K</p> <p><b>Funding</b>                  HRA £1,707.3K                  1-4-1 Receipts £840.1K                  S106 £253.0K                  Total £2,800.4K</p> <p><b>Funding</b> Stock Increase Programme HRA Block Allocation</p> <p><b>Procurement</b> Unchanged.</p>	
<p>Page 46</p>	<p><b>HRA Stock Increase Programme Block Allocation</b></p> <p><b>Scheme description</b>                  Block allocation of funding for the Stock Increase Programme.</p> <p><b>What has changed?</b>                  New allocations have been set for the Annual Housing Programme Refresh. Allocations for the 3 schemes progressing through December approvals are include in the HRA Stock Increase Programme Block Allocation Programme Refresh, but these allocations now need drawing down to the individual scheme budgets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) £55.8K Titterton Close GN Feasibility</li> <li>b) £793.1K Meersbrook Park Road TA Outline Business Case</li> <li>c) £2,299.9K Derbyshire Lane Outline Business Case</li> </ul> <p>See separate entries above.</p> <p><b>Variation type:</b> Budget decrease</p> <p><b>Budget</b>                  Programme Refresh Budget 20/21 £128.0K - £40.5K + £3.5K + £14.0K = £105.0K                  Programme Refresh Budget 21/22 £8,088.1K - £15.3K - £796.6K - £1783.9K = £5,492.3K                  Programme Refresh Budget 22/23 £49,858.6K - £0.0K - £0.0K - £530.0K = £49,328.6K</p> <p>Total Programme Refresh Budget £192,307.8K - £55.8K - £793.1K - £2,299.9K = £189,159.0K</p>	<p>-3,149</p>

	<b>Funding</b>	Stock Increase Programme; see individual scheme entries
	<b>Procurement</b>	N/A
<b>F</b>	<b>Housing investment</b>	
	New additions	
	None	
	Variations and reasons for change	
	None	0*
Page 47	<b>People – capital and growth</b>	
	New additions	
	<p><b>Chancet Wood – Specialist Primary Provision</b></p> <p><b>Why do we need the project?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the problem we are trying to address? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is a growing demand for SEN placements within Locality E.</li> <li>○ The ongoing pressure on The Rowan and Mossbrook Specials Schools has created a capacity issue due to lack of space, being oversubscribed and increasing requests for placements.</li> <li>○ Having a localised solution would alleviate the pressure on the system, reduce the number of tribunal cases and provide a local provision for those children who cannot be placed in a special school</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>How are we going to achieve it?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the proposed solution / recommended option? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Create a temporary satellite hub linked to The Rowan and Mossbrook, focusing on ASD support, in the vacant Children's Centre at Chancet Wood for 16 – 20 pupils.</li> <li>○ This will be a temporary solution until a permanent solution is in place.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	+241

Page 48	<p><b>What are the benefits?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reduction in tribunal cases</li> <li>○ Provide localised provision for those children requiring SEND support who cannot be placed in a special school.</li> <li>○ Links will be established with both special schools – this will support with curriculum delivery, staffing, teaching and learning, SEND expertise and knowledge etc</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>When will the project be completed:</b> 31/08/2021</p>								
	<b>Funding Source</b>	DfE Special Provision Capital: SEND	<b>Amount</b>	£241k	<b>Status</b>		<b>Approved</b>		
	<b>Procurement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Design undertaken in-house by the Capital Delivery Service.</li> <li>ii. Capital works by closed competitive tender procedure via Constructionline, inviting a short-list of locally based SMEs to tender.</li> <li>iii. Supply of furniture by competitive quotes.</li> </ul>							
<p><b>Mossbrook Specialist School - Additional 50 Places - Feasibility</b></p> <p><b>Why do we need the project?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the problem we are trying to address?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is a growing demand for SEN placements within Locality E. The ongoing pressure on The Rowan and Mossbrook Special Schools has created a capacity issue due to lack of space, being oversubscribed and increasing requests for placements.</li> <li>○ Having a localised solution would alleviate the pressure on the system, reduce the number of tribunal cases and provide local provision</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Why do we need to address it now?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Place are urgently required for SEND pupils. One of the most viable options from a site and educational perspective is the expansion of Mossbrook Primary.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What are the implications of not doing it now?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Children not able to access placements.</li> <li>○ Potential of LA not meeting legal requirements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>								+50	



Page 49	<p><b>How are we going to achieve it?</b></p> <p>Either expansion or full rebuild of Mossbrook site – this feasibility to determine solution</p> <p><b>What are the benefits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fill gaps in spaces in Locality E</li> <li>○ Improved SEND provision</li> </ul> <p><b>When will the project be completed?</b></p> <p>[tbc upon outcome of feasibility]</p>						
	<b>Funding Source</b>	DfE Special Provision Capital: SEND	<b>Amount</b>	£50k	<b>Status</b>		<b>Approved</b>
	<b>Procurement</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Feasibility undertaken in-house by the Capital Delivery Service.</li> <li>ii. Surveys by competitive quotes.</li> </ul>				
Variations and reasons for change (please specify all that apply budget increase / budget reduction / reprofiling / scope change / procurement)							
<p><b>Combined Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) Project across 4 sites: Budget increase moving from Outline Business Case to Final Business Case</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rivelin Primary FRA</li> <li>● Royd NI FRA</li> <li>● Mundella Primary FRA</li> <li>● Angram Bank Primary FRA</li> </ul> <p><b>Scheme description</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In response to duties under The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) order 2005 a programme of Fire Risk Assessments (FRAs) is undertaken across the SCC estate. The resulting FRAs generate a report which identifies management and building construction requirements.</li> <li>● In order for SCC to meet statutory obligations as landlord the following activities are required: Review FRA reports to identify appropriate actions; Record management actions to be implemented by T&amp;FM &amp; Identify required building works to ensure compliance with fire safety regulations</li> </ul> <p><b>What has changed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The objective is for completion of works at the top four priority sites for FRA within the school estate (Rivelin Primary, Royd NI, Mundella Primary, and Angram Bank Primary Schools) in 2021. However, completion of all tendered works could be in the region of £1.78m construction costs for 4 sites. The Outline Business Case for an approved budget of £1.2m was originally for 3 sites due to the funding available at the time, however following additional funding allocations its is now possible to deliver all four sites in 2021.</li> </ul>							+891

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The additional £891k funding will enable all 4 sites to be delivered for a total cost of £2.1m.</li> </ul> <p><b>Variation type: -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget increase: of £891k over all four sites, with the bulk of it at Angram Bank due to the reasons given above, as follows:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rivelin Pmy : from £508.6k to £639.7k: increase of £131.1k</li> <li>Royd NI : from £280.6k to £428.6k: increase of £148.0k</li> <li>Mundella Pmy : from £405.0k to £442.1k: increase of £ 37.1k</li> <li>Angram Bank : from £ 8.2k to £582.9k: increase of £574.7k</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="185 504 336 568"><b>Funding</b></td> <td data-bbox="336 504 1980 568">DfE Schools Condition Allocation</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Funding</b>	DfE Schools Condition Allocation	
<b>Funding</b>	DfE Schools Condition Allocation			
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="185 568 604 632"><b>Procurement</b></td> <td data-bbox="604 568 1980 632">i. Varied to procurement by rotation via the YORbuild2 framework.</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Procurement</b>	i. Varied to procurement by rotation via the YORbuild2 framework.	
<b>Procurement</b>	i. Varied to procurement by rotation via the YORbuild2 framework.			
Page 50	<p><b>Gibson House</b></p> <p><b>Scheme description</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility study to look at increasing residential placements in the City. The LA has a Corporate Parenting responsibility to provide suitable local accommodation for looked after children and care leavers and is looking to create a 6-Bed residential placement home for Learning Difficulty and Disability (LDD) residents.</li> </ul> <p><b>What has changed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change of Funding Source: £18.3k Special Provision Capital released for alternative use, as project now funded from Capital Receipts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Variation type: -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding reallocation only</li> </ul>	0		
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="185 1206 336 1302"><b>Funding</b></td> <td data-bbox="336 1206 1980 1302">Now to be funded from the Corporate Investment Fund</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Funding</b>	Now to be funded from the Corporate Investment Fund	
<b>Funding</b>	Now to be funded from the Corporate Investment Fund			
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="185 1302 604 1469"><b>Procurement</b></td> <td data-bbox="604 1302 1980 1469">Unchanged.</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Procurement</b>	Unchanged.	
<b>Procurement</b>	Unchanged.			
	<p><b>Heritage Park – Holgate Meadows SEND</b></p> <p><b>Scheme description</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A number of proposed Heritage and Holgate places have been lost at tribunal, in favour of Independent Specialist Provision (ISP), due to lack of calm and sensory spaces in the school</li> <li>This is an opportunity through undertaking works to prevent avoidable ISP placements. Areas on the school sites have been identified for the calm and sensory spaces, funding would be used to renovate these areas at Heritage Park &amp; Holgate Meadows Schools.</li> </ul>	0		

	<p><b>What has changed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change of Funding Source: £85.0k Special Provision Capital released for alternative use, as now to be funded from S106.</li> </ul> <p><b>Variation type: -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding reallocation only.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Funding</b>   Now to be funded from the Section 106 Fund</p>	
	<p><b>Procurement</b>   Unchanged.</p>	
<p>Page 51</p>	<p><b>Heritage- Holgate Complex Learners</b></p> <p><b>Scheme description</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility study to provide a suitable space for 4 complex learners, identified as to be placed at Heritage and Holgate schools.</li> <li>There are 4 complex learners who have been identified for Heritage and Holgate, however they require a separate space from the main site. Caretaker's House on Heritage Park site to be considered.</li> </ul> <p><b>What has changed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change of Funding Source: £16.3k Special Provision Capital released for alternative use, as now to be funded from S106.</li> </ul> <p><b>Variation type: -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding reallocation only</li> </ul>	<p>0</p>
	<p><b>Funding</b>   Now to be funded from the Section 106 Fund</p>	
	<p><b>Procurement</b>   Unchanged.</p>	
	<p><b>Heritage – Holgate Accommodation Review</b></p> <p><b>Scheme description</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feasibility study to look at a relocation of the primary cohorts from both sites across mainstream primary sites would also release space at both Heritage &amp; Holgate to accommodate additional learners.</li> <li>Review Heritage and Holgate sites for capacity and identify options for site expansion and/or changes to site configuration in order to increase capacity. Anticipate output including surveys, designs and options appraisal for expansion.</li> </ul> <p><b>What has changed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change of Funding Source: £5.7k Special Provision Capital released for alternative use, as now to be funded from S106.</li> </ul>	<p>0</p>

	<p><b>Variation type: -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding reallocation only</li> </ul>		
	<b>Funding</b>	Now to be funded from the Section 106 Fund	
	<b>Procurement</b>	Unchanged.	
Page 52	<p><b>Watercliffe Meadows Community Primary School</b></p> <p><b>Scheme description</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refurbishment – Meadows Family Centre nursery area.</li> <li>To increase the availability of Funded Early Learning (FEL) and Extended Free Entitlement (EFE) places in Sheffield.</li> <li>The project was due to start on 11 May 2020 and complete on 28 August 2020. The new provision will create new nursery places for 40 Funded Early Learning children during term-time, and 40 wrap-around and holiday care places.</li> </ul> <p><b>What has changed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Variation type: -</b> Slippage of £161k from 2020-21 into 2021-22: due to Covid - SCC suspended awarding contracts and the project was unable to proceed to tender. Project paused until tender process reconvened in June.</li> </ul>		<p>20/21: -161</p> <p>21/22: +161</p>
	<b>Funding</b>	DfE School Nurseries Capital funding	
	<b>Procurement</b>	Unchanged.	
	<p><b>Pipworth Primary Structural Works – Slippage</b></p> <p><b>Scheme description</b></p> <p>Following identification of structural issues at the Dining Hall a project has been approved to replace the existing kitchen/dining facilities with a new modular/pod type structure on the current car park of the school site. The existing kitchen/dining facilities will then be demolished to enable the reinstatement of the car par</p> <p><b>What has changed?</b></p> <p>Construction start/completion dates moved back due to a retendering exercise and Covid-19 sourcing delays. As the expected start on site is now in March 21 with an expected completion date in August 21.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Variation type:</b> Slippage: £683.3k to slip into 21/22, as noted above.</li> </ul>		<p>20/21: -683.3</p> <p>21/22:+683.3</p>

	<b>Funding</b>	DfE Schools Condition Allocation	
	<b>Procurement</b>	Unchanged.	
<b>H</b>	<b>Essential compliance and maintenance</b>		
	New additions		
Page 53	<b>Ecclesfield Depot. – post feasibility works</b>		+216.4
	<p><b>Why do we need the project?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the problem we are trying to address?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The welfare facilities at Concord Park depot are in a very poor condition and do not meet current standards. Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, employers have a legal duty, so far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure the health, safety and welfare at work of all their employees. This includes the provision and maintenance of a working environment for their employees that is, so far as is reasonably practicable, safe, without risks to health, and adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for their welfare at work. Hence, an alternative provision is required.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Why do we need to address it now?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As part of Parks Depot strategy, it has been decided to close the Concord Park depot and part of Clay Wheels Lane depot and move the staff to the Ecclesfield depot. Ecclesfield depot is currently leased to Amey who operate the Streets Ahead Highways Maintenance and Management service across Sheffield. In order to make the most efficient use of the corporate estate it is intended that both Parks Services and Amey will share the facilities on the site however, some areas may be restricted to Parks staff.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>How are we going to achieve it?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shared facilities at Ecclesfield Depot will include carpark, kitchen/canteen, drying room, locker room. Park services will also have their own office with dedicated IT services connected to the Council’s network and an external area for the siting of Parks storage containers.</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the benefits?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objectives:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ecclesfield Depot Kitchen welfare facilities to be redeveloped</li> <li>○ Supply storage for Parks equipment and a new fuel store</li> <li>○ Office to be fitted out for Parks staff including reconnection to SCC I.T. network</li> <li>○ Welfare improvements:</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

Page 54	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kitchen/Canteen: Refurbishment of room to allow storage and preparation of food - including new kitchen units, white goods and redecoration including new floor.</li> <li>▪ Locker Room: Replacement of lockers</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Welfare, Office and storage facilities that are safe, secure and fit for purpose</li> <li>○ More efficient use of the corporate estate by co-locating with Amey staff</li> <li>○ Proposed ongoing maintenance revenue savings of around £30k per annum.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>When will the project be completed?</b> 15/08/2021</p>						
	<b>Funding Source</b>	Revenue contribution to capital from Minor Works	<b>Amount</b>	IBC: £81k OBC <u>+£216.4k</u> Total £224.5k	<b>Status</b>		<b>Approved</b>
	<b>Procurement</b>	i. Capital works by closed competitive tender procedure via Constructionline, inviting a short-list Sheffield City Region based contractors to tender  ii. Surveys by competitive quotes.					
Variations and reasons for change							
<p><b>Asbestos Removal – Council-wide contract – <u>*(Procurement Strategy Only)</u></b></p> <p><b>Why do we need the project?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The council commission a large number of maintenance and refurbishment projects across the SCC estate. Such projects, in older buildings, have a risk of asbestos and under The Control of Asbestos Regulations (CAR) 2012 Act and responsibility for management of asbestos is placed on SCC as duty holder. It is therefore necessary to commission a Refurbishment &amp; Demolition (R&amp;D) survey prior to the commencement of any construction work. If asbestos is identified, it is necessary to manage or remove it.</li> <li>• The current contract for the removal and disposal of asbestos comes ends on 31st March 2021. The incumbent contractor will be invited to bid for the new term contract.</li> </ul>							0*

Page 55	<p>Clients to provide budgets to the first year of the contract include Essential Compliance and Maintenance Services and Housing Services. The estimated value of works that may be put through the contract is £570k p.a. of which approximately 50% may be categorised as revenue expenditure.</p> <p><b>How are we going to achieve it?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Procure a regional contractor to carry out Asbestos Removal works via a 6 year Measured Term Contract (MTC) to increase attractiveness and maximise competition.</li> </ul> <p><b>What are the benefits?</b></p> <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cost efficiencies as using Measured term contract removes the need to carry out multiple tenders.</li> <li>○ One corporate contract used by clients across the Council.</li> <li>○ Developing a long term commercial relationship with specialist SME.</li> </ul>							
	<b>Funding Source</b>	Various – to be determined as individual projects come through for approval	<b>Amount</b>	Up to £570k p.a.	<b>Status</b>		<b>Approved</b>	
	<b>Procurement</b>	i. Removals contractor by competition via the EN Framework.						

Page 56	<b>Bolehill Pavillion Reinstatement</b> <b>Scheme description</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bolehills recreation ground had an adequate pavilion which was demolished following an arson attack</li> <li>The loss of the pavilion has had a major effect on the community, in particular the bowls club who have lost their well-used, fit for purpose accommodation.</li> <li>A project was previously approved with a budget of £234k to replace the facility</li> </ul> <b>What has changed?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Due to all returned tenders being over budget, a revised procurement exercise based on a simplified design is now proposed in order to achieve the client's required outcomes and benefits.</li> <li>The proposed solution is to proceed to install a new modular unit on the site of the former bowls club house. This is a value engineered proposition compared with original proposals, for which returned tenders were over budget. The revised approach utilises a more basic container like structure.</li> </ul> <b>Variation type: -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget increase: required to deliver the project, using a simplified design, following initial costs indicated as being even higher for the original design. Total cost of scheme now £320k</li> </ul>		+86
	<b>Funding</b>	Extra £86k from Sport England Grant (£50k) and Parks Revenue Reserves contingency funding (£36k)	
	<b>Procurement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Design undertaken in-house by the Capital Delivery Service.</li> <li>ii. Capital works by closed competitive tender procedure via Constructionline, inviting specialist contractors to tender.</li> </ul>	
<b>I</b>	<b>Heart of the City II</b>		
	New additions		
	<b>None</b>		
	Variations and reasons for change		
	<b>Various Heart of The City II Schemes Slippage / Reprofiles</b>  Following an extremely challenging year for project delivery largely due to the impact of COVID 19, a number of Heart of The City schemes have submitted requests for reprofile / slippage of budgets to reflect the revised delivery timescales reflected in their recovery plans and rescheduling of		20/21 -18,754 21/22 +1,551 22/23 +14,483



	investment as part of the changing economic environment. Details of these schemes and values are detailed in the Slippage / Reprofile summary document. <b>See Appendix 2</b>	23/24 +2,720
--	---	--------------

This page is intentionally left blank

# Slippage / Reprofile Summary

## Transport

Business Unit	Scheme Name	Current 20/21 Budget	Slippage or Reprofile	Funding Source	Slippage / Reprofile Amount	Increase to 21/22	Increase to 22/23	Increase to 23/24	Explanation
90703	Blackburn Valley Cycle Route	57,426	slippage	Local Transport Plan	- 53,080	53,080			There has been delays in the construction of the track due to Covid 19
92888	Midland Station Congestion	21,438	slippage	Local Transport Plan	- 21,428	21,428			As a result of Covid; the programme resources were re-deployed to the emergency travel schemes
93079	Clean Air Zone Back Office	122,675	slippage	Clean Air Zone	- 25,000	25,000			Clean Air Zone (CAZ) requirements being remodelled due to Covid, all CAZ projects delayed as a result.
93081	Clean Air Zone Signage	388,529	slippage	Clean Air Zone Department for Transport	- 308,931	308,931			Clean Air Zone (CAZ) requirements being remodelled due to Covid, all CAZ projects delayed as a result.
93082	Clean Air Zone ANPR	2,961,463	slippage	Clean Air Zone Department for Transport	- 2,790,113	2,790,113			Clean Air Zone (CAZ) requirements being remodelled due to Covid, all CAZ projects delayed as a result.
93121	Clean Bus Technology	3,193,712	slippage	Clean Bus Technology - Department for Transport	- 807,431	807,431			The impact of Covid has led to delays in retrofitting programme. A programme extension until the end of May 21 has been agreed with the funding provider
93132	Kelham Neepsend Parking	585,349	slippage	Revenue Contribution to Capital	- 585,349	585,349			Lead engineer for the project retired and general resources shortage due to them being reallocated to Emergency Active Travel fund project
93134	Effingham St Parking Scheme	18,000	slippage	Revenue Contribution to Capital	- 18,000	18,000			Lead engineer for the project retired and general resources shortage due to them being reallocated to Emergency Active Travel fund project
93168	Wortley Crossing	60,098	slippage / reprofile	Local Transport Plan	- 59,549	59,549			To align the budget with the current contract award
93372	ITS Network Management	197,436	slippage	Local Transport Plan	- 182,348	182,348			Amey have experienced resource and supply chain issues due to Covid and have been unable to source the required materials.
94090	City Centre Safety	1,452,581	Slippage	Capital Receipts	- 814,750	814,750			Programme behind due to Covid delays
					- 5,665,979	5,665,979			

## Heart of The City II

Business		Current 20/21 Budget	Slippage or Reprofile	Funding Source	Slippage / Reprofile Amount	21-22	22-23	Increase to 23/24 onwards	Explanation
Unit	Scheme Name								
94050	Sheffield Retail Qtr 2	1,078,270	Slippage	Prudential Borrowing	- 336,579	336,578			The budget included a contingent amount related to acquisitions which is unlikely to be required this year and therefore slipped in 2021/22
94054	SRQ Offices	2,881,391	Slippage	Prudential Borrowing	- 1,267,581	1,267,581			Covid 19 has impacted on letting of the remaining units, therefore the capital contribution and final fit out provisions have been slipped into 21/22
94057	A Palatine Chambers	2,813,442	Slippage	Prudential Borrowing	- 625,801		625,801		Extended tender process has resulted in a delay to the start of the construction stage
"	" " "		re-profile	Prudential Borrowing		- 2,459,456	1,686,290	773,166	" " " "
94058	B laycock Hse New Build	11,305,273	Slippage	Prudential Borrowing	- 2,105,483	2,105,483			The construction costs have been re-profiled to reflect the latest delayed programme
94060	C Pepper Pot Building	9,357,772	Slippage	Prudential Borrowing	- 221,959	221,959			The construction costs have been re-profiled to reflect the latest delayed programme
94063	G Wellington St CP	2,981,264	Slippage	Prudential Borrowing	- 2,554,216	2,226,531	327,685		Revised plan for development of the site. Budget profile now represents the current programme of work.
94065	H Henrys Block	15,160,738	Slippage	Prudential Borrowing	- 10,284,049		10,284,049		For slippage & re-profile following contract award [Nov CPG]
"	" " "		re-profile	Prudential Borrowing		- 3,505,481	1,558,993	1,946,488	" " " "
94066	H1 Leahs Yard	2,331,081	Slippage	Prudential Borrowing	- 594,201	594,200			Revised profile of stabilisation costs to reflect actual timing of payments
94067	HOC Infra	1,035,018	Slippage	Prudential Borrowing	- 763,993	763,994			The budget allowance for site wide infrastructure work has been moved into 2020-21
					- 18,753,861	1,551,388	14,482,818	2,719,654	

## Housing Capital Programme 2020 – 2026

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the end of November 2020 the value of the Housing Capital Programme for the period 2020-2024 was £516.1m

The purpose of this report is to specify and seek approval for revisions to the existing 2020-25 programme and the inclusion of 2025/26 forward programme.

The changes to the current year and forward programme to March 2026 represent an increase of **£69.7m**.

#### Current Programme 2020-25

- Additions: +£48.5m
- Savings: -£19.2m
- Slippage into 25/26: £-11.1m
- Allocations re-profiled into 25/26: £-16.5m

Therefore total changes to the existing programme are: **£1.7m**

#### Additional Year 2025-26

- The addition of the 25/26 programme: **£68.1m**

This includes £16.5m of expenditure has been reprofiled across all financial years up to 2025/26 from earlier in the programme, which relate to indicative allocations and represent the current anticipated profile of expenditure against key themes.

The additional year figures also include £11.1m of slippage on schemes in delivery.

The table below summarises these changes.

**TABLE 1 – Changes to Approved Budget**

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	TOTAL (Forward Programme 20-26)
<b>Baseline Housing Budget At October 2020</b>	73.0	130.1	132.6	83.8	96.5	0.0	<b>516.1</b>
<b>Net Slippage / Accelerated Spend of existing programme</b>	(15.3)	12.9	1.6	0.7	(11.1)	11.1	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Savings to existing programme</b>	(6.9)	(6.8)	(3.1)	(1.2)	(1.2)	0.0	<b>(19.2)</b>
<b>Re-profiling to programme</b>	(11.8)	(45.0)	(3.1)	52.4	(9.0)	16.5	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Additions to Programme</b>	1.2	1.2	1.8	21.5	22.8	40.5	<b>88.9</b>
<b>Revised Programme Budget</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>129.8</b>	<b>157.2</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>585.8</b>
<b>Retained / HRA Spilt</b>							
<b>SCC Retained Element</b>	4.1	1.5	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.5	<b>7.7</b>
<b>HRA Element</b>	36.0	91.0	129.1	156.7	97.6	67.6	<b>578.1</b>
<b>CHECK TOTAL</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>129.8</b>	<b>157.2</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>585.8</b>

The full details of all changes in expenditure (as summarised above) on a year by year /individual project basis are shown in Annex 1 however, key changes are identified below.

## MAJOR CHANGES TO THE EXISTING PROGRAMME

The major elements of the **£1.7m** additions to the current programme are:

- General Stock Increase Programme: £46.0m
- Health & Safety Essential Work: £-9.5m
- Regeneration: £-6.5m
- Adaptations & Access: £-0.3m
- Garages & Outhouses: £0.0m
- Enveloping & External Work: £-10.7m
- Waste Management & Estate Environmentals: £-8.3m
- Heating, Energy Efficiency & Carbon Reductions: £-6.4m
- Communal Areas Investment: £0.0m
- Other Essential Work: £-1.2m
- Internal Works: £-2.6m
- IT Upgrade: £2.2m
- Non HRA: £-1.0m

### Key elements of the **£68.1m** increases 2025/26 programme:

The addition of the 2025/26 programme represents mostly indicative annual allocations to various existing work streams within the housing programme as indicated in the final page of Annex 1.

As part of this a further £23.0m is being allocated to the Stock Increase Programme to ensure the council's commitment to increasing the supply of council housing stock in the city can continue.

## Slippage

Amendments to project budgets due to delays in delivery would normally require individual approval through the Capital Approval Process.

However this year all schemes have slipped due to the Covid19 situation, which has caused issues such as: delays getting on site, postponement of works, and restrictions on entering homes.

It has therefore been agreed that slippage can be incorporated into this review of the overall programme.

## Additions

With the exception of the section below additions to the programme relate to indicative allocations only and Business Cases will be drawn up and passed through the Capital Approval Process before actual expenditure is incurred.

### Exceptions

A review of the General Acquisitions budget has highlighted 2 issues:

1. The figures used to calculate the average purchase price don't include legal fees
2. Sales agreed recently but not completed show a clear increase in market values as a result of the current market conditions.

With the new Acquisitions Strategy focussing on strategically located properties and larger properties which will cost more to purchase, the average purchase price has been increased to take account of these elements therefore increasing the budget.

As the Repairs budget is closely linked and the cost of repairs has increased, this budget has also been amended.

Acquisitions & Repairs	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	TOTAL (Forward Programme 20-26)
97551 Acquisitions Current Budget	3.7	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	0.0	31.9
97444 Repairs Current Budget	0.5	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	5.3
<b>TOTAL Current Budget</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>37.2</b>
97551 Revised Budget	3.7	8.2	8.4	8.7	8.9	9.2	47.2
97444 Revised Budget	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	8.6
<b>TOTAL Revised Budget</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>55.7</b>
<b>TOTAL CHANGE</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>18.5</b>

## FUNDING OF THE HOUSING PROGRAMME

The proposed Housing Programme is funded from a variety of sources including the Major Repairs Reserve, Capital Receipts, Prudential Borrowing, various Government Grants and Other Contributions. While the exact amounts of each funding source used in each year will vary dependent on actual expenditure, the current funding assumptions are detailed in Table 2 and Table 3 below.

**TABLE 2 – Funding Summary of Retained Element of Housing Programme**

<b>Funding</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>TOTAL (Forward Programme 20-26)</b>
<b>SCC Retained Element</b>							
Other Grants & Contributions e.g. Homes and Loans	(1.1)	(1.1)	(0.4)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)	<b>(3.1)</b>
Capital Receipts	(3.0)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)	<b>(4.7)</b>
Government Grants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>0.0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(4.1)</b>	<b>(1.5)</b>	<b>(0.7)</b>	<b>(0.5)</b>	<b>(0.5)</b>	<b>(0.5)</b>	<b>(7.7)</b>

**TABLE 3 - Funding Summary of HRA Programme**

<b>Funding</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>TOTAL (Forward Programme 20-26)</b>
<b>HRA Element</b>							
Other Grants & Contributions e.g. HE Grants, Leaseholder Payments, & S106	(4.2)	(4.4)	(12.0)	(18.6)	(7.6)	(0.5)	<b>(47.3)</b>
Capital Receipts	(5.0)	(10.4)	(7.8)	(9.4)	(7.7)	(5.5)	<b>(45.9)</b>
Major Repairs Reserve	(13.0)	(40.7)	(55.6)	(56.7)	(53.6)	(44.6)	<b>(264.1)</b>
Government Grants	(0.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>(0.2)</b>
Borrowing	(13.6)	(35.5)	(53.8)	(72.0)	(28.7)	(16.9)	<b>(220.6)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(36.0)</b>	<b>(91.0)</b>	<b>(129.1)</b>	<b>(156.7)</b>	<b>(97.6)</b>	<b>(67.6)</b>	<b>(578.1)</b>















	Scheme name / summary description of key terms	Recipient	Value £'000
<b>A</b>	<b>Economic growth</b>		
	<p><b>Little Kelham Bridge</b></p> <p><b>Financial Implications</b></p> <p>Section 106 agreements withing the City Centre Living Spaces are to be used to fund the payment of this grant to CITU as contribution to the delivery of the Little Kelham Bridge Scheme.</p> <p><b>Legal Implications</b></p> <p>The Council is able to award the grant to CITU (Kelham Island) LLP by virtue of Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. This provides Local Authorities with a “general power of competence” and allows them to “do anything that individuals generally may do”.</p> <p>The grant is being paid to CITU using s106 funds, the Council must be satisfied that the s106 funds are available and can be used for this purpose.</p> <p>Should the recommendations be approved to provide the grant to CITU for the Little Kelham Bridge Project, a grant agreement would be put in place between the Council and CITU to set out the terms and conditions on which the grant is made. The grant agreement is drafted in readiness and covers that the grant must be used by CITU for the purposes intended, the project. The project is also detailed in the grant agreement. There is the ability for the Council to withhold, suspend or require repayment of the grant for a number of reasons including if ‘the delivery of the Project does not start within 6 months of the Commencement Date or the Project is not completed during the agreed programme or any agreed programme extensions and the Recipient has failed to provide the Funder with a reasonable explanation for the delay’.</p> <p>There are also additional requirements on CITU to:</p>	CITU (Kelham Island) LLP (CITU)	212.5

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘provide for the following in perpetuity through the relevant management company under the terms of the residential and commercial lease documentation for its Little Kelham development:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the long-term maintenance of the paths and the pedestrian bridge;</li> <li>○ maintenance with a reputable insurance office of adequate insurance for the maintenance and use of the paths and the pedestrian bridge including public liability and any insurance required by law’.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• ‘procure third party warranties from the contractor and designer for the benefit of the Funder’.</li> </ul> <p>CITU must also ensure that the bridge is open public within one month of completion and that it must remain open to the public as a pedestrian thoroughfare at all times.</p> <p>The grant will be paid in two instalments, in accordance with the payment schedule in the grant agreement, subject to the necessary funds being available when payment falls due and the Council being satisfied that the payment will be used for the delivery of the project.</p> <p>The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and State Aid rules must be complied with.</p>		
<b>B</b>	<b>Transport</b>		
	None		
<b>C</b>	<b>Quality of life</b>		
	None		
<b>D</b>	<b>Green and open spaces</b>		
	None		



<b>E</b>	<b>Housing growth</b>		
	None		
<b>F</b>	<b>Housing investment</b>		
	None		
<b>G</b>	<b>People – capital and growth</b>		
	None		
<b>H</b>	<b>Essential compliance and maintenance</b>		
	None		
<b>I</b>	<b>Heart of the City II</b>		
	None		

This page is intentionally left blank



**Author/Lead Officer of Report:** Janet Sharpe,  
Director of Housing

**Tel:** 0114 2930240

**Report of:** *Executive Director, Place*

**Report to:** *Cabinet*

**Date of Decision:** *20 January 2021*

**Subject:** *Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and HRA Budget 2021/22*

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:-	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
- Affects 2 or more Wards		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? <i>Neighbourhoods and Community Safety</i>				
Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to? <i>Safer and Stronger Communities</i>				
Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? 808				
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Purpose of Report:**

The report provides the 2021/22 update of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan. It 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
- Review housing offices and community buildings to ensure these are being fully utilised by tenants and residents

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Cabinet recommends to the meeting of the City Council on 3 February 2021 that:

1. The HRA Business Plan report for 2021/22 as set out in the appendix to this report is approved
2. The HRA Revenue Budget 2021/22 as set out in the appendix to this report is approved
3. Rents for council dwellings are increased by 1.5% from April 2021 in line with the Regulator of Social Housing's Rent Standard
4. Rents for temporary accommodation remain unchanged for 2021/22
5. Garage rents for garage plots and garage sites are increased by 1.5% from April 2021
6. 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
7. The sheltered housing charge remains unchanged for 2021/22
8. The burglar alarm charge remains unchanged for 2021/22
9. The furnished accommodation charge remains unchanged for 2021/22

**Background Papers:**

Appendix – Sheffield City Council Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2021-2022

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: Karen Jones
		Legal: Andrea Simpson
		Equalities: Louise Nunn
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>		
2	<b>EMT member who approved submission:</b>	<i>Laraine Manley</i>
3	<b>Cabinet Member consulted:</b>	<i>Cllr Paul Wood</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> <i>Janet Sharpe</i>	<b>Job Title:</b> <i>Director of Housing</i>
	<b>Date: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>	

## **1. PROPOSAL**

### **1.1 Summary**

- 1.1.1 This report provides the 2021/22 update of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and a 2021/22 revenue budget for the HRA.
- 1.1.2 A separate report on the Capital Programme, which includes the Council Housing Investment Programme 2021/22, will be considered by Cabinet in February 2021. This will include details of the Council's funded capital investment plan for council housing which complements the service and financial plans for the HRA in this report.

### **1.2 Background**

- 1.2.1 The HRA is the financial account of the Council as landlord. It is ring-fenced in law for income and expenditure in respect of council housing and housing land and certain activities in connection with the provision of council housing only. Other council services are funded through council tax and central government support which benefits all citizens of Sheffield regardless of tenure.
- 1.2.2 The HRA Business Plan sets out how all aspects of council housing will be funded from income (predominately rents) that the local authority is able to generate in its capacity as landlord.
- 1.2.3 The HRA operates within a national political context; therefore, any changes within national housing policy can have a significant impact on the HRA Business Plan.
- 1.2.4 Each year the HRA Business Plan is reviewed and updated to set budgets and charges for the year ahead and to provide an updated 5-year plan and 30-year affordability profile.
- 1.2.5 The review of the HRA Business Plan is a dynamic process which reflects the Council's ambitions to be an excellent landlord. This is not just something that we undertake once a year.
- 1.2.6 The recommendations in this report are based on the best information available at the time of writing – December 2020. In a period of significant political and economic change, it is possible that some of these assumptions may need to be revisited before the next annual update of the business plan. We will monitor any developments directly impacting proposals within this report. If significant changes affect service delivery or the viability of the business plan, then a further report will be brought back to Cabinet.

## 1.3 Summary of Key Changes

### 1.3.1 • Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has caused global social and economic disruption, affecting people's lives worldwide. Since March 2020, the ongoing impacts and response to the pandemic in the UK has included a number of measures such as national lockdowns and varying restrictions in an effort to curb the spread of the disease. As a local authority, we have had to change, adapt and work differently in order to ensure we have been able to provide our statutory and key council services to our customers and service users, at times only being able to respond to emergency or urgent cases.

### • Welfare Reform

Welfare Reform has represented the biggest change to the benefits system in a generation. Supporting our tenants through these changes, and the transition to Universal Credit, continues to be a key priority. The roll out of Universal Credit commenced in Sheffield in November 2018 for new benefit claimants. Migration of existing claimants in Sheffield is ongoing and expected to continue until 2024.

The number of Universal Credit claims made by our tenants increased substantially in the first 3 months of the COVID-19 outbreak, mirrored with an increase in failed and cancelled direct debits. Some tenants had no experience or knowledge of the complex welfare benefits system or knew the help and support available. Reduced resources and more complex contacts as a result of the outbreak has meant prioritising cases with an ever-increasing demand for support and advice for our tenants. Under the emergency provisions in the Coronavirus Act 2020 all legal proceedings for possession, up to and including eviction, were suspended between March and September 2020. Although this suspension has now ended, notice periods before new proceedings can be issued have been significantly increased and there is a moratorium on evictions until at least 21<sup>st</sup> February (with the government keeping this date under review) except in really serious cases: antisocial behaviour, illegal occupation, fraud, domestic abuse or substantial arrears. This has led to an increase in arrears (some, but not all, due to the Covid-related financial pressures on tenants) and further pressures on the service.

Arrears have increased due to the current outbreak and total arrears are expected to increase significantly by the end of the financial year and beyond. We have increased our Hardship Fund and along with the continued hard work of staff within the service, arrears would have been higher. The Council generally and the Housing and Neighbourhoods Service specifically for the purposes of this report have provided support to households who because of COVID-19, have found themselves in financial difficulty and this support has helped to avoid the risk of losing their home.

We have also continued to support and help tenants to manage their money and understand their commitment to paying rent. We have continued to promote Direct Debit as a preferred payment method for all tenants and for those claiming Universal Credit it increases the likelihood of receiving full and prompt payment when monthly rent is due.

- **Fire and Building Safety**

Since the tragic events of the Grenfell fire in 2017, a number of measures have been announced by the Government to improve fire and building safety, especially for high-rise tower blocks and buildings of multiple occupancy. The independent review of building regulations and fire safety (The Hackitt Report) was published in 2018 and set out over 50 recommendations for the delivery of a robust regulatory system. The Government carried out a consultation, “Building a Safer Future”, on its proposals in response to these recommendations in June/July 2019, which we responded to.

Since the consultation, further steps to reform the Building Safety system to ensure residents are safe in their homes were announced by Government in April 2020. Measures include mandatory sprinkler systems and consistent wayfinding signage in all high-rise blocks of flats over 11 metres tall. Government also announced its intentions to create a new national Building Safety Regulator.

The Fire Safety Bill 2019-2021 which will amend the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 is currently progressing through Parliament. It will provide greater clarity over responsibility for fire safety in multi-occupied residential buildings. It will mean as a local authority, for all council owned flat and maisonette blocks we must manage and reduce the risk of fire for the structure and external walls of the building, including claddings, balconies and windows; and for entrance doors to individual flats that open into common parts.

All of these developments demonstrate significant change for the housing sector and will require major levels of both physical and engagement investment. The wider ranging regulatory changes, including a legislative requirement for residents to be part of and scrutinise the safety of their homes at every stage, means it will be important take proactive measures to ensure this happens. It is a priority for us to ensure our tenants are safe in their homes.

During 2020 we have been involved in a national best practice pilot to look at ways we can best provide fire safety information and how this can best be retained by our tenants and residents living in high rise tower blocks.

We will continue to take a pro-active approach to ensure we continue to comply with any further legislative requirements and that we continue to be a role model of good standards for the city and other social landlords to the way we manage and maintain our council housing homes.



- **The Charter for Social Housing Residents (White Paper)**

The Social Housing White Paper – The Charter for Social Housing Residents was published on 17 November 2020 and builds upon proposals set out in the 2018 Social Housing Green Paper – A New Deal for Council Housing.

The White Paper sets out reforms that will speed up the complaints procedure for residents by improving access to the Housing Ombudsman, reducing decision times and ensuring effective resolution. It will also make landlords more accountable for the services they deliver, including the introduction of a set of tenant satisfaction measures that landlords will have to report against. The White Paper introduces a new charter for social housing residents which sets out what every social housing resident should be able to expect:

1. **To be safe in your home**, *working with industry and landlords to ensure every home is safe and secure*
2. **To know how your landlord is performing**, *including on repairs, complaints and safety, and how it spends its money, so tenants can hold it to account*
3. **To have your complaints dealt with promptly and fairly**, *with access to a strong ombudsman who will give tenants swift and fair redress when needed*
4. **To be treated with respect**, *backed by a strong consumer regulator and improved consumer standards for tenants*
5. **To have your voice heard by your landlord**, *for example through regular meetings, scrutiny panels or being on its board. The government will provide access to help tenants to learn new skills if needed, to ensure landlords listen*
6. **To have a good quality home and neighbourhood to live**, *with landlords keeping homes in good repair*
7. **To be supported to take your first step to ownership**, *so it is a ladder to other opportunities, should your circumstances allow*

The White Paper proposes measures that will require greater transparency and scrutiny of both HRA finances and performance. The Regulator of Social Housing will ultimately set these standards and will undertake proactive inspection visits to ensure that we are meeting these standards. However, we are already working with our tenant representatives to develop local performance monitoring in advance of announcements from the Regulator and will continue to adapt as we

know more.

The proposals set out in the White Paper will need further legislation to bring them into force. There is currently no timescale for this but as legislation is developed, we will be able to look at all the proposals in further detail. We hope that the proposals will help us to improve standards and help how our tenants and residents are able to engage with us.

- **Brexit**

The UK left the European Union on 31 January 2020 and moved into an 11-month transition period. The transition period meant that the UK continued to follow EU rules, whilst negotiations continued around agreeing a trade deal. Impacts as a result may include increase costs of construction materials imported from the EU, a shortage of skilled workers within the construction industry and increased inflation and interest rates - all which will have an impact on the HRA Business Plan. We will continue to monitor the impacts of Brexit and leaving the EU throughout 2021/22.

- 1.3.2 The HRA Business Plan will need to factor in further, the impacts and cost implications of all the areas covered in the above sections.

#### **1.4 Local Impacts of National Changes**

- 1.4.1 The HRA Business Plan has had to face a number of financial pressures over the last few years which have had a significant impact on the plan, such as reforms within our welfare system and changes in social rent policy. In 2020, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is something we have had to face with little knowledge or insight. The short-term effects of the virus have already had a devastating impact both economically and socially, both at a national and local level.

- 1.4.2 The Council declared a climate change emergency in 2019 and since this time has been working towards Sheffield becoming a zero-carbon city by the end of the next decade. A dedicated piece of analysis work has already been produced by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Research, recommending the city must not exceed a budget of 16 million tonnes of carbon emissions over the next 2 decades. This highlights a need for rapid decarbonisation across the city and the Council is working with partners to develop a zero-carbon plan to look at ways to reach its carbon zero targets. Housing can have an impact in addressing the climate change emergency and the Council's ambition to become zero carbon by 2030. This will require changes in the way that we manage our existing council housing stock, cost and policy implications and our plans for investing in new council homes.

- 1.4.3 Our commitment to investing in fire safety is an area that will need to be protected but at the same time we are also facing extra pressure to

respond to climate change and contributing to reducing the city's carbon emissions. The costs of upgrading our housing stock in response to climate change is likely to be expensive. There will be options around the levels and extent we are able to invest but it may mean we won't be able to invest in other areas as a result.

- 1.4.4 We are continuing to lose homes because of Right to Buy, therefore it is essential that we continue to increase the number and types of homes we can provide. This is to not only help mitigate Right to Buy loss but to ensure we have the right types of homes to help meet the increasing demand.
- 1.4.5 It also remains important for us to invest in our existing homes to ensure they are safe and comfortable for our tenants. As our main source of income to the HRA is from rents, it is important that we have good quality and appealing homes that our tenants want to live in. We understand that our tenants want to live in attractive and safe neighbourhoods and so upgrading the outside areas such as footpaths and outside lighting remains a key investment priority.
- 1.4.6 Supporting the local economy including providing improved employment and skills outcomes remains a key priority for the Council. We currently have 80 apprentices within the Housing and Neighbourhoods Service and recruit around 20 new apprentices a year, with many becoming permanent members of staff. Our plan is to increase the number of apprentices per year going forward as we seek this as a key part of our succession planning for the service. We also offer a number of graduate roles available each year within the service. In addition to this, our Repairs and Maintenance Service benefits greatly from apprentices. We recruited an additional 45 apprentices in 2020, taking the total of apprentices in the Repairs Service to 100.
- 1.4.7 As part of our tendering and procurement processes we look at how this work can incorporate local employment and apprenticeship opportunities. We will continue to strengthen our relationships with existing and future contractors and subcontractors to ensure we are able to continue to contribute to supporting the local jobs economy.
- 1.4.8 The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had a major impact on the way we have been able to deliver our key services to our tenants. Initially we were only able to deliver our key statutory duties and services whilst we adapted the way we worked to consider the ever-changing environment. This has posed some real challenges to the service; however, we have adapted our ways of working to ensure we have been able to support our tenants the best way we can. We have continued to support any tenant financially struggling by engaging with them and setting up support and payment plans. The level of rent arrears impacts significantly on the business plan as we predominantly rely on this income to provide our council housing services. Increasing our Hardship Fund, encouraging Direct Debits and providing financial advice and support are ways we will continue to help our tenants and mitigate the

impacts on the business plan.

- 1.4.9 We have continued to support tenants throughout the pandemic by actively engaging with them, through phone calls, essential tenancy visits and other means, to ensure they are supported, especially our more vulnerable tenants. Our Housing and Neighbourhood teams have been working closely with the Community Response Team, with some housing staff temporarily re-deployed to ensure tenants are not isolated and have been able to receive any support they have needed. We are also continuing to provide support services for our 1,200 Older People's Independent Living (OPIL) tenants. Measures have been put in place to help protect our older tenants within our OPIL schemes. Warden staff have been reassuring tenants, providing ongoing support and on-site activities to help address any concerns from tenants feeling isolated or lonely and to help ensure they are safe during this time. We have retained front line essential services throughout the outbreak and have ensured our estates, particularly flats and maisonette blocks have had increased cleaning and maintenance provision.
- 1.4.10 Impacts to the construction industry has meant there were some delays to our stock increase programme and our capital investment programme because of the initial outbreak. Our new build sites as part of our stock increase programme have continued to operate throughout the pandemic but at a reduced pace. We have been able to resume our investment works following the lifting of national restrictions and are continuing to deliver planned works as part of the overall programme.
- 1.4.11 Our repairs service has been impacted as we were only able to complete emergency repairs and gas safety servicing during the initial outbreak and again for the second national lockdown. This has led to a backlog in repairs that the service needs to complete, and we are continuing to work through this, whilst managing tenant expectations.
- 1.4.12 The HRA Business Plan will be continually reviewed to address these pressures and ensure the business plan can be financially viable and sustainable for future years.

## **1.5 HRA Business Plan Priorities 2021/22**

- 1.5.1 The key priorities for the HRA Business Plan 2021/22 are 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
  - Review housing offices and community buildings to ensure these are being fully utilised by tenants and residents
- 1.5.2 The key priorities for the HRA Business Plan 2021/22 will continue to feed into the wider Council and Housing and Neighbourhoods vision.
- 1.5.3 Further details of the key themes can be found within the priorities chapter within the HRA Business Plan 2021/22 appendix report.

## **1.6 Investment Programme**

- 1.6.1 The aim of the investment programme is to effectively use capital and planned expenditure on our housing stock to improve tenant’s homes, encourage sustainability and to reduce future revenue repair costs.
- 1.6.2 The 5-year investment programme will continue to prioritise work that keeps people safe and it will deliver improvements to people’s homes (kitchens, bathrooms, windows, doors, roofs, communal areas etc.) to make sure they continue to be well maintained.
- 1.6.3 The Government White Paper - The Charter for Social Housing Residents, published in November 2020, proposes a review of the Decent Homes Standard, which is referenced in the Social Housing Regulator’s Home Standard, to consider whether this needs to be updated to ensure it is delivering what is needed for safety and decency now. The first part of the review is expected to be completed by Autumn 2021. We will continue to monitor developments in relation to the review and await the results of any outcomes as a result.
- 1.6.4 We welcome the opportunity to work with Government on new standards and need to make sure that the HRA Investment Programme is balanced between the old stock and replacement of this and the new homes. This will be vitally important as we prepare for the new regulatory arrangements set out in the Social Housing White Paper. In preparation for this and to ensure that we are continually providing the best possible services for our tenants, we have actively sought best practice and benchmarking, working closely with the Social Housing Regulator.
- 1.6.5 We are committed to achieving and working to higher standards which holds us in good stead in preparing for any new regulatory arrangements

proposed in the Social Housing White Paper. We have already achieved ISO 450001 certification for occupational health and safety and ISO 14001 certification for environmental standards, demonstrating that we are committed to improving our standards and want to build on this further.

- 1.6.6 The COVID-19 outbreak resulted in some delays to the planned programme during 2020/21. This has meant some of our planned works will take place later than originally planned and fall into 2021/22 and into later years of the programme. Further planning will be required to see how this will impact on other areas of the 5-year capital programme and we will continue to monitor this during 2021/22.
- 1.6.7 Our commitment to increasing the number of new / replacement council homes remains a high priority. Our plans are to deliver 3,100 new homes by 2028/29. At the time of writing this report, we have delivered 631 new homes (a mixture of homes purchased on the open market and new homes built or acquired off plan).
- 1.6.8 Last year we stated that as part of our stock increase plans, we will include a greater range of homes to help meet the significant shortfall of some types of homes that the Council has available for letting. Our first new Independent Living Housing scheme (Older Persons Independent Living with Care) is currently under construction in Parson Cross and is due for completion in Spring 2022. We are also developing plans for new Older Persons Independent Living Schemes in the South and South East of the city which will improve the choice and type of homes available for older people within the city. Our new learning disabilities accommodation has been completed and will be ready for occupation in early 2021.
- 1.6.9 We will continue to explore a range of different delivery options to maximise the number of new council homes we are able to provide. Options include building on the Council's housing land (held for the purposes of Part II of the Housing Act 1985 and accounted for in the HRA), acquiring homes for sale, purchasing "off plan" from private sector developers and acquiring land for the purpose of building new Council homes.
- 1.6.10 Our ambition through the life of this business plan is to increase the number of new council homes we can provide, extending our stock increase programme commitment beyond the end of the existing programme of 3,100 homes. We are exploring the different ways in which we can deliver these homes, balancing prudential borrowing with grant maximisation. As we expand on our current programme and plans are further developed, we will bring any proposals back through Cabinet.
- 1.6.11 In 2020 we have looked further into developing a small programme of Shared Ownership homes as an affordable housing option in Sheffield. It is intended that these homes will be delivered as part of the HRA Stock Increase Programme. The Government has announced a new shared ownership model to be used from April 2021 and has recently consulted

on its implementation. Following the outcome of the consultation Homes England will issue new guidance. A report setting out how the Sheffield City Council shared ownership properties will be managed will be produced for consideration by Cabinet in within the next few months, when this detail is clearer.

- 1.6.12 The Repairs Service have completed a major review of the service and developed a new target operating model with clear priorities for change and improvements. Change has started and will be continuous over the next 18 months with the overall aim of achieving a sustainable operating model that delivers excellent value for money services to the tenants and residents of Sheffield City Council.
- 1.6.13 Areas of improvement within the service have included a restructure to the service to help reduce operating costs; a more focused approach to planned and cyclical maintenance; improving customer focus and collaboration with key stakeholders; modernising the service delivery through investment in ICT; improvements to performance management, reporting and productivity, improving financial management and procurement and supply chain management.
- 1.6.14 The Government has set out its plans for achieving zero-carbon emissions and within the housing sector this will be a massive challenge. It is estimated that across the whole of the housing sector it will take over a billion pounds to bring all existing stock of all tenures to a zero-carbon position by 2030. This will be one of the biggest challenges facing the Council and Sheffield has set an ambition to become a zero-carbon city by 2030. This will require changes in the way that we manage our existing housing stock, cost and policy implications and our plans for investing in new council homes.
- 1.6.15 Most of our council housing stock does perform highly, with around 31,000 of the council's housing stock having already reached the Government's target of having an EPC C rating. Over the next 10 years we aim to raise the EPC ratings on remaining properties within our stock. We recognise more needs to be done to reach a zero-carbon position, however this will involve a substantial investment to be identified and using a range of new technologies and materials. The Government has launched a range of grant programmes to assist with making homes greener and we will continue to explore funding options that we may be eligible for to assist us with our ambitions.
- 1.6.16 We have yet to fully integrate these costs into our 30-year plan. We will continue to explore options around retro fitting our existing stock, ensuring that our on-going investment programme fully considers the challenge ahead. As part of our council housing stock increase programme we are already delivering new build homes with enhanced performance specifications such as increased thermal efficiency and increased air tightness. We are also exploring further options for our future new build homes to achieve low-carbon emitting, no-gas homes.

- 1.6.17 Finally, we intend to review our costs and office portfolio over the next 12 months to ensure that it still meets our needs and delivers value for our tenants and our business. A corporate review of community buildings is taking place to help ensure best use of these facilities and explore other community provisions within local areas. Housing community buildings (accounted for within the HRA) will be included in this review.
- 1.6.18 Further detail on the investment programme is available in the HRA Business Plan 2021/22 appendix report.

## **1.7 Financial Plan**

- 1.7.1 The financial plan is based on a number of key assumptions to help us mitigate risks or changes that may occur in the coming year. All assumptions are reviewed and refreshed each year to reflect the changing economic environment in which the business plan operates.
- 1.7.2 Borrowing must comply with the provisions of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003, made under the Local Government Act 2003, which require the Council to have regard to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (Prudential Code) when determining how much money it can afford to borrow. The objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure within a clear framework that the capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable and that decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice

## **1.8 Financial Assumptions**

- 1.8.1 Rents for council dwellings are to be increased by 1.5% from April 2021 in line with the Regulator of Social Housing's Rent Standard. This is equivalent to an average increase of £1.13 per week. Rents for temporary accommodation will remain unchanged in 2021/22. Appendix C to the HRA Business Plan 2021-2022 report sets out the average rents per house size in Sheffield.
- 1.8.2 The rent increase for 2021/22 is a lower increase than originally assumed in the HRA Business Plan. This is due to lower inflation rates in 2020 mainly due to the impacts of COVID-19 on the economy. Service plans and spending has had to be adjusted as a result meaning less revenue for capital spending than what was originally assumed.
- 1.8.3 Arrears have increased significantly due to the current outbreak and total arrears are expected to increase by £2-4 million by the end of the financial year. Arrears will continue into further years because of the COVID-19 outbreak and it will take some time for this to reduce. An additional £450k has been allocated to our Hardship Fund to help support households in financial difficulty and ensure they are able to remain in their home. This is alongside other support mechanisms in



place such as providing money management and budgeting advice. We recognise that many of our tenants will be in financial hardship as result of the COVID-19 outbreak and we will continue to support tenants throughout 2021/22 and beyond.

- 1.8.4 The process of making all council housing rents equitable over time by letting vacant properties at the target rent level will continue. Currently the average rent is £0.72 less than 'target' compared with a difference of £0.73 last year.
- 1.8.5 Garage rents for garage plots and garage sites will be increased by 1.5% from April 2021 in line with dwelling rent increases.
- 1.8.6 The burglar alarm charge from April 2021 will remain unchanged for 2021/22.
- 1.8.7 The sheltered housing service charge will remain unchanged for 2021/22.
- 1.8.8 The furnished accommodation charge will remain unchanged for 2021/22.
- 1.8.9 Although charges for burglar alarms, sheltered housing and furnished accommodation will remain unchanged for 2021/22, we will continue to monitor and review these during the year. This may mean in future years these will need to be increased.

## 1.9 **Community Heating Charges**

- 1.9.1 The community heating standing charge is to increase by £0.60 per week from April 2021. The unit kWh price will remain unchanged for 2021/22.
- 1.9.2 The increase to the standing charge is required in 2021/22 to ensure the community heating account is balanced and to minimise future spikes in charges to customers. This will allow the retention of a sufficient level of reserve should there be future increases in the price of gas. Initial work has indicated that investment will be required in our boiler houses – many which are old and obsolete. The challenge of reaching zero carbon emissions means that alternatives to gas may be recommended which may change the energy profile and costs for community heating.
- 1.9.2 The Council's heat metering scheme which began in 2014 has proven to be very successful. Since the introduction of smart meters, our customers are now saving around 40% on their heating bills compared to their previous unmetered supply. The system also provides us with comprehensive data about how each home is using their heating and gives us the ability to support and advise tenants who might be worrying about switching on their heating. This is enabling us to support individuals more and intervene earlier where required.

1.9.3 In addition to the financial savings our customers are making, there are significant environmental benefits being realised because of heat metering, in the form of lower carbon emissions which will help Sheffield meet its zero carbon ambitions.

1.9.5 A full breakdown of all community heating service charges is set out in Appendix C to the HRA Business Plan 2021/22.

## **1.10 HRA Budget 2021/22**

1.10.1 Appendix A to the HRA Business Plan 2021/22 sets out the recommended budget for 2021/22.

## **1.11 Forecast Outturn 2020/21**

1.11.1 Revenue budget monitoring reports have been presented during the year to Cabinet. The latest position is shown at appendix A to the HRA Business Plan 2021/22.

1.11.2 Further monitoring reports updating the 2020/21 position will be presented in accordance with the Council's budget monitoring timetables.

## **2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?**

2.1 The proposals in this report are aimed at maximising financial resources to deliver outcomes to council tenants in the context of a self-financing funding regime, developments in national policy, the current economic climate and reductions in government funding. They will contribute towards the Corporate Plan priorities of Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities, Tackling Inequalities and being an In-touch Organisation.

2.2 The HRA Business Plan 2021/22 will continue to contribute to the delivery of wider housing strategies and policies such as the Housing Strategy 2013-2023, the New Homes Delivery Plan 2018-2023, the Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2017-22 and the Older People's Independent Living Housing Strategy 2017-22.

2.3 The Council must ensure that as a self-financing entity council housing in Sheffield has a sustainable future. The purpose of the HRA Business Plan report for 2021/22 is to ensure the cost of council housing - including investment in homes, services to tenants, the servicing of debt and overheads - can continue to be met by the income raised in the HRA.

2.4 The foundation of the HRA Business Plan is ensuring council homes are occupied because letting homes generates the rental income which funds all aspects of council housing.

## **3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?**

- 3.1 Consultation on business plan activities takes place throughout the year as part of our formal tenant governance activities. This helps us to understand what tenants think about the delivery of current services, but also to identify their priorities and shape future service needs.
- 3.2 Tenants have been kept informed of developments in relation to the HRA Business Plan and updates around housing national policy and key service updates because of COVID-19 via a number of communications. This has included the Housing and Neighbourhoods Advisory Panel (HANAP), Housing and Neighbourhoods Partnership Group (HNPG), online meetings and e-bulletins such as Your TARA News, Your Home Your Neighbourhoods and a fortnightly Housing and Neighbourhoods Service news bulletin.
- 3.3 The use of online news bulletins to inform tenants on the latest developments and news has enabled us to easily and quickly get information shared about the latest service updates as well as being able to share positive news stories that has been much needed during this time.
- 3.4 The COVID-19 pandemic has meant we have had to change some of the ways that we communicate and consult with our tenants. We have not been able to host our usual face to face meetings and groups so have had to think differently to ensure we have still been able to provide a way of engaging with our tenants.
- 3.5 Our Housing and Neighbourhoods Partnership Group (HNPG) and Housing and Neighbourhoods Advisory Panel (HANAP) have continued with meetings held digitally via online meeting platforms. Tenant and Residents Associations (TARAs) have been encouraged to use digital methods to keep in touch with their local communities. The Housing and Neighbourhood Service, in collaboration with Heeley Trust, have provided support and training for TARAs who have wanted help to establish an online presence whether this be through setting up a Facebook Page or hosting an online meeting.
- 3.6 A special HANAP meeting is taking place in January 2021 to consider the proposals within this Cabinet report. This report will also be discussed with tenant representatives at the Housing and Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on 14 January 2021. Any relevant comments and views expressed will be offered verbally to the Cabinet meeting.

#### **4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

##### **4.1 Equality of Opportunity Implications**

- 4.1.1 A full Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed for these Business Plan proposals. Issues raised will be addressed through regular monitoring against actions in the EIA.

4.1.2 Any in year proposed change in policy or service provision will require an individual EIA.

#### 4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

4.2.1 The 2021/22 budget follows the principles set out in the original self-financing HRA Business Plan produced in 2012 and allows for a continuation of services to tenants, revenue repairs to properties and also financial support for the council housing investment programme by means of a contribution from revenue.

4.2.2 Any annual revenue surpluses on the account will continue to support the 30-year Business Plan.

4.2.3 The Council Housing Capital Programme including the stock increase programme will require the HRA to support further borrowing as allowed under the current Government guidelines. The debt strategy for the HRA will continue to be reviewed and developed in accordance with the Council's treasury management policy.

4.2.4 Further details on the Council Housing Capital Programme will be set out in the report to Cabinet on in February 2021.

4.2.5 Appendix A within the HRA Business Plan 2021/22 report details the initial 5-year projections for the HRA income and expenditure account. These are based on current assumptions and will be reviewed during 2021/22 in the light of any known changes.

#### 4.3 Legal Implications

4.3.1 The duty to keep a Housing Revenue Account and prevent a debit balance on it and restrictions as to what may be credited or debited to the account ("the ringfence") are governed by Part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (the 1989 Act). This formerly included provision for annual HRA subsidy paid by central Government to local housing authorities, as determined by the Secretary of State. HRA subsidy was abolished by the Localism Act 2011, which provided for the Secretary of State to make a determination providing for the calculation of a settlement payment to or from each local housing authority. This settlement and its implications for the self-financing HRA continue to inform the HRA Business Plan.

4.3.2 The HRA provisions in the 1989 Act include the duty in January or February each year to formulate proposals relating to HRA income and expenditure. Those proposals are contained in this report.

4.3.3 By section 24 of the Housing Act 1985 (the 1985 Act) the Council has a broad discretion in setting such reasonable rents and other charges as it may determine and must from time to time review rents and make such changes as circumstances may require. Such circumstances will of course include other statutory requirements such as those described in

this report. The duty to review rents and make changes is itself subject to the requirements for notice of a variation set out in Section 103 of the 1985 Act. The notice must specify the variation and the date on which it takes effect which must be at least four weeks after the date of service. To implement the rent variation recommended in this report notice of the variation must be sent to all tenants within the first week of March at the latest.

- 4.3.4 In February 2019 the Government published a policy statement on rents for social housing from 1 April 2020 onwards and, pursuant to powers under section 197 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008, issued the Direction on the Rent Standard 2019. This required the Regulator of Social Housing to set a new rent standard, consistent with the Rent Policy Statement, with effect from 1 April 2020. The Direction applies to the Regulator in relation to the rents of all registered providers of social housing, including local authorities, and revokes and replaces a 2014 Direction which applied only to the rents of private registered providers. The requirement that the Council's rent increases be in accordance with government rent policy is not itself new but with effect from 1 April 2020 this is secured through a regulatory standard.

#### **4.4 Risk Management**

- 4.4.1 The risk management plan is the basis of the Council's risk management strategy for the HRA Business Plan.
- 4.4.2 The key risks to the HRA Business Plan have been identified and are listed in the risk section of the appendix report. The business plan is based on our best assumptions; however key risks such as the transition to Universal Credit, interest rates and inflation could have significant impacts to the business plan.
- 4.4.3 Given these risks, it is proposed that a mid-year review of the business plan is carried out and brought back to Cabinet only if significant changes affect service delivery or viability.
- 4.4.4 Following an assessment of the current risks to the HRA in the coming 5 years it is proposed for 2021/22 for a reserve level of £5.6m. Due to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak, it is proposed that the reserve level is monitored throughout the year with the flexibility to change this within the year if required.
- 4.4.5 The main viability test for the business plan is its capacity to repay debt over the life of the plan. Having this capacity provides cover for any changes in interest rates.
- 4.4.6 The long-term viability of the plan is dependent on the delivery of additional savings that will be required in the coming years.

#### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 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.

**6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 To optimise the number of good quality affordable council homes in the city;

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

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

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



# Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2021-22





## CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT	5
3. LOCAL POLICY CONTEXT	9
4. HRA BUSINESS PLAN PRIORITIES	14
5. INVESTMENT PROGRAMME	18
6. FINANCIAL PLAN	23
7. RISKS	27
8. APPENDICES	30



# Introduction

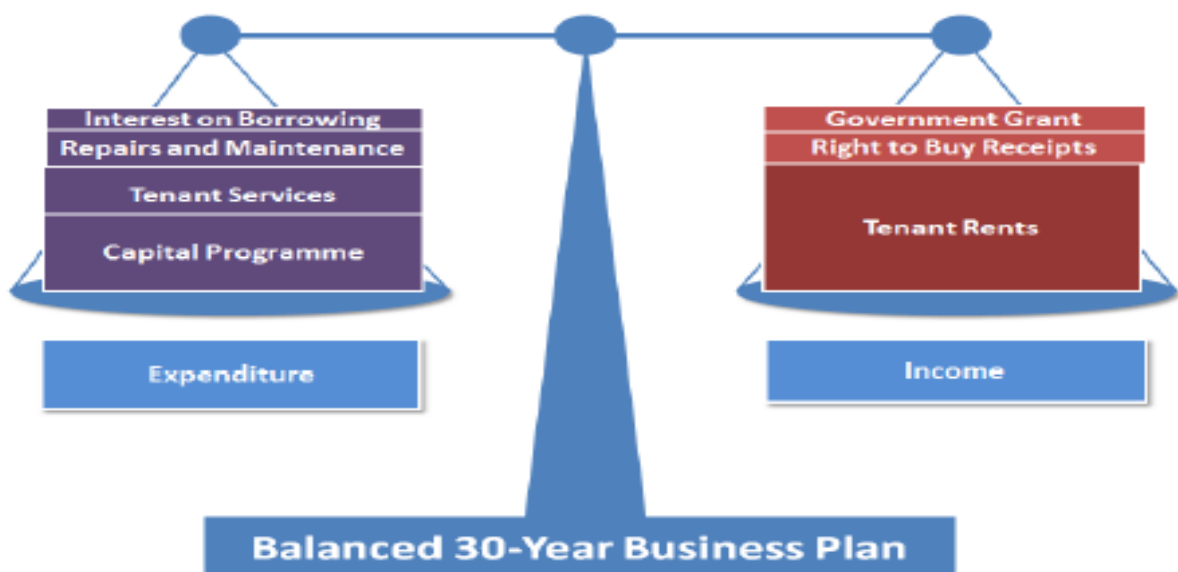
The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is the financial account used to manage our landlord activities. It is ring-fenced in law and can only be used for providing services to council housing tenants through the collection of rent and charges. Other council services are funded through council tax and central government support which benefit all citizens of Sheffield regardless of tenure.

## The Business Plan

The HRA Business Plan sets out our income and expenditure plans for delivering council housing services in Sheffield. It sets out our key council housing priorities for the coming years, showing how we intend to develop our services to tenants.

Each year the HRA Business Plan is reviewed and updated to set budgets and charges for the year ahead. It also provides an updated 5-year plan for our capital investment programme.

These plans are set within the context of a 30-year affordability profile - our long-term planning horizon for balancing the HRA. HRA income predominately comes from tenant rents, with other income received from Right to Buy receipts and government grant. HRA expenditure includes the capital investment programme, tenant services, repairs and maintenance and paying off interest on our borrowing.



Over the last few years, the HRA Business Plan has had to face a number of financial challenges which have had a significant impact on the plan. For 2021/22, the

HRA Business Plan will not only continue to be impacted on the effects of previous national policy decisions such as the reduction of social housing rents, but from more recent events such as the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This will have a significant impact on the business plan for 2021/22 but also for many years to come. As we work to determine the level of impacts and how this will shape the business plan for future years, it is likely that we will need to reassess some of our future plans. However, our focus will remain on continuing to deliver a council housing service that serves the needs of our tenants.



# National Policy Context

The HRA operates within a political environment therefore any changes in national housing policy can have a significant impact on our HRA Business Plan. Potential national policy impacts are factored into the business plan each year and captured in the plan's risk register. This section considers the key policies and developments that we expect to have an impact on our business plan.

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has caused global social and economic disruption, affecting people's lives worldwide. Since March 2020, the ongoing impacts and response to the pandemic in the UK has included a number of measures such as national lockdowns and varying restrictions in an effort to curb the spread of the disease. As a local authority, we have had to change, adapt and work differently in order to ensure we have been able to provide our statutory and key council services to our customers and service users, at times only being able to respond to emergency or urgent cases.

Further details of how the Housing and Neighbourhood Service have responded to the COVID-19 outbreak and the impacts this has had to delivering the housing service and impacts to the business plan are contained in the next chapters.

## Welfare Reform

Welfare Reform has represented the biggest change to the benefits system in a generation. Supporting our tenants through these changes, and the transition to Universal Credit, continues to be a key priority. The roll out of Universal Credit commenced in Sheffield in November 2018 for new benefit claimants. Migration of existing claimants in Sheffield is ongoing and expected to continue until 2024.

The number of Universal Credit claims made by our tenants increased substantially in the first 3 months of the COVID-19 outbreak, mirrored with an increase in failed and cancelled direct debits. Some tenants had no experience or knowledge of the complex welfare benefits system or knew the help and support available. Reduced resources and more complex contacts as a result of the outbreak has meant prioritising cases with an ever-increasing demand for support and advice for our tenants. Under the emergency provisions in the Coronavirus Act 2020 all legal proceedings for possession, up to and including eviction, were suspended between March and September 2020. Although this suspension has now ended, notice periods before new proceedings can be issued have been significantly increased and there is a moratorium on evictions until at least 21<sup>st</sup> February (with the government keeping this date under review) except in really serious cases: antisocial behaviour, illegal occupation, fraud, domestic abuse or

substantial arrears. This has led to an increase in arrears (some, but not all, due to the Covid-related financial pressures on tenants) and further pressures on the service.

Arrears have increased due to the current outbreak and total arrears are expected to increase significantly by the end of the financial year and beyond. We have increased our Hardship Fund and along with the continued hard work of staff within the service, arrears would have been higher. The Council generally and the Housing and Neighbourhoods Service specifically for the purposes of this Plan have provided support to households who because of COVID-19, have found themselves in financial difficulty and this support has helped to avoid the risk of losing their home.

We have also continued to support and help tenants to manage their money and understand their commitment to paying rent. We have continued to promote Direct Debit as a preferred payment method for all tenants and for those claiming Universal Credit it increases the likelihood of receiving full and prompt payment when monthly rent is due.

## *Fire and Building Safety*

Since the tragic events of the Grenfell fire in 2017, a number of measures have been announced by the Government to improve fire and building safety, especially for high-rise tower blocks and buildings of multiple occupancy. The independent review of building regulations and fire safety (The Hackitt Report) was published in 2018 and set out over 50 recommendations for the delivery of a robust regulatory system. The Government carried out a consultation, "Building a Safer Future", on its proposals in response to these recommendations in June/July 2019, which we responded to.

Since the consultation, further steps to reform the Building Safety system to ensure residents are safe in their homes were announced by Government in April 2020. Measures include mandatory sprinkler systems and consistent wayfinding signage in all high-rise blocks of flats over 11 metres tall. Government also announced its intentions to create a new national Building Safety Regulator.

The Fire Safety Bill 2019-2021 which will amend the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 is currently progressing through Parliament. It will provide greater clarity over responsibility for fire safety in multi-occupied residential buildings. It will mean as a local authority, for all council owned flat and maisonette blocks we must manage and reduce the risk of fire for the structure and external walls of the building, including claddings, balconies and windows; and for entrance doors to individual flats that open into common parts.

All of these developments demonstrate significant change for the housing sector and will require major levels of both physical and engagement investment. The wider ranging regulatory changes, including a legislative requirement for residents to be part of and scrutinise the safety of their homes at every stage, means it will be important take proactive measures to ensure this happens. It is a priority for us to ensure our tenants are safe in their homes.

During 2020 we have been involved in a national best practice pilot to look at ways we can best provide fire safety information and how this can best be retained by our tenants and residents living in high rise tower blocks.

We will continue to take a pro-active approach to ensure we continue to comply with any further legislative requirements and that we continue to be a role model of good standards for the city and other social landlords to the way we manage and maintain our council housing homes.

## *The Social Housing White Paper – The Charter for Social Housing Residents*

The Social Housing White Paper – The Charter for Social Housing Residents was published on 17 November 2020 and builds upon proposals set out in the 2018 Social Housing Green Paper – A New Deal for Council Housing.

The White Paper sets out reforms that will speed up the complaints procedure for residents by improving access to the Housing Ombudsman, reducing decision times and ensuring effective resolution. It will also make landlords more accountable for the services they deliver, including the introduction of a set of tenant satisfaction measures that landlords will have to report against.

The White Paper introduces a new charter for social housing residents which sets out what every social housing resident should be able to expect:

- 1. To be safe in your home**, *working with industry and landlords to ensure every home is safe and secure*
- 2. To know how your landlord is performing**, *including on repairs, complaints and safety, and how it spends its money, so tenants can hold it to account*
- 3. To have your complaints dealt with promptly and fairly**, *with access to a strong ombudsman who will give tenants swift and fair redress when needed*
- 4. To be treated with respect**, *backed by a strong consumer regulator and improved consumer standards for tenants*
- 5. To have your voice heard by your landlord**, *for example through regular meetings, scrutiny panels or being on its board. The government will provide access to help tenants to learn new skills if needed, to ensure landlords listen*
- 6. To have a good quality home and neighbourhood to live**, *with landlords keeping homes in good repair*
- 7. To be supported to take your first step to ownership**, *so it is a ladder to other opportunities, should your circumstances allow*

The White Paper proposes measures that will require greater transparency and scrutiny of both HRA finances and performance. The Regulator of Social Housing will ultimately set these standards and will undertake proactive inspection visits to ensure that we are meeting these standards. However, we are already working with our tenant representatives to develop local performance monitoring in advance of announcements from the Regulator and will continue to adapt as we know more.

The proposals set out in the White Paper will need further legislation to bring them into force. There is currently no timescale for this but as legislation is developed we will be able to look at all the proposals in further detail. We hope that the proposals will help us to improve standards and help how our tenants and residents are able to engage with us.

## *Brexit – Leaving the EU*

The UK left the European Union on 31 January 2020 and moved into an 11-month transition period. The transition period meant that the UK continued to follow EU rules, whilst negotiations continued around agreeing a trade deal. Impacts as a result may include increase costs of construction materials imported from the EU, a shortage of skilled workers within the construction industry and increased inflation and interest rates - all which will have an impact on the HRA Business Plan. We will continue to monitor the impacts of Brexit and leaving the EU throughout 2021/22.



# Local Policy Context

The HRA Business Plan is set within a wider strategic context of the overall ambitions of Sheffield City Council and those of the Housing and Neighbourhood Service.

## *Corporate Ambitions and Wider Council Plans*

Sheffield City Council's Corporate Plan aims to capture the long-term ambitions for Sheffield. The Corporate Plan is currently being reviewed, however the HRA Business Plan will continue to help support the Corporate Plan and feed into the key priorities for the Council such as care leavers and health and wellbeing. As well as the overall Corporate Plan, the HRA Business Plan will also help to support a range of other related strategies such as:

- The Housing Strategy
- Council Housing Stock Increase Programme
- Homelessness Prevention Strategy
- Older People's Independent Living (OPIL) Housing Strategy
- New Homes Delivery Plan

## *Housing and Neighbourhoods Service*

In Sheffield we are passionate about people and the places they live and as a Council we want to do our best to make a positive difference.

As a landlord we want our tenancies to be sustainable and successful and have a positive impact on people's lives. We know that in the current climate this requires us to be creative and flexible. We recognise that our customers have different needs and aspirations and if we are to achieve our ambitions it is important that we can deliver accommodation and services that reflect this.

The HRA Business Plan focuses on the council housing aspects that will feed in and contribute to our wider Housing and Neighbourhoods Service vision. We will continue to work with tenants and leaseholders on amending existing policies or introducing new policies during the year that could improve services. Any proposed changes to the housing policy framework will be the subject of separate executive decisions.

## *Responding to Coronavirus (COVID-19)*

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had a major impact on the way we have been able to deliver our key services to our tenants. Initially we were only able to deliver our key statutory duties and services whilst we adapted the way we worked to consider the ever-changing environment. This has posed some real challenges to the service however, we have adapted our ways of working to ensure we have been able to support our tenants the best way we can.

The impacts of COVID-19 have been felt across the whole of the service. Rent arrears have increased as some tenants have been impacted financially. We have continued to support any tenant financially struggling by engaging with them and setting up support and payment plans. The level of rent arrears impacts significantly on the business plan as we predominantly rely on this income to provide our council housing services. Increasing our Hardship Fund, encouraging Direct Debits and providing financial advice and support are ways we will continue to help our tenants and mitigate the impacts on the business plan.

Many of our face to face services have had to stop. This has included temporarily closing our housing offices to the public. We have continued to support tenants who would rely on face to face contact by actively engaging with them through phone calls and other means, to ensure they are supported, especially our more vulnerable tenants. Our Housing and Neighbourhood teams have been working closely with the Community Response Team, with some housing staff temporarily re-deployed to these teams to ensure tenants are not isolated and have been able to receive any support they have needed. We are also continuing to provide support services for our 1,200 Older People's Independent Living (OPIL) tenants. Measures have been put in place to help protect our older tenants within our OPIL schemes. Warden staff have been reassuring tenants, providing ongoing support and on-site activities to help address any concerns from tenants feeling isolated or lonely and to help ensure they are safe during this time. We have retained front line essential services throughout the outbreak and have ensured our estates, particularly flats and maisonette blocks have had increased cleaning and maintenance provision.

Impacts to the construction industry has meant there were some delays to our stock increase programme and our capital investment programme. Our new build sites as part of our stock increase programme have continued to operate throughout the pandemic but at a reduced pace. We have been able to resume our investment works following the lifting of national restrictions and are continuing to deliver planned works as part of the overall programme. Our repairs service has been impacted as we were only able to complete emergency repairs and gas safety servicing during the initial outbreak and again for the second national lockdown. This has led to a backlog in repairs that the service needs to complete, and we are continuing to work through this, whilst managing tenant expectations.

In these challenging and uncertain times, it's difficult to predict what is going to happen during 2021/22. We will continue to work in a reactive way to any future developments



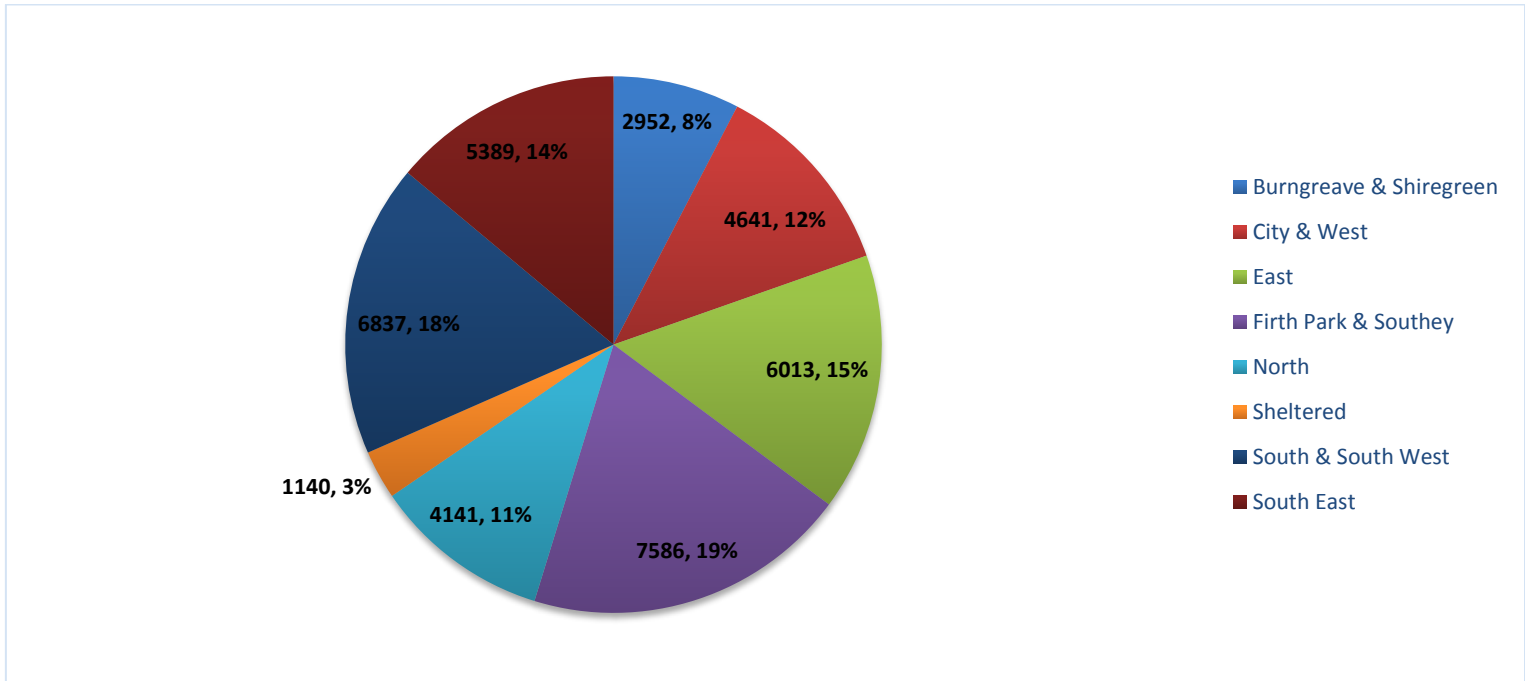
because of COVID-19 to ensure our tenants are supported and that we are still able to provide the services required.

## Our Housing Profile

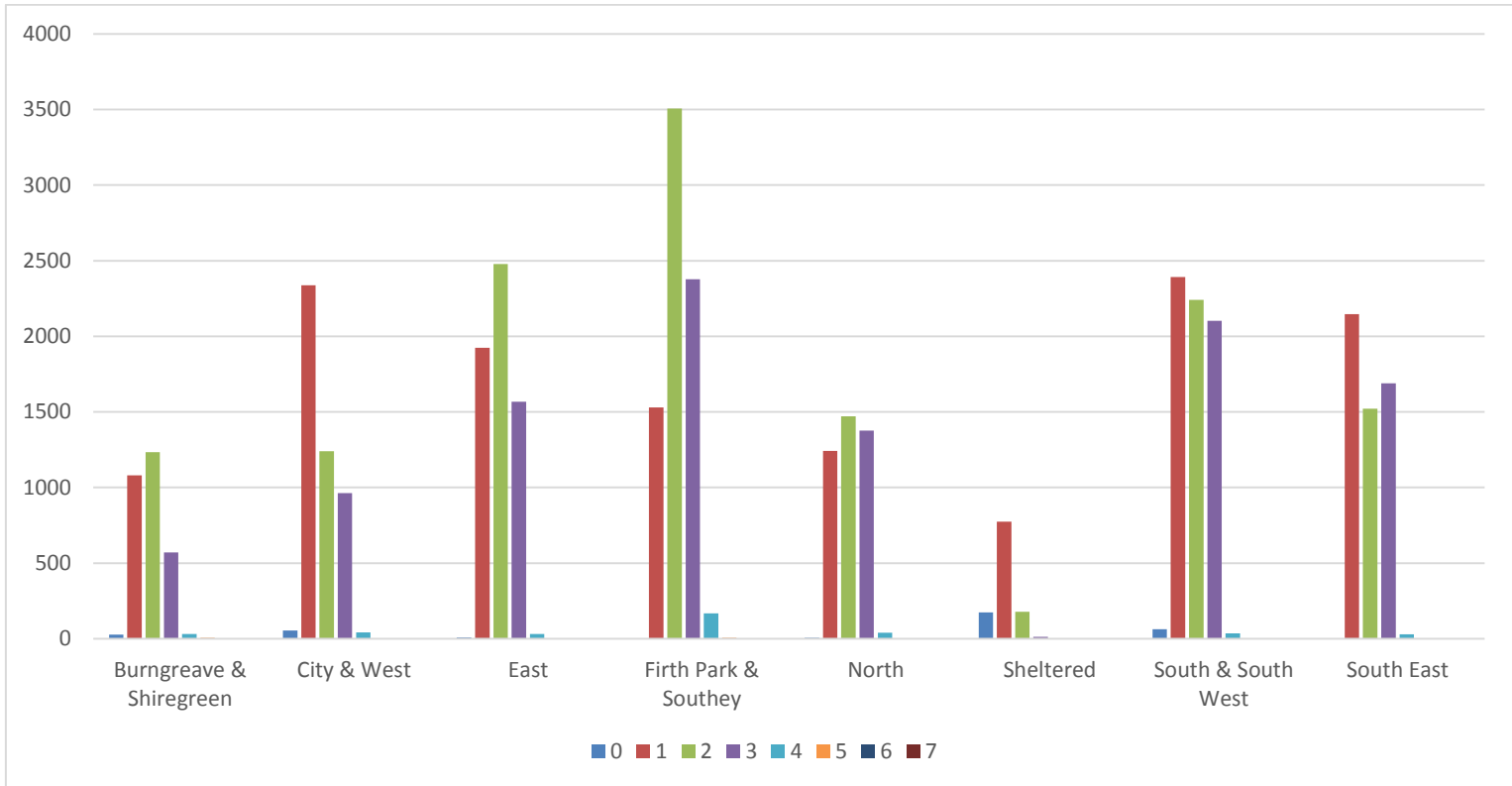


(September 2020)

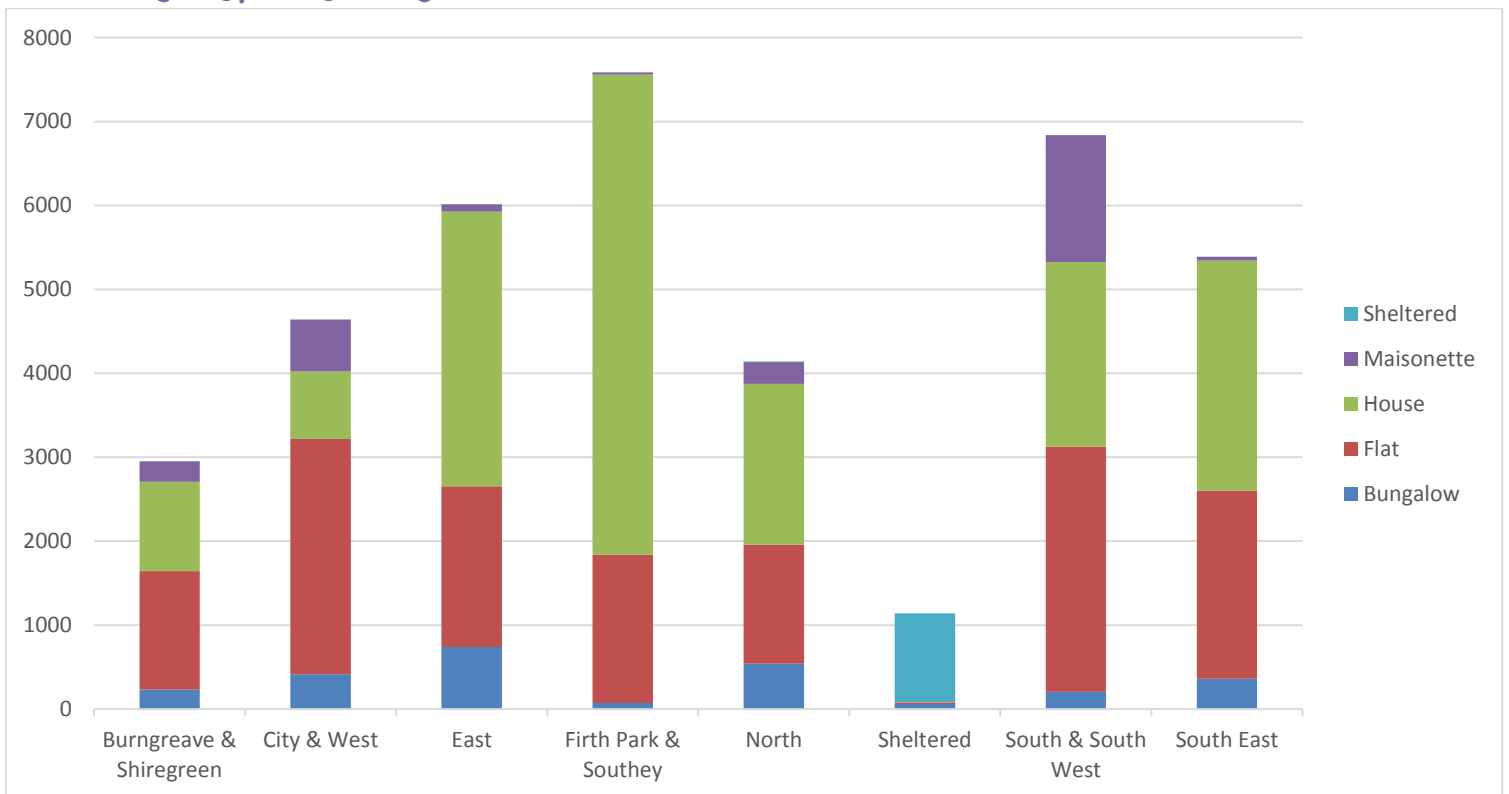
## Council Housing Stock by Neighbourhood Area



## Number of Bedrooms by Neighbourhood Area



## Building Type by Neighbourhood Area



## *Local Employment and Apprenticeships*

Supporting the local economy including providing improved employment and skills outcomes remains a key priority for the Council. The Housing and Neighbourhoods Service helps to contribute to this in a number of ways right across the service. It is more important than ever in these challenging times that we can continue to deliver these opportunities to help sustain employment at a local level.

We currently have 80 apprentices within the Housing and Neighbourhoods Service and recruit around 20 new apprentices a year, with many becoming permanent members of staff. Apprentices work to gaining an NVQ qualification over a 2-year period and this presents as an excellent opportunity to forging a career within our housing service. Our plan is to increase the number of apprentices per year going forward as we seek this as a key part of our succession planning for the service. We also offer opportunities for graduates with a number of graduate roles available each year within the service.

In addition to this, our Repairs and Maintenance Service benefits greatly from apprentices. We recruited an additional 45 apprentices in 2020, taking the total of apprentices in the Repairs Service to 100. This will help the service by having more resources to help bring forward service improvement priorities. As part of our tendering and procurement processes we look at how this work can incorporate local employment and apprenticeship opportunities. We will continue to strengthen our relationships with existing and future contractors and subcontractors to ensure we are able to continue to contribute to supporting the local jobs economy.

The apprenticeship programme supports the Council's corporate priorities for increasing employment opportunities for younger people, which is much needed now more than ever with the recent COVID-19 outbreak and the impacts this has had on employment and the economy. Increasing the apprenticeship programme also supports the Government's Economic Growth Strategy and the Government's pledge to provide 30,000 new traineeships for young people in England.

Retention and the development of our existing workforce is also important. We offer opportunities for all our staff to gain further qualifications and training to enhance their skills and development further. The Council's latest workforce profile for age showed that around 58% of the current workforce are aged 46+. We therefore recognise the importance of recruiting more young people and retaining and developing them to help us fulfil our future workforce needs.

# HRA Business Plan Priorities

The HRA Business Plan 2021/22 will help to contribute to achieving the ambitions of the Housing and Neighbourhoods Service. The following chapter details our key council housing business plan priorities for 2021/22 and how these contribute to the service ambitions.

## Key Headlines 2021/22

Deliver our stock increase programme to build and acquire more council homes



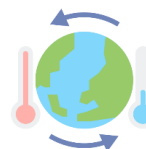
Invest in further health and safety measures including new fire safety improvements



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



Improvements to our estate services



Review of housing offices and community buildings to ensure these are being fully utilised by tenants and residents



## Deliver our stock increase programme to build and acquire more council homes



The HRA Business Plan includes a commitment to increase the number of council homes. Over the years this number has increased, with our current ambitions being to deliver 3,100 council homes by 2028/29. We continue to develop our future plans and look at the types of housing provision that is needed and in what areas. This will help us in our plans to deliver new homes as part of the stock increase programme.

The next chapter will provide further details of our stock increase programme and our ambitious plans.

## Invest in further health and safety measures including new fire safety improvements



Investment in health and safety measures remains a key investment priority and work will continue in 2021/22 to ensure that our council homes, especially our high-rise tower blocks and flat blocks are safe. This work includes addressing the outcomes from Building a Safer Future and the Fire Safety Bill.

We also want to ensure our tenants feel safe and know what to do in the event of a fire in their block.

We will continue to work with Government to ensure we are complying with the latest regulations and investing where additional fire provision is required.

## Deliver improvements to our tenants' homes to make sure they continue to be well maintained



Investing in our existing homes is just as an important priority as investing in new homes. We need to ensure our homes remain safe, modern, and warm and we will continue with our investment plans for this during 2021/22. We will explore opportunities that will help to improve our current homes and help to reduce carbon emissions and look at ways to make our existing homes more energy efficient. We will also continue our work on making environmental improvements such as paths, boundaries and communal spaces.

The next chapter provides a further update on how we are improving our existing homes and estates.

## 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



We recognise the impact that housing can have in addressing the climate change emergency. Sheffield has set an ambition to become a zero-carbon city by 2030. This will require changes in the way that we manage our existing housing stock, cost and policy implications and our plans for investing in new council homes.

Most of our council housing stock does perform highly, with around 31,000 of the council's housing stock having already reached the Government's target of having an EPC C rating. Over the next 10 years we aim to raise the EPC ratings on remaining properties within our stock. We recognise more needs to be done to reach a zero-carbon position and we will continue to explore options around retro fitting our existing stock, integrating this within our capital programme. As part of our council housing stock increase programme we are delivering new build homes with enhanced performance specifications such as increased thermal efficiency and increased air tightness. We are also exploring further options for our future new build homes to achieve low-carbon emitting, no-gas homes.

We will need to determine what the additional costs will be and are yet to fully integrate these costs into our 30-year plan. We will continue to explore options around retro fitting our existing stock, ensuring that our on-going investment programme fully considers the challenge ahead. The Government have launched a range of grant programmes to assist with making homes greener and we will continue to explore funding options that we may be eligible for to assist us with our ambitions.

Our response to climate change can also go further in the way we deliver our council housing services. We are committed to achieving and working to higher standards which holds us in good stead in preparing for any new regulatory arrangements as part of the Government's Social Housing White Paper. We have already achieved ISO 45001 certification for occupational health and safety and ISO 14001 certification for environmental standards, demonstrating that we are committed to improving our standards and want to build on this further.

As part of our Environmental Management System (EMS) we have developed an Environmental Policy with the aim of reducing the environmental impact of services and work we deliver as to demonstrate our commitment to the protection of the environment and continuous improvement to help create sustainable and attractive neighbourhoods. We are also looking at other ways that we can contribute to reducing carbon impact such as exploring new technology that can help us reduce our carbon footprint, minimising energy usage within our office buildings and reviewing the environmental impact of the transport we use.

## Proactively manage our neighbourhoods, supporting existing, new, and prospective council housing tenants



We have been reviewing the way we manage and deliver council housing services, listening to feedback from tenants and comparing ourselves with other providers – both in terms of cost and service. We recognise not all tenants want us to get in touch each year, but it is important that we can support our tenants at all stages of their tenancy when they need that extra help.

In 2021/22 will look at different ways we can do this. We want to give everyone the best possible start possible in their tenancy, so will explore the way we support new tenants to ensure that this is appropriate. We will also look in more detail at those tenants who need intensive support in their tenancies and the best way of providing this.

Part of this journey also includes exploring investment options for our IT systems that helps us to deliver the service more efficiently.

## Improvements to our estate services



Improving how we deliver our estates services is an ongoing and important priority. We want to ensure our clean and green services are efficient, provide value for money and help to ensure our estates are places where people want to live. We will be working in 2021/22 to look at opportunities on how we can do this.

We have started to look at how we can make improvements to our communal areas for our flats and maisonettes blocks. We have already engaged with over 700 tenants and residents through an online survey in 2020. We are using this feedback to shape improvements to our services to meet customers' expectations and aspirations.

## Review of housing offices and community buildings to ensure these are being fully utilised by tenants and residents



We intend to review our costs and office portfolio over the next 12 months to ensure that it still meets our needs and delivers value for our tenants and our business. A corporate review of community buildings is taking place to help ensure best use of these facilities and explore other community provisions within local areas. Housing community buildings will be included in this review.

# Investment Programme

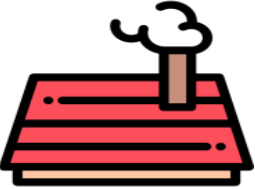
The aim of the investment programme is to maintain the Council's housing stock for the future. Our 5-year investment programme will continue to prioritise and deliver improvements to people's homes (kitchens, bathrooms, windows, doors, roofs, boilers, communal areas etc.) to make sure homes continue to be well maintained.

## 5 Year Investment Programme


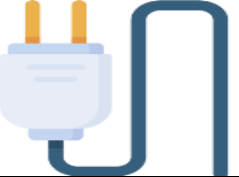

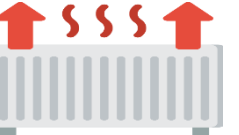
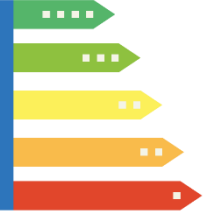

Capital investment in our existing housing stock is our biggest cost within the business plan. Right to Buy is continually reducing our housing stock and we need to invest in providing new homes for rent and for shared ownership. Investing in the physical infrastructure of our stock and making sure our homes remain safe, modern, and warm will remain our main priority for 2021/22.

A key investment priority is to make sure our existing stock continues to be well maintained. Many of the estates need investment which we are prioritising through planned investment programmes and by reviewing our stock information that underpins the 30-year Housing Investment Plan. We are working closely with tenants to prioritise the mainstream capital programme to plan and deliver improvement works that will ensure long-term tenant satisfaction and neighbourhood sustainability.

The COVID-19 outbreak resulted in some delays to our planned investment programme during 2020/21. This has meant some of our planned works will take place later than originally planned and fall into 2021/22 and into later years of the programme. Further planning will be required to see how this will impact on other areas of the 5-year capital programme and we will continue to monitor this during 2021/22.

Investment area	Progress so far and plans for 2021/22
<p><b>Roofs</b></p> 	<p>A new 5-year roofing contract is in the process of being awarded and is proposed to start on site in January 2021. This programme will provide new roof coverings, fascias, and rainwater goods to nearly 6,000 homes. It is also proposed to utilise the savings obtained through the tender process to fund proposals to install Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels on a number of homes in the first year of the contract.</p>
<p><b>Kitchens, Bathrooms, Windows and Doors</b></p>	<p>The current contract to deliver elemental improvements to homes will come to an end in March 2021. It is proposed to procure a new 3-year contract which will improve kitchens and bathrooms including boiler and electrical system upgrades in addition to windows and doors replacement to properties that will fail the decent homes</p>



	<p>standard over the forthcoming 5 year period.</p>
<p><b>Electrical Upgrade</b></p> 	<p>Phase one of the 3-year contract (2018-21) will complete by the end of March 2021 and will have completed works to over 13,000 properties. The procurement plans for a 5-year programme have been submitted and are planned to start in September 2021 to deliver the electrical upgrade works to all remaining properties.</p>
<p><b>Fire Safety and Communal Area Work</b></p> 	<p>Plans are being developed to improve the fire safety, an internal communal refresh and new waste and recycling facilities at the Hanover and Deer Park Tower Blocks with work planned to commence in late 2021.</p>
<p><b>Heating Replacement Programme</b></p> 	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the 2020/21 obsolete heating replacement programme. The 2021/22 programme will aim to recover some of the lower output from this year.</p>
<p><b>Energy Efficiency Work</b></p> 	<p>Phase 1 of the external wall insulation work to non-traditional properties commenced in October 2018 and is now complete. The next 2 phases of the project will tackle structural repairs to a number of non-traditional build homes and provide much needed improved thermal insulation through the application of external wall insulation systems. These projects will also address window and door replacement in properties that have not received this work as part of the decent homes programme. Over 300 properties will benefit from these works. The next phases are in the detailed design stages in preparation for tendering and a start on site in summer 2021.</p>
<p><b>Garage Strategy</b></p> 	<p>Garage improvement work has now been completed. A total of 282 garage blocks, equating to 1,891 individual garages have been improved, including a small number of new garages. A new demolition contract has been awarded and work commenced on site in November 2020. The contract period is 3 years although it is anticipated that the works should be completed within the first 2 years of the contract.</p>

Icons made by Flaticon are licensed by Creative Commons BY 3.0

The Government White Paper - The Charter for Social Housing Residents, published in November 2020, proposes a review of the Decent Homes Standard to consider whether this needs to be updated to ensure it is delivering what is needed for safety and decency now. The first part of the review is expected to be completed by Autumn 2021. We will continue to monitor developments in relation to the review and await the results of any outcomes as a result. We welcome the opportunity to work with Government on new standards and need to make sure that the HRA Investment Programme is balanced between the old stock and replacement of this and the new homes. This will be vitally important as we prepare for the new regulatory arrangements as part of the Government's White Paper. In preparation for this and to ensure that we are continually providing the best possible services for our tenants, we have actively sought best practice and benchmarking, working closely with the Social Housing Regulator.

## *Stock Increase Programme*

Our commitment to increasing the number of new / replacement council homes remains a high priority. Our plans are to deliver 3,100 new homes by 2028/29. At the time of writing this report, we have delivered 631 new homes (a mixture of homes purchased on the open market and new homes built or acquired off plan).

A further 253 new homes are currently in construction and expect to be delivered by 2021/22, with a further 450 homes on 5 sites currently at the feasibility and design development stage, including new supported accommodation units.

The impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the construction industry resulted in delays to our stock increase programme. However, as restrictions have eased, this work has been able to recommence and we are optimistic that we can continue to deliver the homes we have committed to.

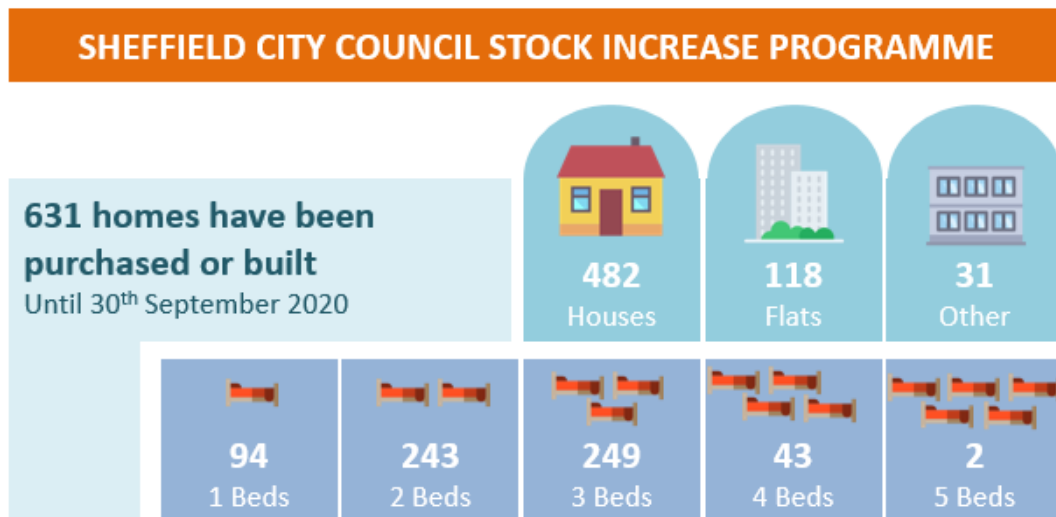
Last year we stated that as part of our stock increase plans, we will include a greater range of homes to help meet the significant shortfall of some types of homes that the Council has available for letting. Our first new Independent Living Housing scheme (Older Persons Independent Living with Care) is currently under construction in Parson Cross and is due for completion in Spring 2022. We are also developing plans for new Older Persons Independent Living Schemes in the South and South East of the city which will improve the choice and type of homes available for older people within the city. Our new learning disabilities accommodation has been completed and will be ready for occupation in early 2021.

We will continue to explore a range of different delivery options in order to maximise the number of new council homes we are able to provide. Options include building on the Council's housing land (held for the purposes of Part II of the Housing Act 1985 and accounted for in the HRA), acquiring homes for sale, purchasing "off plan" from private sector developers and acquiring land for the purpose of building new Council Homes.

Our ambition through the life of this Business Plan is to increase the number of new council homes we can provide, extending our commitment beyond the end of the existing programme of 3,100 homes. We are exploring the different ways in which we can deliver

these homes, balancing prudential borrowing with grant maximisation, and will provide more details on these ambitions when we are able.

In 2020 we have looked further into developing a small programme of Shared Ownership homes as an affordable housing option in Sheffield. It is intended that these homes will be delivered as part of the HRA Stock Increase Programme. The government has announced a new shared ownership model to be used from April 2021 and has recently consulted on its implementation. Following the outcome of the consultation Homes England will issue new guidance. A report setting out how the Sheffield City Council shared ownership properties will be managed will be produced for consideration by Cabinet in within the next few months, when this detail is clearer.



## Repairs

The Repairs Service have completed a major review of the service and developed a new target operating model with clear priorities for change and improvements. Change has started and will be continuous over the next 18 months with the overall aim of achieving a sustainable operating model that delivers excellent value for money services to the tenants and residents of Sheffield City Council.

Areas of improvement within the service have included a restructure to the service to help reduce operating costs; a more focused approach to planned and cyclical maintenance; improving customer focus and collaboration with key stakeholder; modernising the service delivery through investment in ICT; improvements to performance management, reporting and productivity, improving financial management and procurement and supply chain management.

The Repairs and Maintenance Service has faced a significant challenge in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. During both national lockdowns in 2020, the Service have only delivered critical activities such as emergency and urgent repairs, work in empty properties, acquisitions, and fire damaged properties; and gas servicing and electrical compliance works. Following the impact of the first lockdown, the Repairs Service were making good progress in responding to backlogs of work and increased volumes of appointable repairs that had not been classed as critical throughout the first lockdown.

The Service have put measures in place in response to the lockdowns. This has included:

- Planning and organising resources to deliver the backlog and anticipated increase in volume of repairs above normal volumes.
- Developing a tracker to compare actuals to projected volumes to understand financial and resource implications.
- Batched work up such as high value fire damaged properties, acquisitions, roofing, windows and doors, plastering, and are working with Housing Investment colleagues and our supply chain contractors to deliver this work.
- Recruited agency workers and set them to work to supplement our teams with additional resources.
- Redeployed resources to manage demand in repairs and our work force is working flexibly, giving us additional capacity.
- Developing plans to recruit additional trade operatives to boost our internal resource to manage the present demand and future growth strategy.
- Communicating to our customers regularly via a joint communication with the Housing and Neighbourhoods Service.

We will continue to monitor the impacts on the repairs service throughout 2021/22.



# Financial Plan

Our financial plan shows how we will fund our council housing investment priorities and day-to-day council housing services. The financial plan is based on a number of key assumptions to help us mitigate risks or changes that may occur in the coming year. All of these assumptions are reviewed and refreshed each day year to reflect the changing economic environment in which the business plan operates.

## Key Financial Assumptions 2021/22

### Rents

Dwelling rents for 2021/22 are to increase by 1.5% from April 2021 in line with the Regulator of Social Housing's Rent Standard. This is equivalent to an average increase of £1.13 per week. Rents for temporary accommodation are to remain unchanged in 2021/22. Appendix C to the HRA Business Plan 2021-2022 report sets out the average rents per house size in Sheffield.

The Council continues to have a small but increasing number of properties that are let at an Affordable Rent (up to 80% of market rent). These are predominately new build properties and properties acquired as part of the stock increase programme. The annual rent increase applies to all social housing rents so properties let at an Affordable Rent will also see an increase in rent for 2021/22.

Vacant properties will continue to be re-let at the 'target' (formula) rent in order to continue the process of making council rents equitable over time following the ending of the national 'rent convergence' policy by Government one year early. Target rents will also increase by CPI + 1% from April 2021.

The HRA Business Plan 2021/22 continues to assume a rent increase of CPI +1% until 2025/26.

### Garages

Garage rents for garage plots and garage sites will be increased by 1.5% from April 2021 in line with dwelling rent increases.

### Community Heating

The community heating standing charge is to increase by £0.60 per week. The new standing charge from April 2021 will be £4.80 per week. The kWh charge will remain unchanged for 2021/22.

The increase to the standing charge is required in 2021/22 to ensure the community heating account is balanced and to minimise future spikes in charges to customers. This will allow the retention of a sufficient level of reserve should there be future increases in the price of gas. Initial work has indicated that investment will be required in our boiler houses – many which are old and obsolete. The challenge of reaching zero carbon emissions means that alternatives to gas may be recommended which may change the energy profile and costs for community heating.

The Council's heat metering scheme which began in 2014 has proven to be very successful. Since the introduction of smart meters, our customers are now saving around 40% on their heating bills compared to their previous unmetered supply. The system also provides us with comprehensive data about how each home is using their heating and gives us the ability to support and advise tenants who might be worrying about switching on their heating. This is enabling us to support individuals more and intervene earlier where required. In addition to the financial savings our customers are making, there are significant environmental benefits being realised because of heat metering, in the form of lower carbon emissions which will help Sheffield meet its zero carbon ambitions.

A full breakdown of all community heating service charges is set out in appendix C.

### *Burglar Alarms*

The burglar alarm charge from April 2021 will remain unchanged for 2021/22.

### *Sheltered Housing*

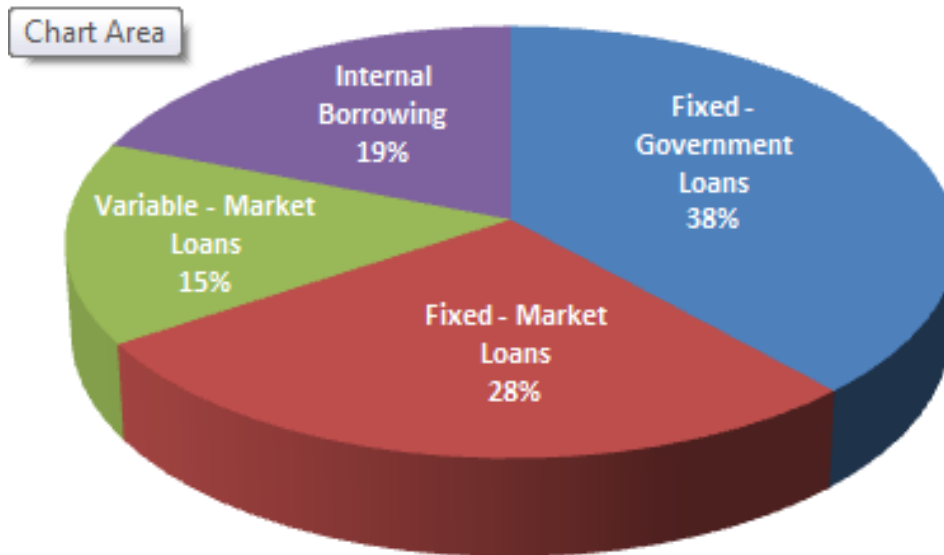
The sheltered housing service charge will remain unchanged for 2021/22.

### *Furnished Accommodation*

The furnished accommodation charge will remain unchanged for 2021/22.

# Loan Portfolio

## Breakdown of HRA Borrowing



The overall proportion of the HRA's loan portfolio that is subject to interest risk is 34% (internal borrowing and variable loans).

## Borrowing Strategy

The HRA is required to borrow in order to realise its investment and service delivery programme. The question of when we borrow, and at what rate, is closely managed by active treasury management throughout the year.

The key considerations that shape these decisions are:

- The interest rate environment
- The HRA's cash requirements for investment and debt management
- Affordability in the context of the overall 30-year HRA Business Plan

All of these complex interrelationships within the HRA Business Plan mean that forecasting long-term demand for services and resultant financial viability is difficult and subject to change. Demand for services is increasing and whilst the Council does have more freedom to borrow, this does have to be affordable and prudent. It also means that, on occasions, there will be choices to make to balance resources against demands. In short, we might not be able to do everything we or tenants would like at the time we would like to.

## Revenue Assumptions

The detailed financial model behind the HRA Business Plan includes a number of assumptions we have used to understand what resources will be available for council housing over the next 5 years in the context of the next 30 years. These baseline assumptions are listed below.

Revenue Assumptions	Assumption
Opening number of homes in 2021/22	38,989
Estimated number of additional homes by 2050/51	2,469
Estimated number of RTBs 2021/22 to 2050/51	7,175
Estimated number of homes by 2050/51	34,283
Average rent in 2021/22 (50-week rent)	£76.52
Consumer Prices Index (CPI) of inflation September 2020	0.5%
Void rate	1.5%
HRA risk-based reserve 2021/22	£5.6m



# Risks

Since 2012 the HRA has operated on a 'self-financing' basis with local authorities funding council housing from the income generated from rents and other charges. Although 'self-financing' has provided the Council with more flexibility, it has also brought additional risk. Risks are collated and monitored via a risk register and are primarily concerned with threats to income and expenditure that would compromise the viability of the HRA Business Plan. These risks are reviewed and regularly updated.

## *Welfare Reform and Universal Credit*

The impacts of Welfare Reform on the HRA Business Plan are significant with the number and value of rent arrears expected to increase considerably. This has been further accelerated by COVID-19 and the impact this has had on rent arrears. Significant additional resources will be required to deal with debt recovery and additional support to help our tenants. A number of mitigations are already in place to help support tenants affected by Welfare Reform such as debt advice, Hardship Fund payments and Discretionary Housing Payments and a new IT system has been introduced to manage debt recovery more efficiently. We have increased our Hardship Fund for 2021/22 to help mitigate increasing arrears and to continue to help and support those tenants in financial difficulty. As well as helping to reduce arrears, these mitigations are also helping tenants to sustain their tenancies. We recognise that many households who have been managing welfare reform changes in the short-term may be unable to sustain payment patterns as the squeeze continues. This may require us to revise our future income projections as our experience with Universal Credit develops. Arrears have increased significantly as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak and there is evidence that some tenants with previously good payment records are starting to struggle. The suspension of legal recovery actions has also resulted in an increase in arrears and a backlog of cases which may further delay action being taken.

## *Impacts of National Housing Policies*

The Government White Paper - The Charter for Social Housing Residents was published in November 2020 and we will need to assimilate the detail of the proposals and assess any additional risk to the business plan as a result. Aspects of the Coronavirus Act 2020 which impact on housing such as the suspension of possession hearings have meant we were unable to start proceedings against tenants for rent arrears or for anti-social behaviour for around 6 months. Impacts of this are already evident through a backlog of cases for the courts, although these are being prioritised with most urgent first. The ongoing uncertainty around the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak means we are continually monitoring announcements from government and any changes to housing policy as a result.

## *Fire Risk on Council Tower Blocks and Other High-Risk Buildings*

The Grenfell Tower fire and subsequent Review of Building Regulation and Fire Safety bring a number of operational and financial risks. Costs are currently unclear but will require some degree of re-prioritisation of the 30-year Business Plan. The draft Building Safety and Fire Safety Bills mean there are likely to be further impacts on other areas of the service, including additional costs for work to communal areas and installation of further fire safety measures which will have an impact on our repairs and capital budgets. Other impacts may include the market capacity/capability to respond to the scale of need nationally and possible inflation of costs; more intensive management of tower blocks and other high risk buildings may be required at a higher cost and further resilience within investment teams to respond to the volume and breadth of enquiries. These will have an impact on our repairs and capital budgets. We will continue to monitor any further developments in 2021/22 and have produced an action plan to help mitigate the potential impacts.

## *Interest Rate Risk*

The HRA's loan portfolio is made up of both fixed and variable loans, some of which will be exposed to interest rate changes. Although this is a risk to the business plan, part of the role of treasury management is to manage the HRA's exposure to interest rate fluctuation and the risk this brings. However, it is also important to retain a degree of flexibility to take advantage of borrowing at low interest levels should opportunities arise.

## *Inflation Rate Risk*

The HRA Business Plan assumes an ongoing inflation rate which has been factored into the 30-year Business Plan. If the assumed inflation rate was to change then this will have an impact upon the forecasted income into the HRA over the 30 years; if the assumed inflation rate was to be exceeded then this may have a negative impact upon revenue expenditure and the capital programme costs.

## *Repairs and Maintenance*

Repairs and Maintenance risks which could impact on demand include, increased vacants, increased turnover due to Welfare Reforms, stock deterioration rates, changes in regulations post Grenfell and the settling in and transformation of the service following in-sourcing. COVID-19 protection measures have an effect on a number of aspects of the repairs and maintenance service including a backlog of non-urgent repairs, and gas safety inspections. Actions are taking place to alleviate the issues but the backlog is likely to persist for some time.

## *Responding to Climate Change*

Proposed building regulations, changes to the provision of gas in homes as well as higher thermal efficiency standards which are unsupported by additional external grant funding, would place additional burden on HRA resources available for elemental investment in homes (including new homes). An increase in the frequency of severe weather events may require unplanned urgent investment in homes and disrupt the supply of homes.



# Appendices

**Appendix A**

**HRA Revenue Budget**

**Appendix B**

**5 Year Capital Investment Programme**

**Appendix C**

**Citywide Rents and Charges**

# Appendix A – HRA Revenue Budget

Revenue Account		Year1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Years 1-5
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2021-26
	Outturn	Budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Total
<b>INCOME (in £millions)</b>							
Net income dwellings	141.9	145.0	149.8	156.3	162.3	168.1	781.5
Other income	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.4	31.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>148.0</b>	<b>151.1</b>	<b>156.0</b>	<b>162.5</b>	<b>168.6</b>	<b>174.5</b>	<b>812.7</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE (in £millions)</b>							
Repairs and Maintenance	39.8	41.4	41.9	42.4	43.1	44.9	213.7
Tenants Services	49.6	49.8	51.0	52.3	53.6	54.7	261.3
Contribution to Capital Programme	45.5	46.8	48.0	51.6	54.0	56.4	256.9
Interest on Borrowing	13.1	13.1	15.0	16.2	17.9	18.5	80.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>148.0</b>	<b>151.1</b>	<b>156.0</b>	<b>162.5</b>	<b>168.6</b>	<b>174.5</b>	<b>812.7</b>

Revenue Reserve	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	--

Capital Account		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Years 1-5
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2021-26
	Outturn	Budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Total
<b>EXPENDITURE (in £millions)</b>							
Mainline Capital Programme	14.2	40.7	56.2	57.3	54.1	44.6	252.9
Stock Increase Programme	21.9	50.3	72.9	99.4	43.5	23.0	289.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>91.0</b>	<b>129.1</b>	<b>156.7</b>	<b>97.6</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>542.0</b>

# Appendix B – 5 Year Capital Programme Investment

HRA Programme	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Years 1-5
	Outturn	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
<b>EXPENDITURE (in £millions)</b>							
Health & Safety Essential Work	4.0	9.5	15.4	12.4	11.7	14.5	63.5
Adaptations & Access	1.7	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.9	16.1
Garages & Outhouses	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Heating, Energy & Carbon Reduction	1.6	6.2	8.3	7.9	5.8	1.3	29.5
Waste Management & Estate Environmentals	0.1	0.6	2.3	3.1	3.5	1.9	11.4
Enveloping & External Work	1.2	10.1	9.9	12.1	12.1	13.5	57.7
Communal Area Investment	0.0	2.5	5.5	6.4	6.0	0.0	20.4
Internal Works	1.6	2.5	3.0	3.2	3.2	7.7	19.6
Other Essential Work	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.5	3.5
Regeneration	0.0	2.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	0.0	14.5
Capital Management Fee	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	0.3	11.5
IT Upgrade	0.0	0.4	1.6	1.7	1.3	0.0	5.0
<b>Core Investment Programme</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>57.3</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>252.9</b>
Stock Increase Programme	21.9	50.3	72.9	99.4	43.5	23.0	289.1
<b>Overall Total HRA Programme</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>91.0</b>	<b>129.1</b>	<b>156.7</b>	<b>97.6</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>542.0</b>

The HRA Core Investment Programme will primarily be funded from HRA revenue contributions whilst the stock increase programme is planned to be funded from a combination of retained RTB receipts, external grants and prudential borrowing.

# Appendix C – Citywide Rents and Charges

Bed size	Average weekly rent (50 weeks)		Increase	
	2020/21	2021/22		
Bedsit	£58.73	£59.62	£0.89	1.5%
1 bed	£66.55	£67.55	£1.00	1.5%
2 bed	£76.15	£77.29	£1.14	1.5%
3 bed	£85.25	£86.53	£1.28	1.5%
4 bed	£96.55	£98.00	£1.45	1.5%
5 bed	£103.01	£104.55	£1.54	1.5%
6 bed	£112.38	£114.06	£1.68	1.5%
Total (all bedroom's average)	£75.39	£76.52	£1.13	1.5%

Note: The above rents are for illustrative purposes only as they are based on city wide averages. Actual individual property rents will vary from these figures. Both years' averages are calculated using current stock numbers to enable comparison.

## Proposed Community Heating Charges from April 2021

### 1. Metered Heat

Metered Heat	Charge		Current weekly charges	Proposed weekly charges from April 2021
Standard price	Unit charge	Pence per kwh	3.04 pence	3.04 pence
	Standing charge	£ per week	£4.20	£4.80
	*Unmetered hot water charge	£ per week	£0.63	£0.63

\*only for dwellings where hot water cannot be measured through the meter

### 2. Unmetered Heat

Bed size	Full heating		Partial heating	
	Current prices £/week	Prices April 2021 £/week	Current prices £/week	Prices April 2021 £/week
<b>Heating &amp; hot water</b>				
Bedsit	£11.38	£11.38	£10.52	£10.52
1 Bed	£11.82	£11.82	£10.82	£10.82
2 Bed	£14.66	£14.66	£13.62	£13.62
3/4 Bed	£15.78	£15.78	£14.66	£14.66
<b>Heating only</b>				
Bedsit	£8.38	£8.38	£7.76	£7.76
1 Bed	£8.58	£8.58	£n/a	£n/a
2 Bed	£10.82	£10.82	£10.03	£10.03

\* An additional surcharge is applied for the small number of properties that do not allow access to install, repair or check the equipment. This increased from £5 to £7 per week in 2019/20 to reflect the increasing additional cost incurred by the Council in managing these properties. Customers can avoid this charge by allowing access.

This page is intentionally left blank





**Author/Lead Officer of Report:**  
 Karen Ramsay, Place Operational Services  
 Email: karen.ramsay@sheffield.gov.uk

**Report of:** Mick Crofts, Interim Executive Director of Place

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date of decision:** 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Subject:** **Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Working Strategy – Consultation Feedback**

Is this a Key Decision? If Yes, reason Key Decision:	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Expenditure and/or savings over £500,000		<input type="checkbox"/>		
- Affects 2 or more Wards		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Which Cabinet Member Portfolio does this relate to? <i>Environment, Streetscene &amp; Climate Change</i>				
Which Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee does this relate to? <i>Economic &amp; Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny &amp; Policy Committee</i>				
Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? 703				
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:  <i>“The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”</i>				

## Purpose of Report

This report summarises the feedback from the consultation on the Sheffield Street Tree Working Strategy that ran for 12 weeks from Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July until Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

## Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- ◆ Receive the feedback from the consultation
- ◆ Agree 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.

## Background Papers:

- ◆ *Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Working Strategy*, July 2020
- ◆ *i-Tree Eco Stratified Inventory Report*, Treeconomics, Nov 2019
- ◆ *Sheffield Trees & Woodlands Strategy 2018-33*, Sheffield City Council, Dec 2018

Lead Officer to complete:	
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.
	<b>Finance:</b> Kerry Darlow
	<b>Legal:</b> Sarah Bennett
	<b>Equalities:</b> Annemarie Johnston
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	<b>EMT member who approved submission:</b> Mick Crofts, Interim Executive Director of Place
3	<b>Cabinet Member consulted:</b> Councillor Mark Jones
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Decision Maker by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.
	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> Karen Ramsay
	<b>Job Title:</b> Place Operational Services
	<b>Date:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2021

## 1. PROPOSAL

- 1.1 **The attached report summarises the feedback from the consultation on the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Working Strategy that ran for 12 weeks from Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July until Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**
- 1.2 The working strategy was approved by the Council through a Leader's Individual Executive Decision on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020.  
(<http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2492>)
- 1.3 A designed version of the working strategy was finalised by the Sheffield Street Tree Strategy Development Group and published in July 2020 to coincide with the launch of the consultation.  
(<https://www.wildsheffield.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/FINAL-Sheffield-Street-Tree-Partnership-Working-Strategy-July-2020.pdf>)
- 1.4 The Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Working Strategy is a supplement to the Sheffield Trees & Woodlands Strategy 2018-22, approved by Cabinet in December 2018.  
(<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/dam/sheffield/docs/parks-sports-and-recreation/trees-woodlands/Sheffield%20Trees%20and%20Woodlands%20Strategy%202018-2033.pdf>)

## 2 BACKGROUND TO THE SHEFFIELD STREET TREE PARTNERSHIP WORKING STRATEGY

- 2.1 The working strategy development group was formed during the summer of 2019 and began meeting in August 2019. Members of the group include representatives from Amey, the Council (two officer representatives), Sheffield Tree Action Groups (STAG) and The Woodland Trust. Tree management and valuation experts advised the group on the development of the working strategy. The group was independently chaired by the Chief Executive of Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust.
- 2.2 To ensure open and transparent development of the working strategy, the agendas, notes, presentations, and other supporting documents discussed at the development group meetings were published on the Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust website.  
(<https://www.wildsheffield.com/developing-a-partnership-street-tree-strategy-for-sheffield/>)
- 2.3 In July 2019, Cabinet noted that further consultation with key stakeholder groups and with the public was planned as part of the work to develop the new street tree strategy – see paragraph 3.3, *Developing the Sheffield Street Tree Strategy*, Cabinet Report, 17 July 2019.  
(<http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/documents/s35699/Street%20Trees%20Strategy.pdf>)

- 2.4 The document was published as a working strategy with the aim of engaging with people from different groups to get their views and understand how they might be affected by any of the proposals in the working strategy. In response to the consultation feedback, the working strategy is now being reviewed by the Street Tree Strategy Development Group with a view to final strategy being agreed by all partners in March 2021.

### 3 APPROACH TO THE CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The consultation went live on Citizen Space, the Council's consultation hub, on Thursday 16th July. It was publicly launched on Friday 17th July at a webinar on Sheffield's street trees as part of Sheffield Tree Week 2020. A recording of the webinar can be found online. (<https://www.sheffieldtreeweek.co.uk/>).

- 3.2 The consultation asked for views on:

- ◆ The vision
- ◆ The six outcomes proposed in the working strategy to promote and enhance Sheffield's street trees and their long-term benefits for the public, wildlife, and the wider environment
- ◆ Actions to deliver the outcomes.

It also asked respondents who they would like to see represented on the new Sheffield Street Tree Partnership and if they could help to deliver any of the actions in the working strategy. **The consultation questions are set out in appendix 1 of the attached report.**

- 3.3 In addition to the online consultation, the chair of the strategy development group wrote directly to 65 stakeholders and 49 Sheffield tenants and residents associations (TARAs) inviting a response to the consultation. **Appendix 2 of the attached report provides a copy of the letter and the list of stakeholders and associations contacted.**

### 4 CONSULTATION RESPONDENTS

- 4.1 282 responses were received: 271 from individuals and 11 from the following organisations:

- ◆ Abbeydale Street Trees
- ◆ Amey
- ◆ Barrell Tree Consultancy
- ◆ Council for the Protection of Rural England South Yorkshire
- ◆ Forestry Commission Urban Forestry & Woodland Advisory Committee
- ◆ Forestry Commission Yorkshire & North East
- ◆ Joined Up Heritage Sheffield

- ◆ Nether Edge & Sharrow Sustainable Transition
- ◆ Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust
- ◆ Sheffield Tree Action Groups
- ◆ The Woodland Trust.

4.2 **Section 4 of the attached report sets out the analysis of the consultation respondents.** This includes a breakdown of respondents by gender, age, ethnicity, disability, and postcode area.

4.3 Although steps were taken to contact a range of organisations and TARAs inviting a response (see para 3.3 above), most individual respondents self-selected to respond to the Citizen Space consultation indicating some voluntary response bias in the consultation response sample.

4.4 By comparing key socio-demographic characteristics (gender, age, ethnicity, disability, postcode) of individual respondents with the general population of Sheffield, this indicates where some members of the population are either over-represented or under-represented in the consultation response sample. The consultation response sample indicates:

- ◆ Over-representation of 55-74s; people from white backgrounds; people living in the West and South West of the city.
- ◆ Under-representation of young people aged 16-34; people from BAME backgrounds; people living in the East and North East of the city.

4.5 Broadly speaking, this type of response bias is common in consultations that are open to the general population of Sheffield, even if explicit attempts are made to boost the sample. There is a tendency for responses from less deprived/diverse areas of the city to be higher and this can be exacerbated if the survey is principally online. There was an option for people to complete a paper survey, but no requests were made.

## 5 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

5.1 A qualitative analysis of the responses was carried out. Responses were grouped together where the content related to a similar issue or a common theme. Specific comments relating to corrections or additional references were also reviewed. The attached report provides a summary of the consultation feedback with comments from respondents grouped according to the consultation question.

### **Comments on the overall strategy**

5.2 **Section 5 of the attached report summarises comments on the overall strategy.** Several respondents expressed support for the street tree working strategy. By contrast, some respondents challenged the working strategy for failing to address the problems or adverse effects that street trees can cause including:

- ◆ Negative impact of trees especially if poorly maintained
- ◆ Causing damage to or creating hazards on the pavement
- ◆ Creating access issues by limiting pavement width especially for wheelchair/mobility scooter users
- ◆ Negative mental health impact of trees blocking light from homes
- ◆ Extra maintenance costs of looking after streets trees and pavements
- ◆ Limiting parking options
- ◆ Impact of pollination on people with allergies
- ◆ Tree roots undermining foundations of buildings
- ◆ Leaf fall obscuring pavement obstructions, blocking drains and increasing flood risk
- ◆ Branches being too close to roofs, windows, wires, and aerials.

5.3 Some comments reflected concerns about the current and future role of Amey, the Council and STAG in the future management of street trees and highlighted the importance of maintaining a progressive attitude, resolving conflicts and ensuring that a wide range of views are taken into consideration.

5.4 **Sections 6, 7 & 8 of the attached report summarise the comments on the vision, proposed outcomes, and actions.**

### **Consultation Themes**

5.5 **Section 9 of the attached report summarises the themes that have emerged from the consultation:**

- ◆ **There is a need to engage with the community through education from nurseries through to universities, to increase awareness of tree benefits.** Educational engagement is seen as a means of creating opportunities for community members to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for the natural environment, whilst ensuring that Sheffield's street trees are acknowledged and protected by future generations.
- ◆ **Many respondents highlighted the aesthetic value of trees and the importance of living in a green, natural environment to positive physical and mental health and wellbeing.** Street trees are an opportunity for people to be connected to the natural environment 'on their doorstep' and make local areas more appealing and attractive.

- ◆ **Several respondents believe that biodiversity and wildlife protection should receive greater centrality within the strategy.** This includes the suggestion for biodiversity value to be included as a criterion within species selection processes and the assessment of the value of a tree.
- ◆ **The Street Tree Working Strategy could be an opportunity to be pioneering, to cement Sheffield's 'Green City' status, and boost the local economy.** Local pride in being a green city oozes out of the consultation. This is coupled with a desire to be a pioneer, showing the way for other cities to follow. Some responses linked urban greening strategies with attracting talent, investment, and raising the city's profile.
- ◆ **Some responses to the consultation called for decision making processes, and decisions taken, to be made transparent, and for public feedback loops to be established.** This includes regular updates online or through a public information campaign, and clear channels through which members of the public can voice their concerns.
- ◆ **Some respondents felt that the working strategy did not recognise tree maintenance concerns.** Amidst widespread appreciation for street trees and agreement with the aspirations of the strategy, some concerns were raised that by focusing on maximising street tree benefits, those experiencing legitimate issues relating to street tree maintenance feel unheard or that their concerns are not recognised.
- ◆ **Concerns exist around the safety of streets for those with disabilities.** The consultation recommends taking action to include and elevate the perspective of the disabled community on this issue.
- ◆ **Many people value trees as community heritage assets and recognise their role in creating a sense of local identity and belonging.** Trees can tell a story of a local area and through their longevity, they become part of the history of a place. They are perceived to belong to the community and not the individual.
- ◆ **There is an appetite for local involvement and shared custodianship of street trees, and a corresponding need to establish new ways of engaging.** Suggestions put forward include starting a tree nursery; setting up tree sponsorship schemes for businesses; creating tree trails and wildlife corridors; establishing an interactive tree map.
- ◆ **Views towards street trees were sometimes underpinned by a seemingly uneasy relationship between pedestrians and traffic.** Some responses refer to benefits of street trees in tackling the nuisance of verge parking and reducing traffic noise and pollution.

## Sheffield Street Tree Partnership

5.6 **Appendix 3 of the attached report provides a list of suggestions made in response to question 9 of the consultation:**

- ◆ What individuals\* or organisations people would you like to see represented on the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership?

*\*Names of individuals have not been included in the report. Suggested individuals will be contacted by the Partnership.*

5.7 Based on the consultation responses, the Street Tree Strategy Development Group is considering options for the arrangements and membership of the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership. This includes looking at arrangements in other UK cities.

## Other issues

5.8 **Section 11 of the attached report highlights other issues raised in the consultation related to the ambitions of the working strategy that are not specifically about street trees, along with a summary of the current actions to address them.** These issues include environmental policy, the definition of 'Important Landscapes', low traffic neighbourhoods, nature highways and byways, Sheffield Local Plan, verge parking, and wildflowers.

## 6 HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

6.1 The vision, outcomes and actions in the working strategy will be refreshed to reflect the feedback from the consultation. The final street tree strategy will contribute to the following Council priorities:

- ◆ *Climate Emergency/Carbon Neutral City* – Improving the city's air quality, mitigating carbon emissions, and helping to protect against the effects of flooding.
- ◆ *Highway Network* – Street trees considered as natural capital assets with a value, to be assessed alongside the costs of maintaining the safety and integrity of the city's highway network.
- ◆ *Health & Wellbeing* – There is growing evidence to support the physical and mental wellbeing benefits of being near trees.
- ◆ *An In-Touch Organisation* – The working strategy has emerged from the mediated talks between representatives of Amey, Sheffield City Council and the STAG steering group. These talks enabled work on the strategy to progress through true collaboration, discussion, and dialogue, demonstrating the value of listening, being connected and responsive to a range of people, organisations, and ideas.



## **7 HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?**

7.1 The feedback from the consultation will be used in the following ways:

- ◆ To inform the final Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Strategy to be produced by spring 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.

7.2 Although the consultation on the working strategy is closed, the ongoing way of working will be to continue to engage with stakeholders and communities on the outcomes, actions, and programme of work of the new street tree partnership. The strategy and actions will be kept under review and updated as circumstances evolve or change.

7.3 It is proposed that progress on the delivery of the actions in the strategy will be published in the form of annual report produced by the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership. In addition, to monitor progress, options under consideration are providing regular updates on progress against baseline and outcomes, setting clear timescales for delivering actions, and establishing targets where this might be helpful in achieving measurable change.

## **8 RISK ANALYSIS & IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### **Equality of opportunity implications**

8.1 The proposed outcomes and actions in the Sheffield Street Tree Working Strategy set out to balance sustaining and enhancing the benefits of the city's street trees with the need to maintain the integrity and safety of the highway network. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), this will help to protect all members of the public, including those with protected characteristics, from any hazards presented by street trees.

8.2 The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) highlights:

- ◆ Positive and negative impacts: Health
- ◆ Positive impact: Age; disability; pregnancy/maternity; race; poverty & financial inclusion.

8.3 Along with the strategy itself, the EIA will be kept under review and updated as circumstances evolve or change, and in response to engagement work undertaken by the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership. The EIA will be updated as required to take account of any potential negative impacts and the mitigations needed to address these.

### **Financial and commercial implications**

8.4 Based on the current proposals in the strategy, it is not envisaged that there will be any significant financial costs or commercial implications for the current Streets Ahead contract.

8.5 However, some of the proposed actions in the strategy are likely to incur modest expenditure and/or require the input of some human resources by the Council and partners, for example:

- ◆ Establishment and support for the proposed Sheffield Street Tree Partnership
- ◆ Stakeholder and partner engagement activities
- ◆ Recalculation of ecosystem benefits using i-Tree Eco every five years so that progress can be monitored
- ◆ Some limited engagement of tree management and valuation experts
- ◆ Independent accreditation of our approach to street tree management in line with best practice.

8.6 There is an existing budget which could be used to fund modest expenditure.

8.7 The financial and commercial implications will be kept under review as the final strategy and action plan evolves.

### **Legal implications**

8.8 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The implementation of the working strategy and the final strategy may be subject to further decision-making in accordance with the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, and the legal implications of any proposal would be fully considered at that time.

## **9 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 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.

9.2 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.

## **10 RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 Cabinet is recommended to:

- ◆ Receive the feedback from the consultation
- ◆ Agree that the feedback from the consultation will be used in the following ways:
  - To inform the final Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Strategy to be brought to Cabinet for sign off 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 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

11.1 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.

This page is intentionally left blank



**Sheffield Street Tree  
Partnership**

# ***Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Working Strategy***

## **Consultation Feedback**

**January 2021**

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This is a summary of the feedback from the consultation on the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Working Strategy<sup>1</sup> that ran for 12 weeks from Thursday 16th July until Thursday 8th October 2020.
- 1.2 The working strategy was approved by the representative organisations on the Sheffield Street Tree Strategy Development Group in March 2020. A designed version of the working strategy was finalised by the group and published in July 2020 to coincide with the launch of the consultation.
- 1.3 The Street Tree Strategy Development Group would like to thank the individuals and organisations who responded to the consultation and for taking the time to provide their views, ideas, and suggestions.

## 2 BACKGROUND TO THE SHEFFIELD STREET TREE PARTNERSHIP WORKING STRATEGY

- 2.1 In December 2018, a joint position statement on mediated talks between Sheffield City Council, Amey, and the Steering Group for Sheffield Tree Action Groups (STAG SG) was published<sup>2</sup>. As a result of the mediated talks, it was agreed that the approach to the future management of the city's street trees should be set out in an exemplary new street tree strategy informed by a wide range of stakeholders from across the city and developed under the auspices of an independent chair. The new street tree strategy would supplement the Sheffield Trees and Woodlands Strategy published in December 2018<sup>3</sup> and underpin the approach that the Council would take during the remaining period of the Streets Ahead programme.
- 2.2 The aim of a new street tree strategy for Sheffield is to balance safely retaining street trees for longer while still delivering the long-term benefits from the investment to maintain the safety and integrity of the city's highway network. The working strategy sets out an approach to retain street trees where possible by using a flexible combination of arboricultural or highway engineering solutions, enhanced monitoring and maintenance of street trees, appropriate species selection, and decisions on the removal and replacement of street trees made on a case-by-case basis.
- 2.3 The Sheffield Street Tree Strategy Development Group was formed during the summer of 2019 and began meeting in August 2019. Members of the Sheffield Street Tree Strategy Development Group include representatives from Amey, Sheffield City Council (two officers), Sheffield Tree Action Groups (STAG) and The Woodland Trust, as well as tree management and valuation experts. The group is independently chaired by the Chief Executive of the Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wildsheffield.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/FINAL-Sheffield-Street-Tree-Partnership-Working-Strategy-July-2020.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/dam/sheffield/docs/roads-and-pavements/managingtrees/Joint%20position%20statement%20SCC,%20Amey%20&%20STAG%20updated.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/dam/sheffield/docs/parks-sports-and-recreation/trees-woodlands/Sheffield%20Trees%20and%20Woodlands%20Strategy%202018-2033.pdf>

- 2.4 To ensure open and transparent development of the working strategy, the agendas, notes, presentations, and other supporting documents discussed at the development group meetings are available on the Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust website<sup>4</sup>.

### 3 APPROACH TO THE CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The strategy development group agreed that a new street tree strategy for Sheffield needed the support and involvement of more people and organisations than were represented on the group. For this reason, the document was launched as a working strategy for consultation to gather views, comments, and commitment to the proposals.
- 3.2 This consultation asked for views on:
- The vision
  - The six outcomes proposed in the working strategy to promote and enhance Sheffield's street trees and their long-term benefits for the public, wildlife, and the wider environment
  - Actions to deliver the outcomes.
- 3.3 The consultation asked respondents who they would like to see represented on the new Sheffield Street Tree Partnership and if they could help to deliver any of the actions in the working strategy. The consultation questions are set out in **appendix 1**.
- 3.4 The consultation went live on Citizen Space, the Sheffield City Council's consultation hub, on Thursday 16th July. It was publicly launched on Friday 17th July at a webinar on Sheffield's street trees as part of Sheffield Tree Week 2020. A recording of the webinar can be found online<sup>5</sup>.
- 3.5 In addition to the online consultation, the chair of the development group wrote directly to 65 organisations and 49 Sheffield tenants and residents associations (TARAs) inviting a response to the consultation. A copy of the letter and the list of stakeholders and associations contacted is attached as **appendix 2**.
- 3.6 The Woodland Trust contacted two stakeholders directly: Barrell Tree Consultancy and Goetre Villa (Woodland Dwelling) Ltd.
- 3.7 A qualitative analysis of the responses was carried out. Responses were grouped together where the content related to a similar issue or a common theme. Specific comments relating to corrections or additional references were also reviewed.

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.wildsheffield.com/developing-a-partnership-street-tree-strategy-for-sheffield/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.sheffieldtreeweek.co.uk/>

## 4 ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION RESPONDENTS

### 4.1 282 responses were received in total:

- ❑ 271 (96.0%) responses were from individuals – 269 people through the Citizen Space consultation hub; 2 people by email.
- ❑ 11 (4.0%) responses were from organisations – 5 through Citizen Space; 6 by email:
  - ◆ Abbeydale Street Trees
  - ◆ Amey
  - ◆ Barrell Tree Consultancy
  - ◆ Council for the Protection of Rural England South Yorkshire
  - ◆ Forestry Commission Urban Forestry & Woodland Advisory Committee
  - ◆ Forestry Commission Yorkshire & North East
  - ◆ Joined Up Heritage Sheffield
  - ◆ Nether Edge & Sharrow Sustainable Transition
  - ◆ Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust
  - ◆ Sheffield Tree Action Groups
  - ◆ The Woodland Trust

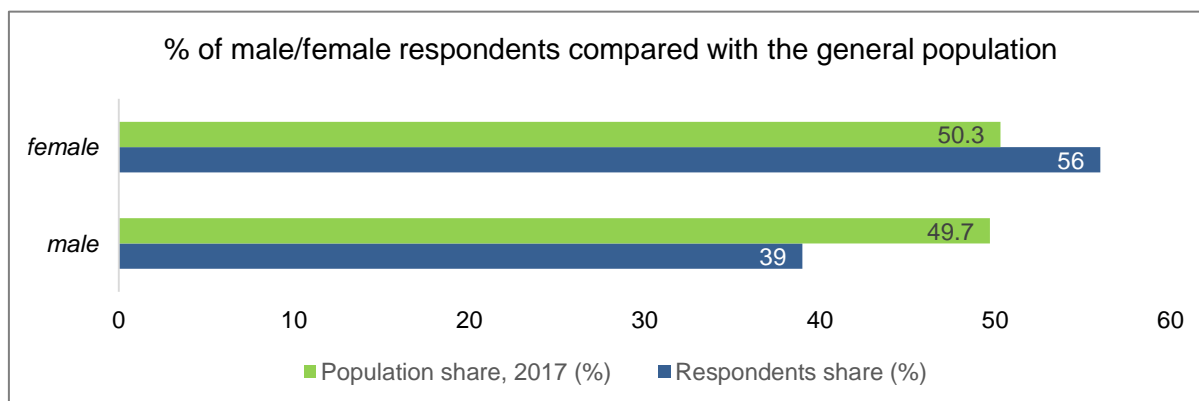
4.2 Although steps were taken to contact a range of organisations and TARAs inviting a response (see para 3.5 & appendix 2), most individual respondents self-selected to respond to the Citizen Space consultation.

4.3 By comparing key socio-demographic characteristics (gender, age, ethnicity, disability) of individual respondents with the general population of Sheffield, this indicates where some members of the population are either over-represented or under-represented in the consultation response sample. This is summarised below. The percentages for the consultation response sample have been rounded to the nearest (.0%) or (.5%).

#### GENDER

In terms of gender profile of individual respondents:

- ❑ 56.0% were female
- ❑ 39.0% were male
- ❑ 1.0% were non-binary or identified as other
- ❑ 4.0% did not answer this question.



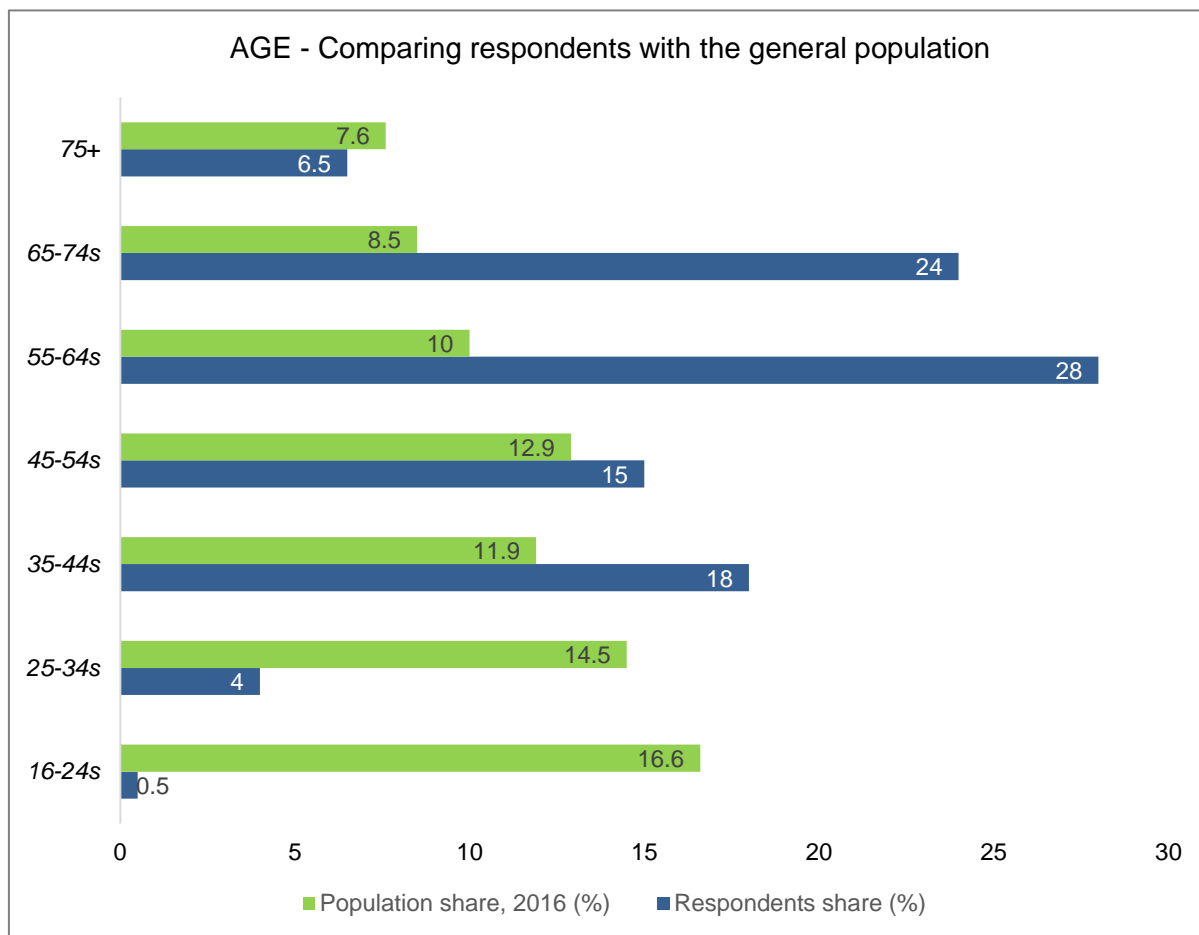
Source: 2017 Mid-Year Population Estimate, Office for National Statistics (ONS). *Sheffield population data on non-binary or those identifying as other unavailable.*



**AGE**

In terms of age profile of individual respondents:

- ❑ Over half (52.0%) were either 55-64s (28.0%) or 65-74s (24.0%). These groups together represent just 18.5% of Sheffield's population.
- ❑ Just 4.5% were 16-24s (0.5%) or 25-34s (4.0%). These groups together represent 31.1% of Sheffield's population.
- ❑ 4% did not answer this question.

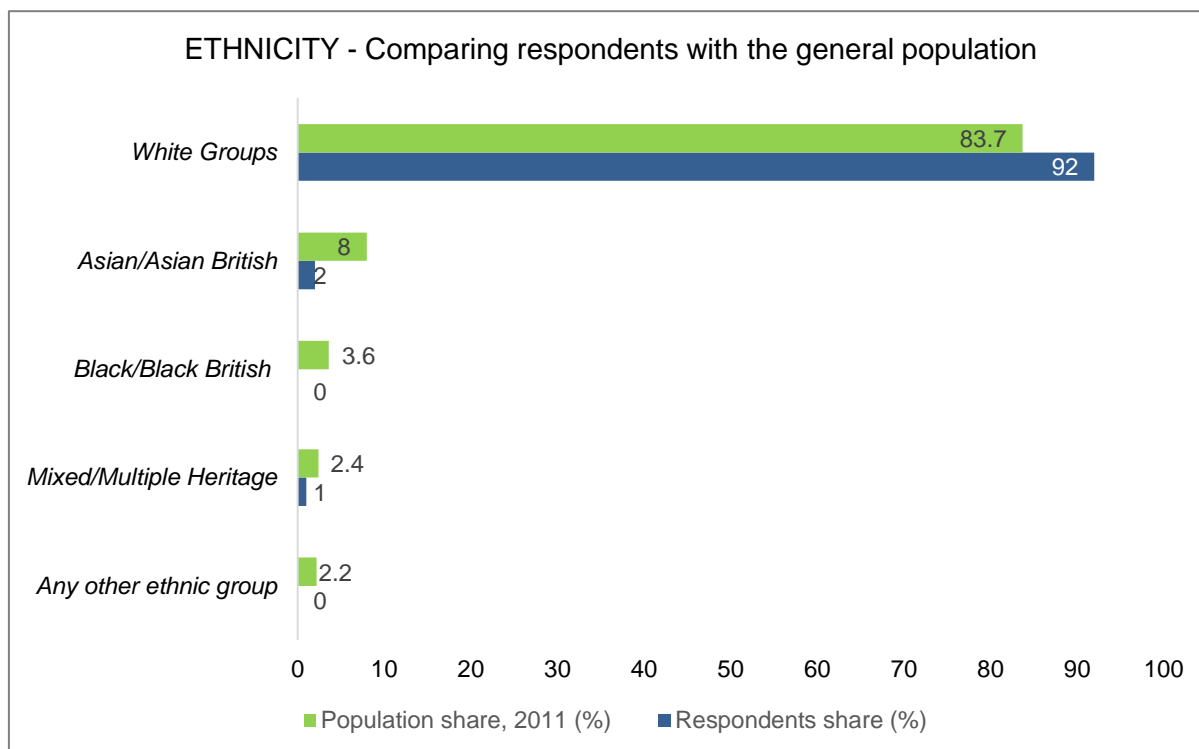


Source: 2016 Mid-Year Population Estimate, ONS.

**ETHNICITY**

In terms of the ethnicity of individual respondents:

- ❑ 92.0% were white. These groups represented 83.7% of Sheffield's population at the last Census in 2011.
- ❑ 3.0% were from all other ethnic groups combined. These groups represented 16.3% of the city's population at the last Census in 2011.
- ❑ 5.0% did not answer this question.



**Source:** 2011 Census, ONS. These groups were used in the 2011 Census of England and Wales: *White* (English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British; Irish; Gypsy or Irish Traveller; Any other White background); *Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups* (White and Black Caribbean; White and Black African; White and Asian; Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background); *Asian or Asian British* (Indian; Pakistani; Bangladeshi; Chinese; Any other Asian background); *Black, African, Caribbean or Black British* (African; Caribbean; Any other Black, African or Caribbean background); *Other ethnic group* (Arab; Any other ethnic group)

### DISABILITY

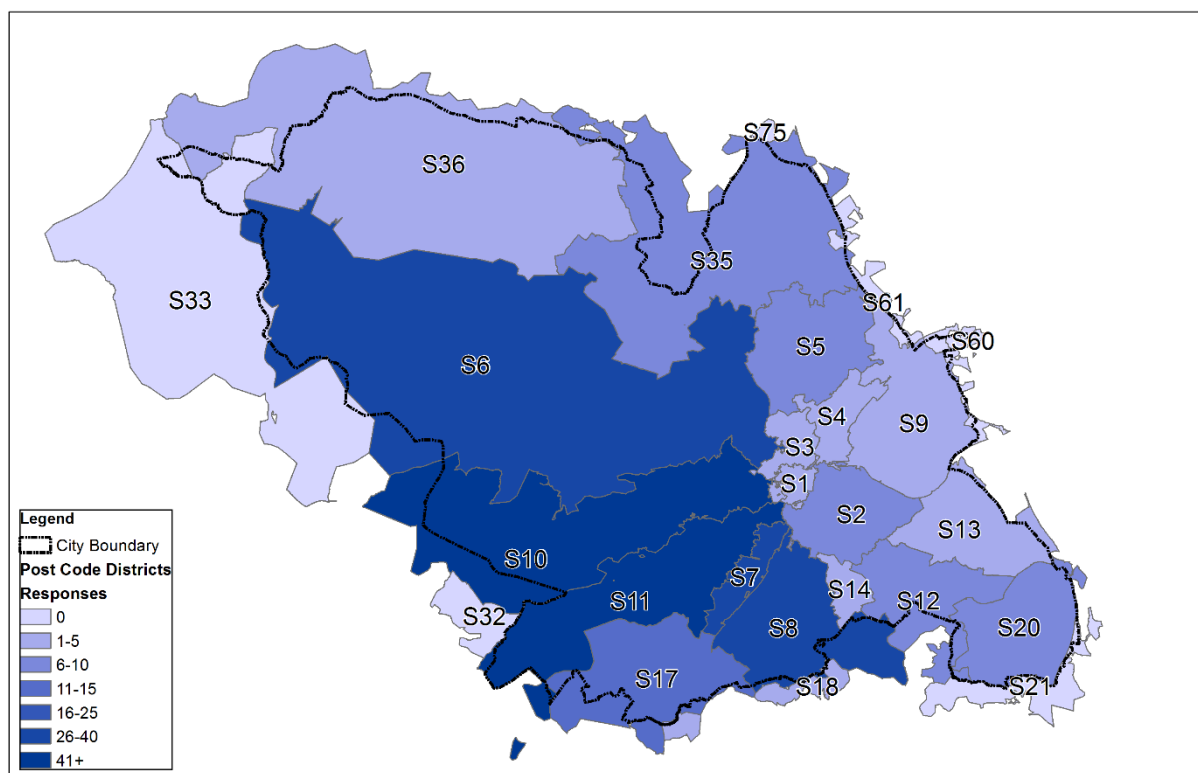
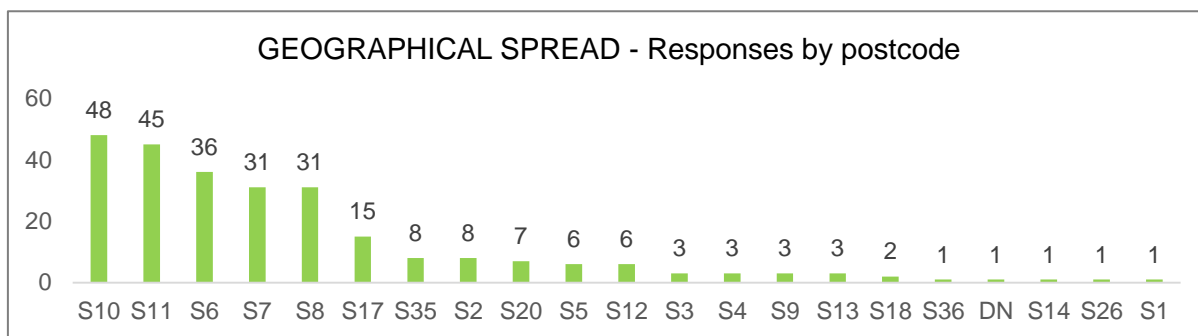
In terms of disability reported by individual respondents:

- 15.0% said yes to having one or more than one disability\*.
- At the last Census in 2011, 19.0% of Sheffield’s residents declared a long-term health condition or disability (Source: 2011 Census, ONS).

\*Disabilities listed include: communication (e.g. impaired speech); developmental (e.g. dyslexia); hearing (e.g. mild to profound deafness); impaired memory/concentration or ability to understand (e.g. head injury, stroke, dementia); long-term illness or health; mental ill health; mobility or physical; visual (e.g. partially sighted to blind); autistic spectrum or attention deficit disorders.

#### 4.4 In terms of the geographical spread of individual responses:

- 73.0% of all individual responses came from residents living in a distinct cluster of South West/West postcodes including S6, S7, S8, S10, S11, and S17.
- 10 individual respondents did not leave their postcode.



© Crown copyright and database rights 2019 OS 100018816.  
 You are granted non-exclusive, royalty free, revocable licence solely to view the Licensed Data for non-commercial purposes for the period during which Sheffield City Council makes it available.  
 You are not permitted to copy, sub-license, distribute, sell or otherwise make available the Licensed Data to third parties in any form.  
 Third party rights to enforce the terms of this licence shall be reserved to OS.

**Source:** City Centre postcode data, 2019 Ordnance Survey.

4.5 The consultation response sample indicates that there is some voluntary response bias in terms of people self-selecting to respond on Citizen Space. In addition, compared to the general population of Sheffield, the consultation response sample indicates:

- ❑ Over-representation of 55-74s; people from white backgrounds; people living in the West and South West of the city.
- ❑ Under-representation of young people aged 16-34; people from BAME backgrounds; people living in the East and North East of the city.

- 4.6 Broadly speaking, this type of response bias is common in consultations that are open to the general population of Sheffield, even if explicit attempts are made to boost the sample. There is a tendency for responses from less deprived/diverse areas of the city to be higher and this can be exacerbated if the survey is principally online. There was an option for people to complete a paper survey, but no requests were made.

## 5 COMMENTS ON THE OVERALL WORKING STRATEGY

- 5.1 Several respondents expressed support for the street tree working strategy.

*"It is great to see that a partnership approach has been embedded into the strategy through open dialogue at a variety of levels in Sheffield including the Sheffield Tree Week where the consultation for the Sheffield Street Tree Working Strategy was launched". (Organisation)*

*"I would be extremely supportive of the working strategy that is outlined here...". (Individual)*

*"I am glad that you have been leading the development of the strategy, which I think has the potential to resolve the conflict and secure street trees for the future benefit of the city". (Individual)*

*"I think the individuals and organisations involved so far seem to have worked very well together and I'm pleased with the Street Tree Strategy". (Individual)*

*"We particularly welcome the positive progress made in Sheffield in seeking to develop a refreshed street tree strategy". (Organisation)*

*"SRWT has done a very good job in helping move the tree strategy forwards constructively". (Individual)*

*"I want to compliment Liz Ballard and her team for producing such a high-quality document in terms of both presentation and content. It is a great effort and they should be proud of their work so far". (Organisation)*

*"Thank you for the opportunity to be consulted on this strategy. Having looked over the original Streets Ahead strategy, this really is miles ahead in terms of progress, transparency and overall common-sense. Congratulations on such a well-considered and executed strategy. It reads well for the layperson and is mostly clear and consistent". (Individual)*

*"...looks very comprehensive. Excellent strategy – well done – fully support it". (Individual)*

*"The Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Working Strategy is a very welcome and thorough piece of work that does credit to all participants, but especially to the campaigners whose efforts have made the voices of Sheffield's people heard in the management of Sheffield's street trees". (Organisation)*

*"I thank all participants for the major contribution this excellently-presented document makes to the debate about Sheffield street trees". (Individual)*

*"I think this strategy is definitely going in the right direction...". (Individual)*

*"These are good aims and are a sensible and well-thought-out strategy. Finally.". (Individual)*

*"...welcomes the publication of the consultation document. This strategy it believes can become an example of good practice for how local authorities manage and care for the highway tree stock under their control". (Organisation)*

5.2 By contrast, the comments presented below challenge the working strategy overall for failing to address the problems or adverse effects that street trees can cause including:

- Negative impact of trees especially if poorly maintained
- Causing damage to or creating hazards on the pavement
- Creating access issues by limiting pavement width especially for wheelchair/mobility scooter users
- Negative mental health impact of trees blocking light from homes
- Extra maintenance costs of looking after streets trees and pavements
- Limiting parking options
- Impact of pollination on people with allergies
- Tree roots undermining foundations of buildings
- Leaf fall obscuring pavement obstructions, blocking drains and increasing flood risk
- Branches being too close to roofs, windows, wires, and aerials.

*“A sizeable number of Sheffield residents supported at least parts of the previous tree replacement programme, especially where neglected street trees impacted on their wellbeing. Often opinion within streets were strongly split, with a significant number of residents appearing indifferent. We were promised various local consultations which often never happened possibly because STAG were taken to be representative of local community feeling. Statistics were misused. There is not enough recognition that trees can also have negative effects, especially if poorly maintained”. (Individual)*

*“Consider the negative effects of trees and how/whether these can be addressed, as their roots grow, especially when they are on narrow pavements and also when they grow larger:*

*- Disrupting and damaging the pavement and even affecting adjacent houses. Pavements can cause trips and falls which are disadvantageous for these pedestrians and also put extra demand on the NHS.*

*- Limiting the pavement width. This has particular implications for disabled pedestrians including wheelchair and 'scooter' users. Also during the Covid-19 pandemic, this can limit 'social' physical distancing.*

*- Limiting the light for residents of adjacent houses*

*- Incurring extra maintenance costs of the trees and the pavements, for the Council and ultimately for taxpayers.*

*- Further limiting scarce parking facilities, such as by limiting the parking position where the vehicle doors can be opened”. (Individual)*

*“There is no mention in the tree strategy of managing trees to ensure safe access to pavements for all. I believe that is a great oversight. At the moment, there are pavements which are not safe due entirely to trees”.*

*(Individual)*

*“I think the strategy should make explicit reference to disabled people’s rights and should make it clear that trees will (not “may”) be removed and replaced if the discrimination cannot be otherwise resolved”.*

*(Individual)*

*“I feel strongly about living in a green city but again feel pollination should be considered. Not just for myself and my deteriorating condition but also my family, friends and neighbours are saying they too feel the same this year. I know there are many other factors, but diversity could help alleviate it”. (Individual)*

*“This fails to include the problems that street trees can cause, including creating hazard on the pavement, causing allergic reactions, and tree roots undermining foundations of buildings”. (Individual)*

*“The simple fact, however, is that there are some homes, probably quite a small number, which receive very little or no natural sunlight as a result of the shade cast by street trees, and in which it is necessary to use electric lighting even on the sunniest days. It strikes me that it is reasonable for these residents to want a tree to be replaced with one that will not, even when mature, cast so much shade”. (Individual)*

*“I feel current tree strategy does not allow for any discussion whatsoever of problems with trees and that trees should be assessed for negative features as well as positive ones. Wheelchair users and parents with children in pushchairs seem to have been repeatedly ignored”. (Individual)*

*“I love trees, certainly ones that are appropriate to the site. The trees on my street are lime trees, not at all suitable for a residential street, the leafage in autumn is immense and I would like to see the street cleaned far more often and the road as well as pavements. The bottom of the trees produce many suckers that reach over the pavement and the Council wait too long before taking them off, making pavement access narrow in some parts. They should never have been planted in the first place as there are much more suitable trees. However, they are here so require regular pollarding and care”. (Individual)*

*“What are not properly considered are the interests of people adjacent to highways, living in houses, tending their gardens, and passing along pavements and there is no recognition that people can be adversely affected by trees as well as being benefited by them...The strategy takes no account of the experiences of residents who are for instance cast in shade. One man told me of the incredible relief to his family when the large tree outside his house was felled, with light flooding through their house and a general benefit to their mental health. I have seen others in tears when STAG prevented replacement of the trees which were bothering them. For quite prolonged periods leaf fall clutters the roads, obscuring pavement obstructions, blocking drains and increasing flood risk. Branches are often left close to roofs, windows, wire, and aerials”. (Individual)*

5.3 Some comments reflected concerns about the current and future role of Amey, the Council and STAG in the future management of street trees and highlighted the importance of maintaining a progressive attitude, resolving conflicts and ensuring that a wide range of views are taken into consideration.

*“I think that the draft strategy is excellent in many ways. However, I do not feel comfortable with the assumption that STAG, or other action groups, represent the views of the majority of Sheffield residents. STAG is not a democratic or accountable body, and seems, over the past couple of years, not to have been representative of the whole community, but rather to push a specific agenda...I feel that efforts should be made to consult more widely than just through action groups, which by definition, have a specific agenda”. (Individual)*

*“The background to this Partnership is historically fraught. The Strategy appears to very carefully address the areas of communication and hoped for participation under Public Engagement. This will succeed or not according to how willingly potential conflicts are addressed and mediated – especially where the Council's 'duty of care' meets residents' emotional attachment to their trees”. (Individual)*

*“Re: Rebuilding trust with communication, there should be open, straightforward and timely communication with local groups and residents about all work associated with Sheffield's valuable and valued trees”. (Organisation)*

*“I'd like to see a more progressive attitude and approach from SCC in listening to and working with local communities as well as recognised experts on the implementation of holistically beneficial tree strategy”. (Individual)*

*“The Council must commit to its proposed actions”. (Individual)*

*“We met people who without doubt felt somewhat disenfranchised by some of the campaigners – people who had opinions at odds with the campaigners but who felt unable to express their views. I’d like to suggest that the first port of call for any future consultation about specific trees should be the people directly affected by those trees – the people outside of whose homes the trees are found. Wider views are of course relevant, but I suggest that these should be considered as secondary to those of the people directly affected by any decision”. (Individual)*

*“It requires the full support of the Council etc to get on board...In the past they have been all too eager to see trees as a nuisance and try to cut down as many as possible”. (Individual)*

*“Comparative to previous SCC attitude and behaviour on this topic, this new approach suggests that actions have already been taken and are rendering better results. I’d like to see this new approach continued, with a collaborative and open approach. The actions are more about behaviours and motive”. (Individual)*

*“This [Appendix decision flowchart] needs some more work before it will be acceptable, specifically relating to tree value being factored in and who makes the decision in marginal cases. I don’t think it acceptable by any measure in view of the history of the situation that highways people make the decision”. (Organisation)*

*“Transparency around their activities. Council officers hold Amey to account”. (Individual)*

*“Amey need to be monitored by an independent body as they can't be trusted”. (Individual)*

## 6 VISION

### 6.1 The vision as set out in the working strategy is:

*‘We want to see a network of street trees that Sheffield can be proud of: well-maintained and cared for; resistant to the threats of disease and climate change; and delivering many benefits for people and our environment. These benefits include:*

- A. Supporting our wildlife*
- B. Enhancing our city*
- C. Cleaning the air that we breathe*
- D. Improving our health and wellbeing*
- E. Helping to reduce our carbon emissions*
- F. Helping combat the effects of climate change such as flash floods and rising temperatures.’*

### 6.2 Question 5 of the consultation asked:

- Are there other benefits provided by street trees that could be included in the vision?**

### 6.3 Some respondents asked if the benefits listed in the vision were ordered in terms of priority and questioned the order as presented in the working strategy. It was suggested that benefits such as improving our health and wellbeing and combatting the effects of climate change should be listed first.

### 6.4 Comments received in response to the benefits as set out in the vision are summarised below.

### **A - Supporting our wildlife**

**The following comments explicitly link the role of trees with supporting the city's wildlife:**

*"Increasing temperatures need strategies to help keep...wildlife cool in the hot weather". (Individual)*

*"Essential for wildlife, birds, and oxygen!". (Individual)*

*"Planting trees in a fashion that allows...for generations of ...wildlife". (Individual)*

*"Providing wildlife corridors...". (Individual)*

*"Providing natural corridors for wildlife entering cities". (Individual)*

*"Why not plant some trees that can be foraged by...wildlife". (Individual)*

*"...particular trees supporting particular wildlife". (Individual)*

### **B – Enhancing our city**

**The following comments reflect how trees can contribute to the status of being a 'green city' and the role this could play in enhancing Sheffield's reputation:**

*"It was well known to people outside of Sheffield that one of the attractions of the city was its tree stock and greenery. Unfortunately, this reputation suffered a lot of damage during the period when trees were in my opinion destroyed unnecessarily". (Individual)*

*"Let's be leaders in how we look after and value our street trees. I think striving to be pioneers in developing green cities should be an aim". (Individual)*

*"At one time Sheffield was marketed as the 'greenest city in Europe' through the amount of trees that we have. Let's look after our trees and shout about them to everyone! We don't do enough to market our amazing city, and our trees can help with that". (Individual)*

*"The city had a reputation as a green city and this Council has succeeded in destroying that". (Individual)*

*"Increasing our status as a green city". (Individual)*

*"...maintain the city's profile as one of the world's greenest cities". (Individual)*

*"The outcome should be to enhance the city as a green, welcoming and sustainable place to live". (Individual)*

*"Providing a sense of place and, as part of this, maintaining the city of Sheffield's identity as a green city". (Organisation)*

**The following comments reflect the role that trees can play in enhancing the city in terms of generating economic value, opportunity, and investment:**

*"There is evidence that street trees in an area also enhance the economic benefits of an area. Making people happier to spend time there and more willing to spend money with businesses". (Individual)*

*"Encouraging people to visit Sheffield, boosting the local economy". (Individual)*

*"There is evidence to demonstrate that houses on tree lined streets have higher value, and that spending levels are higher on high streets lined with trees as people tend to spend longer there". (Organisation)*



*“Hopefully now with a sensible proposed strategy this will encourage more people to visit and work here thus increasing the economic status of the city”. (Individual)*

*“Improving the perceptions of potential investors to the city and potential tourists”. (Individual)*

*“To retain and attract skilled employees and investment”. (Individual)*

*“Planting trees in city centres can improve the local economy”. (Organisation)*

*“Attracting students to the city”. (Individual)*

*“Property values – streets with trees are considered more desirable and therefore have a higher value”. (Individual)*

### **C – Cleaning the air that we breathe**

**The following comments explicitly link the role of trees with producing oxygen and providing fresh air:**

*“They produce oxygen – One mature leafy tree can produce enough oxygen to allow ten of us to breathe. This is most important of all in densely populated and polluted areas like cities, where average oxygen levels can be at least 6% lower.” (Individual)*

*“As I understand it, no amount of tree planting will have the same effect as ridding the city of polluting traffic. There is, therefore, I suggest, a danger of over-claiming the benefit of street trees in particular in this regard”. (Individual)*

*“The trees...are key to providing fresh air...”. (Individual)*

*“When the patriots of our city set out the standards of their vision, the being forward thinkers and visionaries making our city green...in the times of the smog, they knew they would enhance the city with a breath of fresh air...I remember Sheffield being the first city to win a fresh air award in the earlier 70’s”. (Individual)*

### **D – Improving our health and wellbeing**

**The following comments explicitly link the role of trees with improving people’s physical and mental health and wellbeing:**

*“Living in a green, natural environment is so good for mental health and wellbeing. A concrete jungle is not life enhancing”. (Individual)*

*“Health and wellbeing is another well-established benefit of heritage. This means that trees make a threefold contribution to health and wellbeing, by creating a more healthy physical environment, by the proven positive emotional impact of exposure to them, and by contributing to a familiar and meaningful environment that provides a sense of security”. (Organisation)*

*“Trees and other forms of green infrastructure are thought to relax the mind”. (Individual)*

*“...we need to see more green spaces and healthy planting for our overall health and wellbeing”. (Individual)*

*“Involving local people in the care of their trees would not only benefit their health but improve a sense of community and provide a greater understanding of and relationship with the natural world”. (Individual)*

*"A 'green leafy suburb' is also a pleasant place to live, street trees make an area more attractive and a walked down a tree-lined street keeps us in touch with nature and is good for emotional wellbeing and mental health". (Individual)*

*"Do not under-estimate the positive effect trees have on mental health. Have physical health and wellbeing as a separate factor to mental health benefits". (Individual)*

*"Mental health I would put at number one on the list". (Individual)*

*"Trees certainly improve mental health and more respect for the environment". (Individual)*

*"Positive local experiences of nature are critical during childhood, particularly in the early years, for supporting the formation of a world view that sees nature as safe, trustworthy and supportive, rather than dangerous, frightening, and detrimental. This is vital for mental health and for building a foundation for stewardship throughout life". (Individual)*

*"Trees in urban areas contribute to improved mental health outcomes. Removal of trees can feel like grief to residents and visitors who feel connected to them". (Individual)*

*"Visually promoting a healthy environment". (Individual)*

*"Appreciation of nature and how it enhances our daily lives". (Individual)*

*"I would like to emphasise the importance to people's health and wellbeing (especially mental health) of having trees in their streets". (Individual)*

*"Improving people's mental health- studies show that trees contribute to good mental health". (Individual)*

*"They are so good for us mentally/spiritually. Seeing beautiful trees rather than just buildings makes you feel good". (Individual)*

*"Have a positive impact on people's mental health as a result of making areas look more appealing". (Individual)*

*"Proof of mental wellbeing and tree hugging is not new knowledge for many...". (Individual)*

*"Trees are proven to have a positive effect on mental wellbeing". (Individual)*

*"Well maintained trees...improve our wellbeing". (Individual)*

*"The blossom is especially important for...improving our wellbeing". (Individual)*

*"Providing a connection for people to the natural environment on their doorsteps". (Organisation)*

#### **E – Helping to reduce our carbon emissions**

**The following comments clarify the role that trees play in offsetting or mitigating carbon emissions rather than reducing emissions as it states in the vision as currently written:**

*"In one year, a single mature tree can absorb over 20 kilos of carbon dioxide". (Individual)*

*"...trees are not going to 'reduce emissions'. They will mitigate climate change by their uptake of carbon, which is a good thing, but I would hate to see the presence of trees used as an excuse not to take other actions to directly reduce emissions e.g. investing in less polluting buses, encouraging cycling or walking over car use". (Individual)*

*“The Working Strategy places a great deal of emphasis on the importance of trees as green assets, and this importance is of a very high order given the emergency of climate change and the very direct effect that a living environment can have on quality of life and even life chances”. (Organisation)*

*“Offset carbon emissions (rather than reduce)”. (Individual)*

**F – Helping combat the effects of climate change such as flash floods and rising temperatures**  
**The following comments explicitly link the role of trees in helping to combat the effects of climate change:**

*“The climate emergency requires action and traffic reduction is one measure. Trees can be used for traffic calming”. (Individual)*

*“I am concerned that the impact of street trees on flood prevention is being over-stated”. (Individual)*

*“I think that the environmental benefit of regulating the run-off of rainwater should be separated from the general point of combatting the effects of climate change, or at least stressed more strongly. This is because the threat of local flooding is a more immediate concern to many people than the more general threat of climate change”. (Individual)*

*“In line with preventing effects of climate change, reducing the damage that can come from increasing strong winds”. (Individual)*

*“Providing shade in hot weather. Protection from high winds”. (Individual)*

*“Regulate temperature and provide shelter in adverse weather conditions such as snow and extreme heat”. (Individual)*

*“Trees also reduce temperatures on a local scale, e.g. in town centres in summer. This is likely to be increasingly important in an age of climate change”. (Individual)*

*“Providing shade and localised cooling. As well as absorbing water, mature trees also release it as water vapour through evapotranspiration from their leaves, which produces a cooling effect. They also provide shade for the ground and buildings, resulting in further cooling and less energy usage. The overall cooling effect of a single, mature tree on average, is equivalent to 10 air conditioning units running for 20 hours in a day. This cooling helps against the urban heat island effect which can cause temperatures in a city to be 7 degrees higher on average”. (Individual)*

*“Providing shade on hot days. I feel this is in addition to combating effects of climate change, having walked from a tree less environment and then along a tree-lined street”. (Individual)*

*“Provision of shade and shelter during summer heatwaves. A tree-lined road can feel dramatically cooler than an unsheltered pavement”. (Individual)*

*“Providing shade from hot sun. Increasing temperatures need strategies to help keep people and wildlife cool in hot weather”. (Individual)*

*“Street trees in Mediterranean countries provide shade for pavements, squares and buildings. The UK may well need this benefit as the temperatures rise”. (Individual)*

*“Providing shade if summers get hotter. I noticed several streets in Palma, Majorca that are lined with mature plane trees providing welcome shade for pedestrians on scorching hot days and local businesses benefit such as cafes with on street dining”. (Individual)*

*“Provide shading during sunny weather to reduce temperatures and glare on the roads”. (Individual)*

*“...it is important to do things locally that add into national and global impact”. (Individual)*

- 6.5 The comments below can be grouped around common themes that could be included in the list of benefits provided by street trees as part of the vision.

**Enhancing the local community, fostering a sense of belonging and being part of the heritage and history of an area**

*“In Sheffield a lot of us have grown up with the trees!! To us they are a part of the community and the history of our lives. I'm sure we all remember the trees on the streets we grew up on, special places we played and visited with friends and family”. (Individual)*

*“We know that trees can provide a sense of community identity, particularly where mature trees have lived to see multiple generations. Newly planted street trees that are chosen with and by the community can also create a sense of place, identity and community cohesion”. (Organisation)*

*“Mature trees look stunning and give a sense of stability and permanence, and foster an attitude of belonging to, and respect for, the society that nurtures them”. (Individual)*

*“Trees on wide corners can become neighbourhood spaces with seating, to encourage community/neighbourhood connections and reduce loneliness, as city squares and piazzas and big trees in middle of villages in hot countries do. On hot or wet days these living environments encourage all ages to be outside, not just in the parks”. (Individual)*

*“Street trees are heritage assets. They provide evidence of past human activity, almost invariably have communal significance, and often have historical significance. This is particularly apparent for trees that were planted to commemorate people or events...The working strategy needs explicitly to recognise the role of street trees as heritage assets...The strategy should also highlight the benefits that arise from the heritage role of street trees and where possible include these amongst measure and targets...Principal amongst these are social cohesion, sense of place and cultural links to the past”. (Organisation)*

*“...trees can be a focal point for street art and community messaging”. (Individual)*

*“Enhancing our local community. e.g. encouraging community activity such as Xmas lights”. (Individual)*

*“Supporting community cohesion, our project to plant street trees along Abbeydale Road has received widespread support from across the community and been a force for good for bringing people together”. (Organisation)*

*“Forming part of a community. Residents and locals often see the street trees as an integral part of their neighbourhood and form strong relationships with individual trees”. (Individual)*

*“Involving local people in the care of their trees would... improve a sense of community and provide a greater understanding of and relationship with the natural world”. (Individual)*

*“Respecting our traditions and history, as represented by for example the Western Road trees, creates a sense of community, respect and the opportunity to learn from our history”. (Individual)*

*“Heritage and local history – the trees tell a story of the area. For example, the trees planted around Heeley City Farm celebrate the community winning over the proposals for a city bypass through Heeley”. (Individual)*

*“Celebrating the cities green heritage and history - for example avenue of limes – Rivelin Valley Road – historic landmarks in themselves”. (Individual)*

*“Heritage, and cultural value. Some trees are associated with specific events or memorials; all contribute to the sense of place and belonging of the local communities”. (Individual)*

*“The oldest street trees are part of our local heritage landscape and are historical resources in themselves”. (Individual)*

### **Improving the aesthetics of a place**

*“Street trees are beautiful to look at. They are aesthetically pleasing. I say this because every time I walk along my road, I appreciate the trees on either side of the road. They contribute to a feeling of well-being”. (Individual)*

*“I think that street trees and the wildlife they support greatly improve the atmosphere and aesthetics of a street. They help bring the outside into our homes and lives. They help us register the seasons and give great pleasure when looking out of our windows and walking under them. They help break up the masses of concrete and manmade materials that our streets are made up of. They help us feel calmer and more relaxed. I've noticed this even more during lockdown how important it has been to be able to walk down tree lined streets everyday”. (Individual)*

*“Street trees elevate the appearance of streets, they make streets look loved and respected and less inner city / down at heel”. (Individual)*

*“They look beautiful. I love looking across the hills of the city and just seeing green!”. (Individual)*

*“The aesthetic beauty of the city”. (Individual)*

*“Aesthetic value – street trees ‘soften’ the view along a street.” (Individual)*

*“They also soften the appearance of hard structures and significantly make an area more visually attractive”. (Individual)*

*“Making Sheffield a more beautiful and natural place to live”. (Individual)*

### **Providing a source of food**

*“Providing edible fruit for passers-by...”. (Individual)*

*“Where appropriate, and away from high concentrations of traffic, there is an opportunity to plant edible trees. Not just here and there, but a major effort to promote roads of edible trees that are for public consumption. This would potentially contribute to building connections between trees and people and serve as an excellent educational opportunity for young people”. (Individual)*

*“Given the apparent division in wealth brought sharply into focus with the recent pandemic, where possible, it would be worth considering planting fruit trees to allow for and encourage the promotion of community foraging”. (Individual)*

*“I have always wondered if fruit trees could be an option in appropriate areas, to provide free fruit, a variety grow well in our climate: a city orchard”. (Individual)*

*“If native fruit trees were chosen, they could also provide food”. (Individual)*

*“Where appropriate, and away from high concentrations of traffic, there is an opportunity to plant edible trees. Not just here and there, but a major effort to promote roads of edible trees that are for public consumption. This would potentially contribute to building connections between trees and people and serve as an excellent educational opportunity for young people”. (Individual)*

6.6 Other benefits mentioned in response to question 5 were:

- Providing natural sound barriers to reduce noise pollution from major roads and trainlines
- Providing natural traffic calming in neighbourhood streets
- Complementing active travel routes, e.g. cycle lanes, into the city centre
- Reducing verge and pavement parking (this point is addressed in section 11.1)

## 7 OUTCOMES

7.1 In support of the Sheffield City Council Trees and Woodland Strategy 2018-33, six outcomes are proposed in the working strategy that are intended to promote and enhance Sheffield’s street trees and their long-term benefits for the public, wildlife, and the wider environment. The six outcomes are:

- Outcome 1** – Our street trees are sustainably and carefully managed in accordance with best practice
- Outcome 2** – Our street trees are more resilient through the type and age of trees we plant and how we manage the current street tree stock
- Outcome 3** – Increase the value and benefits that flow from our street trees
- Outcome 4** – Contribute to a more equal distribution of urban forest across the city to promote health and wellbeing
- Outcome 5** – Increase street tree canopy cover
- Outcome 6** – The wider community is involved in care for and valuing street trees

7.2 Question 6 of the consultation asked:

- Are there other outcomes that you feel are particularly important to achieving the vision?**

7.3 Summarised below are the responses received grouped around common themes.

**Improve understanding and public awareness across all ages of the value of trees**

*“Improve understanding amongst all residents of the city of the vital part that trees play in our health and wellbeing, our environment, etc, etc, thus nurturing respect for trees, especially newly planted ones to avoid vandalism”. (Individual)*

*“Educate people about the value of trees”. (Individual)*

*“We know from the Street Tree Campaign that there is an appetite amongst adults for learning about street trees (guided walks on different specialist subjects were very popular) and there could also be an outcome around engaging children in learning about street trees. This could potentially be linked to Forest Schools, or a resource pack compiled for schools with suitable partners, or Street Tree Wardens trained on how to lead guided walks for adults/families/school groups”. (Organisation)*

*“...educational outreach in all local schools as a way of promoting the importance of street trees to children of all ages so that they are motivated to be part of outcome 6 in the future”. (Individual)*

*“Developing a wider knowledge of trees, their features, health and lifecycle”. (Individual)*

*“Educate our citizens about the importance of trees - how they ‘work’ - as well as why, sometimes it is right to remove them”. (Individual)*

*“I would like to see an investment in educating everyone in Sheffield as to the benefits of street trees, rather than assuming a generalised awareness of issues around carbon storage and oxygen promotion”. (Individual)*

*“A wider understanding about trees (and nature) in our city”. (Individual)*

*“To provide a resource for schools, colleges and universities regarding environmental education and research”. (Individual)*

*“Definitely more education of the public, especially of school children from infants to 16-18 year olds”. (Individual)*

*“Education of the young (and indeed everybody) in the value of living with nature and promoting a varied ecology even in built-up areas”. (Individual)*

*“...the learning children and adults can do about the natural world through observation of well managed street trees”. (Individual)*

*“To educate young people to value trees”. (Individual)*

*“Increase public awareness of the many benefits of street trees through a sustained schools/community education programme”. (Individual)*

*“I would like to see a programme of education to increase the appreciation of trees, and to reduce the intentional and accidental damage to trees, on both public and private land”. (Individual)*

### **Support and protect biodiversity and wildlife**

*“We would like to see the ‘supporting our wildlife’ aspect carried through more strongly in the strategy. It does not feature as one of the Outcomes for example”. (Organisation)*

*“Management of trees takes account of the needs of existing wildlife and the desire to promote habitats for the future”. (Individual)*

*“Biodiversity in terms of the range and number of species (insect etc) supported by street trees is monitored and promoted”. (Individual)*

*“Choose trees which are particularly beneficial to wildlife”. (Individual)*

*“Our citywide tree stock supports native and visiting birds”. (Individual)*

*“Increase the wildlife supported by our street trees by planting species that encourage a variety of life such as hybrid elms”. (Individual)*

*“Ensure street trees contribute to enhancing 'wildlife corridors' in the city”. (Individual)*

*“That we choose trees that are able provide habitat for a wide range of indigenous wildlife and that we choose trees that are indigenous to the UK to help restore prior habitats”. (Individual)*

*“Consider the ecological value of trees being planted rather than aesthetic value only”. (Individual)*

*“Create wildlife corridors that spreads from the city to suburban areas to the countryside”. (Individual)*

*“Tree species chosen have maximum benefits to wildlife”. (Individual)*

*“Use native species to maximise biodiversity in the canopy”. (Individual)*

### **Value and preserve mature trees**

*“Value and nurture the mature trees we have”. (Individual)*

*“To retain all healthy existing trees. We do not want healthy mature trees replaced or removed”. (Individual)*

*“...preserve our rich heritage of mature street trees”. (Individual)*

*“...war memorials and other iconic trees are preserved”. (Individual)*

*“Maintaining established and older trees”. (Individual)*

*“Stop cutting down mature trees”. (Individual)*

*“Maintain and keep mature large trees rather than fell them”. (Individual)*

*“Not cutting down mature trees and replacing them with young trees”. (Individual)*

*“Protection of existing trees. I think that older, established trees should be preserved as these promote a greater sense of wellbeing than smaller, easily moved replacements”. (Individual)*

*“Keeping the most mature trees as much as possible as new trees will take years to be as useful”. (Individual)*

7.4 One respondent suggested that an additional outcome could be getting rid of the trees by the side of the roads.

## **8 ACTIONS**

8.1 Question 7 of the consultation asked:

- If you have suggested any new outcomes in response to question 6, what actions would you propose to help deliver that outcome?**



8.2 Summarised below are the responses received that relate to suggested new outcomes for the street tree strategy (as set out in 7.3).

**Improve understanding and public awareness across all ages of the value of trees**

*"I would like to see one or more educational 'walking routes' between trees of different types which could be used by schools and others as an educational and fun thing to do". (Individual)*

*"...provide the information on the tree species, i.e., as at the Winter Gardens or Botanical Gardens". (Individual)*

*"Trees need to have information boards planted beside them, stating the type of tree, when it was planted and what different species of tree need to survive, i.e. how often the canopy should be cut, typical tree diseases for residents to be alert to and if and how to water them in periods of draught". (Individual)*

*"Just to provide some sort of name plate, or a number name plate and an information board re species, countries of origin, benefits, uses etc.". (Individual)*

*"You need to have some sort of public information campaign as to why trees are important...". (Individual)*

*"...a broad ranging educational strategy which presumably these days will need to include social media and other innovative ways of reaching people who might not otherwise be brought onboard". (Individual)*

*"A focus on education to be the basis of any community engagement". (Individual)*

*"Add tree education in schools. Visits by community foresters etc. Maybe an apprentice programme for school and college leavers. Trees=jobs as a selling point". (Individual)*

*"Development of plans for widespread education about the benefits of trees and their value in financial as well as environmental terms". (Individual)*

*"Provide educators who can go into school, children's clubs, workplaces and inspire the public with their wisdom and passion for these majestic giants of the natural world. Incidentally, the girl guide/ scout movement was a huge part of my childhood education about caring and understanding the benefits of trees, and all nature, and it stays with me". (Individual)*

*"Lessons/talks in ecology in schools and community groups". (Individual)*

*"Collaboration with schools and other places for young people and their adults to create learning opportunities about the life of trees, through the curriculum and through arts activities". (Individual)*

*"Include info to schools and nurseries across the city about the need to respect trees for all the good things they offer us". (Individual)*

*"Partner with the local universities to support funded PhDs to design and implement cultural heritage based tree tours, displays, apps, etc.". (Individual)*

*"Sheffield needs to engage all ages and all communities in respecting our trees – Run competitions, create tree walks, do I-spy type activities for children, Involve schools, scouts, guides etc". (Individual)*

*"Education in schools re. importance of our natural environment. Young people need to keep this momentum going.". (Individual)*

*"That children and young people through schools and clubs etc should be actively engaged through curriculum and activities with identifying and understanding the benefits of having street trees and their importance to us all". (Individual)*

*“Work with colleges and HE/FE organisations to formulate and deliver training in tree planting, maintenance and arboriculture. This could include short, commercial courses covering new diseases, health and safety and other elements of best practice. Link this training to sustainable jobs in the maintenance of our trees. With growing interest in conservation and rewilding organisations such as the wildlife trusts and national parks might have an input into training and might also provide training and employment opportunities. Encourage and inform academic study – make long-term records about our trees available to individuals and organisations with an interest in trees in cities and encourage such connections to be made.”. (Individual)*

*“A programme of education to increase the appreciation of trees, and to reduce the intentional and accidental damage to trees, on both public and private land”. (Individual)*

### **Support and protect biodiversity and wildlife**

*“Ensure tree management is linked to existing understanding of the city’s wildlife using the information available from sources including voluntary groups”. (Individual)*

*“There seems to be a lack of recognition of the ecological/habitat importance of tree species and how that can be factored into the selection process. As a general example, Betula utilis Jacquemontii supports very few of any insect species, whereas Betula pendula sits close to the top of that spectrum. Both are birches, but only one provides significant ecological benefits”. (Organisation)*

*“...considering biodiversity at every stage should be built in”. (Individual)*

*“Tree species choice to enhance biodiversity and consideration to be given to the creation of wildlife corridors. Dead wood to be left when safe to do so.”. (Individual)*

*“There could be actions add around training street wardens/people from the community to identify and monitor biodiversity on street trees. Birds would be the most obvious group to start with, but lichen could be another option – this may need additional resources to deliver. Another action could be to consider working with Amey to look at street lighting glare directly into the higher parts of street trees and if any lights need to be adjusted to reduce this (to benefit bats). Another action could be for Amey/SCC arboriculturally staff to attend the Bat Conservation Trust Bats and Trees course aimed at arboriculturists to raise their awareness of tree features that bats use. Another action could be to erect bat and bird boxes on a number of street trees and for members of the community/street tree wardens to be trained in monitoring these”. (Organisation)*

*“Commitment to planting for the benefit of wildlife population as well as people, and commitment to protecting trees that are providing a home or food for local wildlife”. (Individual)*

*“Place new street trees appropriately and ensure as they mature they are of benefit to wildlife, i.e. no good planting all ornamental stock, we need so called woodland trees in the streets too”. (Individual)*

*“Look at the bigger picture and try and create a series of wildlife highways and link in with neighbouring regions”. (Individual)*

*“Access specialist advice regarding the most suitable species for biodiversity”. (Individual)*

### **Value and preserve mature trees**

*“Apportion a realistic budget to the maintenance of mature trees. We need the young trees as well not instead of the older trees”. (Individual)*

*“Work round the mature trees by using different pavement solutions than in the past”. (Individual)*

8.3 Question 8 of the consultation asked:

- Are there other actions that could be included under the six outcomes proposed in the working strategy?**

8.4 Summarised below are the responses received that relate to the six outcomes proposed in the working strategy.

**Outcome 1 – Our street trees are sustainably and carefully managed in accordance with best practice**

*“Community consensus should be obtained if possible”. (Individual)*

*“Make sure Amey meet or exceed their contract obligations where caring for trees is concerned...Install decent sized tree pits around all existing established trees – many areas still have tarmac right up to trunks and I believe it makes them struggle more in dry summers and deteriorate more quickly”. (Individual)*

*“As part of management the current stock needs review and, if necessary, removal in order to ensure that pedestrian/wheelchair use of our pavements is not impaired”. (Individual)*

*“...include involvement of the wider community in all decision making regarding the ongoing strategy for street trees. Be careful to ensure this point is not seen as paying lip service to the community”. (Individual)*

*“[Organisation name] would recommend that the highway tree management: operations note 51 is embedded into the Strategy”. (Organisation)*

*“We would recommend that the UK Forestry Standard is also considered in relation to the Strategy”. (Organisation)*

*“A presumption of retention of all street trees, with removal only being an exceptional event”. (Individual)*

*“Our roads and drains are regularly cleaned and swept to ensure there is no blockages and mess from falling branches/seeds/leaves etc”. (Individual)*

*“To rebuild public trust in the whole process surrounding the care of Sheffield's trees clear and transparent access should be granted to the public to records about the condition and management of Sheffield's Tree stock. Public access to: Record keeping of the Street tree stock, preferably in the form of an interactive map, condition of established trees; records of new plantings; records of the progress/health/replacement of saplings; records of watering schedules”. (Organisation)*

*“Preventing harm by minimising pavement hazards. Preventing damage to buildings and property, e.g., caused by roots of trees”. (Individual)*

*“Please enhance outcome 1....the trees must be maintained! The reason why so many citizens complain about our trees is because they are simply not maintained and become a nuisance by: blocking drains in autumn; blocking visibility for motorists; blocking the sight of road signs; causing slippery pavements being a danger for pedestrians especially the elderly and the young; darkening roads and pavements when forming an overhead canopy”. (Individual)*

*“Protecting properties from damage from trees. Manage growth of trees in close proximity to homes as reduction of light in homes directly affects wellbeing”. (Individual)*

*“Street trees should not reduce sunlight/daylight in such a way as to have an unduly negative effect on the mental health of people living in flatlets or bedsits with a single window on the outside world”. (Individual)*

*“Trees should not impact on ease of use of pedestrian pathways. Especially for those who are visually impaired or rely on a mobility aid”.*

*“Specific consideration given to street trees within the wider context of policy & decision making and city planning within the Council”. (Individual)*

*“Keeping the public informed of the criteria used to make decisions in regard to tree management”. (Individual)*

*“Specific standards that should be complied with by anyone working in the vicinity of trees - in the last few years there have been some significant examples of trees being damaged. The STS needs requirements for systems to monitor compliance with the specified Industry Standards, consequences for infringement of the specified Industry Standards, and a timescale attached to the implementation of the above”. (Organisation)*

*“Reduce street maintenance costs, better road surfaces, replacing older trees before they damage pavement and roads. Engaging the community in caring for our environs”. (Individual)*

*“Improve the state of Sheffield’s pavements - large trees can lift paving making things difficult for people with mobility problems”. (Individual)*

*“Transparency around who is making the decisions...”. (Individual)*

*“The tree strategy and implementation plans are validated by an independent panel of experts whose advice is published and followed”. (Individual)*

*“Effective maintenance of the present tree stock”. (Individual)*

*“Promotion of the value of street trees and consultation at each stage with those living close. Taking in the needs of those with limited mobility, i.e. siting of street trees”. (Individual)*

*“The trees need more regular and enhanced maintenance to ensure they are not causing injury to the person or damage to properties”. (Individual)*

*“The street should be equally maintained to eliminate the damages caused to the street by the street trees”. (Individual)*

*“Maintaining a balance between having street trees and making pavements smoother and easy to navigate for everyone - older people, people with disabilities, people with babies and children”. (Individual)*

*“Ensuring Street trees do not adversely affect properties they are close to. Ensuring pavements are safe & access, i.e. for pedestrians & that trees are managed to ensure this”. (Individual)*

*“...the trees should be correctly maintained and should not be allowed to interfere with private property. This means cutting back large branches which are overhanging private gardens and which are near to getting too close to properties. Also they should be checked regularly to ensure branches do not fall into the road and cause hazards to pedestrians, drivers and property i.e. cars and buildings. There should also be a regular sweeping of the roads in autumn to remove the large amount of fallen leaves which cause the blocking of street drains and therefore negate the value of the trees for drainage”. (Individual)*

*“More regular street cleaning and drain cleaning, including pavements. This is because trees create a lot of mess, and if not cleaned up can make trees a negative rather than a positive”. (Individual)*

*“Identify new spaces for planting and plan a maintenance plan for existing trees to ensure stability and safety for years to come”. (Individual)*

*“Stipulate that an environmental impact study must be carried out every time a proposal is put forward to fell a healthy street tree for maintenance or development purposes and that the loss to the environment must be compensated for locally (within 25m) of the felled tree, including replacement of the canopy lost”. (Individual)*

*“To wider the pavement area along the street trees paths, so people have more space to walk or exercise. To extend cycle network alongside street trees to attract more users of bicycle reducing the use of private cars to commute to workplaces. To provide proper parking space in neighbourhoods so pedestrians pathways are free of obstructions and to prevent cars damaging trees or invading cycle paths”. (Individual)*

*“An annual survey of trees to ensure that they continue to be well managed and looked after and that action is taken before damage to property occurs and that trees are made safe”. (Individual)*

*“Assignment of a task force to ensure management and maintenance is proactive”. (Individual)*

*“A proper tree maintenance strategy in line with best practice”. (Individual)*

*“We would like to see the Strategy set out a robust replacement policy on street trees. This should see one mature tree replaced with at least three to five new trees”. (Organisation)*

*“Appropriate resources allocated to tree management solutions”. (Individual)*

*“Consideration needs to be thought out, e.g. the growth rate of the trees & expected maximum growth to ensure there is room for the tree to grow to it's potential without causing disruption to property nearby”. (Individual)*

## **Outcome 2 – Our street trees are more resilient through the type and age of trees we plant and how we manage the current street tree stock**

*“Considered strategy for choice of species instead of ad hoc...” (Individual)*

*“...commitment to repair and replace all avenues in Sheffield and produce new ones where practical...” (Individual)*

*“Trees should be chosen based on best understanding of future climate change including water update & availability, temperature resilience and temperature control at ground level. Trees must also be chosen to ensure that the pavements, roads and parked vehicles are not damaged”. (Individual)*

*“All newly sourced trees must adhere to biosecurity best practice, with the aim that ultimately tree stock will be UK sourced and grown...Supporting this could be an ambition to establish or upscale the supply of trees from a local municipal tree nursery. This has proven successful in Leeds with the ambitious city council tree planting strategy. UK sourced and grown trees will help to prevent and reduce tree pests and diseases which have already decimated our populations of Elm and Ash trees, for example”. (Organisation)*

*“Ease of access – trees that are too big cause difficulties to pedestrians and vehicles”. (Individual)*

*“Moving further towards greater diversity than already proposed, with specific reference to the impact of using non-native trees to “future proof” Sheffield as global warming increases, and balancing the use of cultivars. Trees should be germinated and grown on within the UK to avoid importing disease”. (Organisation)*

*“There is nothing that mentions sourcing of new trees. It's important that native trees, or species that have long been established in this country, are used primarily (as well as some non-natives). The trees are best grown in nurseries here and if not the sources need to be very carefully checked for the possibility of bringing in disease”. (Individual)*

*“...increasing tree stock that maintain their leaves in winter may help improve all the benefits outlined all year round”. (Individual)*

*“Trees to be planted that are in keeping historically with the type of tree planted in that area”. (Individual)*

*“Recognise the importance of tree diversity and prevent inappropriate tree replacements – trees should be suited to their position, and replacements of a similar type (for instance flowering cherries shouldn't be replaced with cheap fast-growing stock”. (Individual)*

*“I think we need to think wisely about the type of tree that is planted in different areas. I love the great big trees but they are inappropriate in built up areas where their size will eventually become problematic. Need to use native species”. (Individual)*

*“In some parts of the city we have several streets lined with trees, often of the same species and of exactly the same age...these tend to be entering the later stages of their natural life...there is therefore a significant risk that many of these will decline and hence need replacing at roughly the same time. This suggests that there is a good case for beginning to replace some of these trees now, to be followed by a rolling programme of replacement with a mixture of species over the next 20 years”. (Individual)*

*“Improving the diversity of trees we have”. (Individual)*

*“[Organisation name] supports the need to increase diversity of tree types in Sheffield moving towards a profile of 10% 20% 30% as highlighted in the consultation document”. (Organisation)*

*“...establishment of a Sheffield Tree Nursery in order to ensure the health of new stock and sustainability of the provision”. (Individual)*

*“Careful consideration of which locations would be appropriate for planting edible species”. (Individual)*

### **Outcome 3 – Increase the value and benefits that flow from our street trees**

*“Acknowledge that value and benefits are not directly financial”. (Individual)*

*“We would like to see a commitment to best practice planting (trees from nursery to independence in the landscape) – to ensure that every tree planted has the best chance of survival, establishment and long term health”. (Organisation)*

*“...rather general and vague; it should at least offer examples of what it covers. For example: it is important to consider biodiversity and ecology, both of the trees and the other fauna and flora that live and grow alongside them, which will result in benefits for us and all wildlife”. (Individual)*

*“Choosing trees that are interesting that have different flowers etc that create a sense of wellbeing via touch or smell or beauty. These factors help mindfulness and relaxation and reduce stress”. (Individual)*

*“Investigate the benefits of carbon capture, water absorption, and canopy cover provided by Sequoia (Giant redwoods), and the feasibility of locating these in our river valleys and flood plains, to benefit adjacent road systems from the above, through enhanced drainage, reduction in flooding, and canopy cover”. (Individual)*

*“There is an opportunity to measure more of the heritage-related benefits by including the Amenity and Appropriateness adjustments in the CAVAT measurement. These allow an increase in value of up to 40% to reflect such attributes as streetscape contribution, heritage value, biodiversity, and veteran status”. (Organisation)*

**Outcome 4 – Contribute to a more equal distribution of urban forest across the city to promote health and wellbeing**

*“Target areas of the city that particularly lack street trees”. (Individual)*

*“...hope that we aim for a large increase in the number of all types of trees everywhere and that an increase in an area (that has fewer at the moment) does not mean there will be a reduction of the number of trees in another area”. (Individual)*

*“We do think there’s an important role for more trees in local centres, district centres, and the City centre. But reflecting the changing role of centres, and the pressing need for accommodating more of the city's housing requirements there, much more greening could make for better places and start to provide the natural infrastructure that makes good places to live. It fits with the City's Local Plan ambitions and would help deliver it with better place making”. (Organisation)*

*“Enhance the neighbourhood in areas previously under-represented by trees”. (Individual)*

*“I agree to have more equal distribution, but not to remove trees from areas where they already are at the excuse to grow others elsewhere”. (Individual)*

*“The suggestion for a scheme in which people can raise funds for trees for their streets is a good one...However, whilst the proposed scheme is definitely worth considering, it seems to me that it is very likely to attract more interest in the better off parts of the city and could therefore contribute to a more rather than less uneven distribution of trees across the city. I suggest that measures to mitigate this risk should be considered”. (Individual)*

*“...suggests that the intended aim may be a more equal distribution produced by reduction in some areas. This would be most undesirable. The correct outcome I suggest would be increasing the tree cover everywhere practicable”. (Individual)*

*“Sheffield city centre has the lowest canopy cover in comparison to other parts of the city. Sheffield Planning should incorporate more green space into urban design”. (Organisation)*

*“That the coverage of trees is equal across Sheffield. I work across the city in varying locations and degrees of wealth. The more impoverished areas can sometimes be very lacking in greenery and green spaces. Some of this will be hard to change due to the type of housing of tightly packed terraces but trees could still be planted on the streets”. (Individual)*

*“Plant more trees in more deprived areas of the city”. (Individual)*

*“Guess it comes down to money doesn't it...what about a crowd funder? It would get the funding...but also send a clear and truthful message that the government are not providing you with the means to do projects like this. Projects which have such a wide-ranging impact and for communities...and send a clear message that these things need to be funded by the government. Looking after and investing in communities will have such a huge impact and in the longer term and be cost effective in terms of health, wellbeing, productivity, education”. (Individual)*

**Outcome 5 – Increase street tree canopy cover**

*“Very pleased to see the inclusion of outcome 5 as part of the strategy, rather than the emphasis being purely on the number of new trees being planted”. (Individual)*

*“It is good that there is a commitment to increase canopy cover across the city. However, we would like to see a specific commitment or target for this increase”. (Organisation)*

*“An increase in street trees will help the carbon neutral profile of the city”. (Individual)*

### **Outcome 6 – The wider community is involved in care for and valuing street trees**

*“Education is not mentioned in this Outcome, which is an omission. We know from the Street Tree Campaign that there is an appetite amongst adults for learning about street trees (guided walks on different specialist subjects were very popular) and there could also be an outcome around engaging children in learning about street trees. This could potentially be linked to Forest Schools, or a resource pack compiled for schools with suitable partners, or Street Tree Wardens trained on how to lead guided walks for adults/families/school groups”. (Organisation)*

*“Local residents caring for the trees, wildflowers, wildlife...helping to create individual responsibility and self-worth”. (Individual)*

*“...needs to be very wide so schools, colleges and universities involved, also hospitals, hospices and care homes, local businesses able to contribute, make it part of a binman's job, or a postman's job, people who are on the street everyday can help, people going to work. Continuous consultation on the street trees should be an outcome as well”. (Individual)*

*“Community understanding of the benefits of trees”. (Individual)*

*“Education about the value of Street Trees to the individual and the community. Some communities genuinely don't realise that trees produce oxygen and store carbon. Nor do they understand how they act to reduce flooding, or increase mental wellbeing. If we truly want communities to value their street trees, to support increasing canopy cover, a significant education programme is needed”. (Organisation)*

*“Encouraging the local community to involve themselves with the trees – report issues of disease, damage or vandalism. Encourage local communities to water trees in times of water stress”. (Individual)*

*“There needs to be a concerted effort through media, schools, information in many languages to get every community on board to care and respect our trees”. (Individual)*

*“Our communities have a strong voice in the future of our urban forest and are decision makers for the trees in their area”. (Individual)*

*“...should be explicitly mentioned the importance of engaging with children and young people in caring for and valuing street trees”. (Individual)*

*“Extra funding to support the planting and subsequent maintenance of new street trees”. (Individual)*

*“Discounted or subsidised opportunities to buy trees for private planting, including businesses”. (Individual)*

*“Ask tree wardens to identify trees needing pits. Have a dedicated Amey crew (perhaps the kerb repair team from joint inspections) who can install pits without damaging trees”. (Individual)*

*“Mapping and community engagement. Possible postcode by postcode roll out, with the best served areas supported later, and the least served areas prioritised”. (Individual)*

*“...remain transparent and communicate with residents about any proposed changes to our trees”. (Individual)*

*“Leafleting in any area and offering a local meeting to discuss the needs and wishes for that street”. (Individual)*

*“have a regular renewal or relaunch as wide as possible maybe on an annual basis. It's essential to get new people involved each year so ideas don't stagnate, new volunteers will be needed constantly. Use annual fairs*



*in local areas or citywide festivals or annual days such as Yorkshire Day to hold an event about street trees”. (Individual)*

*“Have a public map of trees and allow communities to nominate important trees and these ones receive close attention”. (Individual)*

*“An interactive map where the public can see the trees listed, type etc, but also where they can pin-point dead and dying ones and suggest new sites”. (Individual)*

*“Why not have tree champions on each road like we have snow wardens. Educate them to know what needs doing, equip them practically and encourage them to engage with their street trees.”. (Individual)*

*“Dialogue with residents is an important way to build trust between the council and the community it should be serving. Don’t dismiss their knowledge and concerns”. (Individual)*

*“Encourage greater community involvement prior to planting new tree stock. Developing information leaflets re types of trees, health issues etc. Involving neighbourhoods in care of new trees, e.g. watering in hot weather.”. (Individual)*

*“More input from the silent voices who feel unable to comment on Sheffield trees due the power the ‘tree champions’ have over the community as a whole”. (Individual)*

*“Sheffield Street Tree Trail and tree competition highlighting some of the incredible trees we are lucky to have in our city and also some of their unique benefits/qualities. Sponsor a tree. Encourage individuals/businesses to sponsor trees to encourage connection with trees in the community. Plant a new tree each year to celebrate births in Sheffield i.e. A sycamore in Graves Park for all babies born in 2021... So that every child in Sheffield can have the opportunity to watch a specific tree grow as they grow”. (Individual)*

## 9 OVERVIEW OF CONSULTATION THEMES

- 9.1 **There is a need to engage with the community through education, from nurseries through to universities, to increase awareness of tree benefits.** Educational engagement is seen as a means of creating opportunities for community members to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for the natural environment, whilst ensuring that Sheffield’s street trees are acknowledged and protected by future generations.
- 9.2 **Many respondents highlighted the aesthetic value of trees and the importance of living in a green, natural environment to positive physical and mental health and wellbeing.** Street trees are an opportunity for people to be connected to the natural environment ‘on their doorstep’ and make local areas more appealing and attractive.
- 9.3 **Several respondents believe that biodiversity and wildlife protection should receive greater centrality within the strategy.** This includes the suggestion for biodiversity value to be included as a criterion within species selection processes and the assessment of the value of a tree.

- 9.4 **The Street Tree Working Strategy could be an opportunity to be pioneering, to cement Sheffield’s ‘Green City’ status, and boost the local economy.** Local pride in being a green city oozes out of the consultation. This is coupled with a desire to be a pioneer, showing the way for other cities to follow. Some responses linked urban greening strategies with attracting talent, investment, and raising the city’s profile.
- 9.5 **Some responses to the consultation called for decision making processes, and decisions taken, to be made transparent, and for public feedback loops to be established.** This includes regular updates online or through a public information campaign, and clear channels through which members of the public can voice their concerns.
- 9.6 **Some respondents felt that the working strategy did not recognise tree maintenance concerns.** Amidst widespread appreciation for street trees and agreement with the aspirations of the strategy, some concerns were raised that by focusing on maximising street tree benefits, those experiencing legitimate issues relating to street tree maintenance feel unheard or that their concerns are not recognised.
- 9.7 **Concerns exist around the safety of streets for those with disabilities.** The consultation recommends taking action to include and elevate the perspective of the disabled community on this issue.
- 9.8 **Many people value trees as community heritage assets and recognise their role in creating a sense of local identity and belonging.** Trees can tell a story of a local area and through their longevity, they become part of the history of a place. They are perceived to belong to the community and not the individual.
- 9.9 **There is an appetite for local involvement and shared custodianship of street trees, and a corresponding need to establish new ways of engaging.** Many imaginative suggestions were put forward including starting a tree nursery; setting up tree sponsorship schemes for businesses; creating tree trails and wildlife corridors; establishing an interactive tree map.
- 9.10 **Views towards street trees were sometimes underpinned by a seemingly uneasy relationship between pedestrians and traffic.** Some responses refer to benefits of street trees in tackling the nuisance of verge parking and reducing traffic noise and pollution.

## 10 SHEFFIELD STREET TREE PARTNERSHIP

10.1 Question 9 of the consultation asked:

- What individuals or organisations would you like to see represented on the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership?**

10.2 A list of the suggestions made by respondents is in **appendix 3**. Names of individuals have not been included in the report. Suggested individuals will be contacted by the Partnership.

10.3 The Street Tree Strategy Development Group is considering options for the arrangements and membership of the Street Tree Partnership. This includes looking at arrangements in other UK cities.

## 11 OTHER ISSUES

11.1 The consultation highlighted the following issues related to the ambitions of the working strategy that are not specifically about street trees. The table below summarises these issues and the current actions to address them:

Issue	Comments/actions
<p><b>Environmental policy</b> Several respondents requested that environmental concerns are embedded within Council policies, in particular, transport, planning and education, to ensure that all policies address climate change, biodiversity, and air pollution in their delivery</p>	<p>The Council has declared a climate emergency<sup>6</sup> and is working towards Sheffield becoming a zero-carbon city by the end of the next decade and playing our full contribution to the Paris Climate Change agreements. The Council has also announced that it will convene a Citizens’ Assembly, representing all parts of the city, to guide our way towards becoming zero carbon. There will be a special role for the next generation with a young people’s Citizens’ Assembly, and wider opportunities for all sectors of the city to contribute to the plan.</p>
<p><b>‘Important Landscapes’</b> Appendix 2, section 3b, of the working strategy refers to ‘Important Landscapes’ when selecting tree species for future plantings</p>	<p>This raises the need for street tree strategy partners to consider a framework for defining and identifying what the term ‘Important Landscapes’ means for Sheffield and to scope out which parts of the city fall within this description that might provide suitable sites for tree planting.</p>
<p><b>Low traffic neighbourhoods</b> Some respondents mentioned the opportunity to introduce low traffic neighbourhoods in the city</p>	<p>Low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) could offer the opportunity for tree planting or planters to help slow the flow of traffic as well as providing spaces for community and social activity. In summer 2019 the Council introduced an LTN in Kelham Island on an experimental basis, closing certain roads to through traffic using planters. The LTN in Kelham will be reviewed to determine whether the closures should be introduced permanently. Should this be the outcome, it may offer the potential for permanent improvements to the street scene, including the potential for tree planting. The introduction of two further LTNs during 2021 is currently under review.</p>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/climate-emergency-response>

Issue	Comments/actions
<p><b>Nature highways and byways</b> Concerns around the ability of wildlife to move around the local environment were raised</p>	<p>Solid fencing in housing and other developments can inhibit the free movement of small animals. Alternatives to solid fencing could be considered and this is an issue for further discussion with the relevant Council teams.</p>
<p><b>Sheffield Local Plan</b> Recommendation that the overall vision and objectives of the Sheffield Street Tree Working Strategy and the current and future stock of trees in Sheffield is reflected and embedded in the forthcoming Sheffield Local Plan particularly in relation to Aim 1, 'An Environmentally Sustainable City' and Aim 7, 'A Green City'</p>	<p>When the Local Plan is drafted, it will take account of all relevant policy documents and strategies, including the Sheffield Street Tree Working Strategy. The strategy will be considered when determining Local Plan strategic and development management policies, drawing up policy area designations and proposing site allocations.</p>
<p><b>Verge parking</b> Some respondents expressed dissatisfaction towards parking on road verges and concern about the damage this can cause</p>	<p>Parking on grass verges is recognised as a challenge – it is not illegal and the number of cars in the city outweighs the available off-street parking. The Council is running a project to look at some options, including parking restrictions adjacent to verges and the use of alternative materials to limit the damage. The aim is to produce report on these options in early 2021.</p>
<p><b>Wildflowers</b> Some respondents expressed interest in planting wildflowers on road verges across the city or enabling residents to do so</p>	<p>The creation of wildflower verges is on the Council's agenda. A paper is being prepared with a view to a rollout in spring 2021. As the Council is the Highway Authority, an executive decision is required to enact a new approach to the creation of wildflower verges.</p>

## 12 SHEFFIELD STREET TREE PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY – NEXT STEPS

12.1 The feedback from the consultation will be used in the following ways:

- To inform the final Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Strategy to be produced by spring 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.

12.2 A report on the consultation feedback will be considered by the Council's Cabinet in January 2021.

- 12.3 Although the consultation on the working strategy is closed, the ongoing way of working will be to continue to engage with stakeholders and communities on the outcomes, actions, and programme of work of the new street tree partnership. The strategy and actions will be kept under review and updated as circumstances evolve or change.
- 12.4 It is proposed that progress on the delivery of the actions in the strategy will be published in the form of annual report produced by the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership. In addition, to monitor progress, options under consideration are providing regular updates on progress against baseline and outcomes, setting clear timescales for delivering actions, and establishing targets where this might be helpful in achieving measurable change.
- 12.5 Along with the 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 including the city centre, district centres and local neighbourhoods, and the health and wellbeing of residents.

## Appendix 1

### Consultation questions

---

**Question 1** – Name

**Question 2** – Are you completing this survey as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

**Question 3** – If you are completing this survey on behalf of an organisation, please provide the name of the organisation.

**Question 4** – Email address

**Question 5** – Are there other benefits provided by street trees that could be included in the vision? Please give reasons for your response

**Question 6** – Are there other outcomes that you feel are particularly important to achieving the vision? Please give reasons for your response

**Question 7** – If you have suggested any new outcomes in response to question 6, what actions would you propose to help deliver that outcome? Please give reasons for your response

**Question 8** – Are there other actions that could be included under the six outcomes proposed in the working strategy? Please give reasons for your response

**Question 9** – What individuals or organisations would you like to see represented on the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership? Please give reasons for your response

**Question 10** – Could you help us deliver the actions in the Sheffield Street Tree Working Strategy? Please outline how you or your organisation could help to deliver one or more of the actions, stating which action(s) and what resources you/your organisation could offer

**Question 11** – Postcode

**Question 12** – Gender identity

**Question 13** – Age

**Question 14** – Ethnicity

**Question 15** – Disability

## Appendix 2

### Letter to stakeholders/tenants & residents associations (TARAs) and list of stakeholders & TARAs contacted

---

#### Sheffield Street Tree Working Strategy – Consultation

We are contacting you because we believe you may be interested in the role of street trees in our city and how local partners can work together to manage street trees.

Sheffield's trees and woodlands are one of the city's greatest natural assets and contribute to its reputation as one of the greenest cities in the UK. Our streets trees form an important and much-loved part of the city's tree stock that we want to improve, maintain, and sustain for future generations to enjoy.

Over the last seven years there has been high profile public interest in Sheffield's street trees. A number of the city's residents formed local action groups to protest against the approach to felling and replacing street trees as part of the Streets Ahead highways maintenance contract between the Council and Amey. In 2018, as a result of mediated talks between the Council, Amey and Sheffield Tree Action Groups (STAG), a joint position statement between the three parties was reached. This included agreement to produce a new street tree strategy for the city as a supplement to the existing Trees & Woodlands Strategy for Sheffield.

The new Sheffield Street Tree Working Strategy, launched at the end of July 2020, was developed through true partnership, discussion, and dialogue. The working strategy is based on a review of current street tree management practices as well as an independent assessment of the benefits provided by Sheffield's street trees. The working strategy and the independent i-Tree Eco assessment report are available on the Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust website: <https://www.wildsheffield.com/campaign/street-trees/street-tree-working-strategy/>

**A consultation on the Sheffield Street Tree Working Strategy is underway until 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020.** We would like to invite your organisation or group to respond:

Via the online consultation: <https://sheffield.citizenspace.com/place-business-strategy/partnership-sheffield-street-tree-working-strategy/>

#### Or

A letter addressing the questions in the consultation emailed to: karen.ramsay@sheffield.gov.uk.

Your views will inform the development of a final strategy in spring 2021.

For further information about the Street Tree Working Strategy, the consultation, and the work of the newly established Sheffield Street Tree Partnership, please contact Karen Ramsay, Place Operational Services, Sheffield City Council (karen.ramsay@sheffield.gov.uk; 07827 978911).

Kind regards



**Liz Ballard, Chair, Sheffield Street Tree Partnership & Chief Executive, Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust**

## Stakeholders (65)

Abbeydale Road Trees	Northern Forest Partnership
Age UK	Peak District National Park Authority
ASSIST asylum seeker conversation club	Regather
Association of Tree Officers (ATO)	Sharrow Community Forum
Broomhall Centre	Sheffield & District African Caribbean Community Association (SADACCA)
Campaign for the Protection of Rural England South Yorkshire	Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust
Cathedral Archer Project	Sheffield Chamber of Commerce
Central URC Church Cafe	Sheffield City Council
Chris Clarkson MP (Cons, Heywood & Middleton, Greater Manchester)	Sheffield Climate Alliance
City of Sanctuary Sheffield	Sheffield Futures
Dan Jarvis	Sheffield Green Spaces Forum
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	Sheffield Hallam University
Disability Sheffield	Sheffield MIND
Emmaus homeless centre	Sheffield MPs (x 5)
Environment Agency	Sheffield Property Association
Faith Star	Ship Shape
Foodhall	South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTTE)
Forestry Commission	Southey & Owlerton Area Regeneration (SOAR)
Green City Heritage	St Luke's Hospice
Green Estate	St Mary's Church
Greener Practice	St Wilfrid's Centre
Heeley Development Trust	Sustrans
Hope for the Future	The Arboricultural Association
Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF)	The Tree Charter
Landscape Institute	Tree and Design Action Group
Lawyers for Nature	Trees for Cities
Mental Health Action Group Sheffield (MHAGS)	University of Sheffield
National Forest Company	Urban Design Group
Natural England	Woodcraft Groups
Nether Edge and Sharrow Sustainable Transition (NESST)	Woodland Trust
	Zest

## Tenants & Residents Associations (49)

Abbeydale (S8)	Gleadless Valley (S14)	North Sheffield (S35)
Angram Bank (S35)	Greenhill/Bradway (S8)	Norwood & Bishopsholme (S5)
Arbourthorne (S2)	Handsworth & Ballifield (S13)	Scraithwood (S5)
Badger Tithe Barn/Tilford (S13)	Hanover (S3)	Shoreham Street (S1)
Batemoor Estate (S8)	Heeley (S8)	Stannington (S6)
Beighton (S20)	Jordanthorpe (S8)	Stocksbridge & Upper Don (S36)
Binsted (S5)	Lane End & Mortomley (S35)	Stradbroke (S13)
Brindley & Mundella (S8)	Langsett & Walkley (S6)	Stubbin (S5)
Brushes (S5)	Landsdown (S11)	Totley Brook (S8)
Burngreave (S3, S4)	Leverton & Thorpe (S11)	Uppertorpe (S6)
Chantrey (S8)	Lindsay (S5)	Waterthorpe (S20)
Crookes & Upper Walkley (S10)	Littledale (S9)	Wensley (S4)
Darnall (S9)	Longley Hall Farm (S5)	Westminster (S10)
Edward St & St George's (S3)	Lower Wincobank (S9)	Winn Gardens (S6)
Firhill (S4)	Martin & Oxford St (S6)	Woodhouse (S13)
Flower (S5)	Monteney & Ecclesfield (S35)	
Galsworthy (S5)	Norfolk Park (S2)	



## Appendix 3

### Question 9 – What individuals or organisations would you like to see represented on the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership?

SPECIFIC	GENERAL
<p>Abbeydale Street Trees                      Asthma UK                      Automobile Association (AA)                      Bradway Action Group                      BTCV Conservation                      Canals &amp; Rivers Trust                      Chapeltown in Bloom                      Clean Air for Sheffield                      CPRE South Yorkshire                      Crookesmoor Community Group                      Crosspool Forum                      Dore Village Society                      Environment Agency                      Forestry Commission                      Friends of Bingham Park                      Friends of Botanical Gardens                      Friends of the Earth                      Friends of Loxley Valley                      Friends of Porter Valley                      Green City Heritage                      Green Flag                      Greenpeace                      Heeley City Farm                      HSBC                      International Tree Foundation                        John Lewis                      Love Our Streets                      Museums Sheffield                      National Forest                      National Trust                      Natural England                      Nether Edge &amp; Sharrow Sustainable Transition (NESST)                      RAC                      Ranmoor Society                      Rewilding Britain                      RIVA Project                      Rivelin Valley Conservation Group                      Royal Horticultural Society</p>	<p>Allergy specialists                      Allotment groups                      Arborists (qualified &amp; peer accredited)                      Biodiversity experts                      Care homes                      City landscape architects                      Climate change experts                      Conservationists                      Community associations/forums/groups                      Community members                      Cross-party Council members                      Cycle advocacy groups                      Disability organisations                      Education services                      Elderly community groups                      Environmental experts                      Employment services                      Faith groups                      Foodbanks                      Foraging charities                      Gardeners (professional)                      GPs                      Guides                      Health &amp; social care experts                      Helping Environmental Regeneration in Broomhall (HERB)                      Households immediately adjacent to street trees                      Local businesses                      Lumberjacks                      Marketing &amp; PR professionals                      Media professionals (incl social media)                      Neighbourhood tree action groups (incl STAG)                      Parish Councils                        Park rangers                      People from poorly served areas for street trees                      Planners                      Private citizens<sup>7</sup>                      Public transport companies                      Resident groups</p>

<sup>7</sup> Elected following the same procedures as councillors & according to a manifesto

<b>SPECIFIC</b>	<b>GENERAL</b>
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Save Norfolk Park Trees Sheaf & Porter Rivers Trust Sheffield Bird Study Group Council tree, ecology, woodland & arborist experts Sheffield Climate Alliance Sheffield Hallam University Sheffield Litter Pickers Sheffield MPs Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust Sheffield Tree Action Groups (STAG) Sorby Natural History Society South Yorkshire Bat Group Trees for Cities The Trussell Trust University of Sheffield Voluntary Action Sheffield Walkley Community Group Woodland Trust World Wildlife Fund	Schools - Primary/Secondary/Forest Scouts Street cleaning services Structural engineers TARAs Taxi firms Tree specialists Tree surgeons Users of the streets Ward tree champions Wider local groups Young people's groups Youth clubs