

# **Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee**

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**Tuesday 8 September 2020 at 4.30 pm**

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

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

## **Membership**

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Councillors Denise Fox (Chair), Ian Auckland (Deputy Chair), Neale Gibson, Dianne Hurst, Alan Hooper, Abdul Khayum, Bryan Lodge, Mohammed Mahroof, Barbara Masters, Ben Miskell, Moya O'Rourke, Sioned-Mair Richards, Chris Rosling-Josephs, Martin Smith and Paul Turpin

## **Substitute Members**

In accordance with the Constitution, Substitute Members may be provided for the above Committee Members as and when required.

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## **PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING**

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The Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Committee exercises an overview and scrutiny function in respect of the planning, development and monitoring of service performance and other issues in respect of the area of Council activity relating to planning and economic development, wider environmental issues, culture, leisure, skills and training, and the quality of life in the City.

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 can also see the reports to be discussed at the meeting if you call at the First Point Reception, Town Hall, Pinstone Street entrance. The Reception is open between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Thursday and between 9.00 am and 4.45 pm. on Friday. 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 Scrutiny Committee 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.

Scrutiny Committee meetings are normally open to the public but sometimes the Committee 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. If you would like to attend the meeting please report to the First Point Reception desk where you will be directed to the meeting room.

If you require any further information about this Scrutiny Committee, please contact Deborah Glen, Policy and Improvement Officer on 0114 27 35065 or [email deborah.glen@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.glen@sheffield.gov.uk)

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## **FACILITIES**

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There are public toilets available, with wheelchair access, on the ground floor of the Town Hall. Induction loop facilities are available in meeting rooms.

Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

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**ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING SCRUTINY AND POLICY  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA  
8 SEPTEMBER 2020**

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**Order of Business**

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- 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 - 14)  
To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2020
- 6. Public Questions and Petitions**  
To receive any questions or petitions from members of the public
- 7. Leisure Re-opening Subsidy - Sheffield City Trust/Places Leisure** (Pages 15 - 24)  
Report of the Executive Director, Resources
- 8. Date of Next Meeting**  
The next meeting of the Committee will be held on a date to be arranged

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## ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

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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).

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Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development  
Committee

Meeting held 14 January 2020

**PRESENT:** Councillors Denise Fox (Chair), Ian Auckland (Deputy Chair),  
Dianne Hurst, Alan Hooper, Abdul Khayum, Bryan Lodge,  
Mohammed Mahroof, Barbara Masters, Ben Miskell, Martin Smith and  
Paul Turpin

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Neale Gibson, Moya O'Rourke, Sioned-Mair Richards and Chris Rosling-Josephs.

**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 THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019, were approved as a correct record and, arising therefrom, further to a query raised by Councillor Martin Smith, with regard to the report on the update on the financial position of the Sheffield City Trust, the Policy and Improvement Officer (Alice Nicholson) reported that this item had been scheduled for the Committee's meeting to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020, at which a report on the updated financial position was to be submitted, and which would also include details of any action and activity taken place since October 2019.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

5.1 Members of the public raised questions as follows:-

5.2 Kevin Leah

5.2.1 Please could I and other volunteer litter pickers at the Ponderosa, discuss the plans for improvement and investment of the Ponderosa Park, Uppertorpe, with the Committee, at its next meeting to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The volunteers would like to discuss the ongoing work following the 2018 public consultation.

5.2.2 The Chair stated that the Committee would discuss the request and a response

would be sent to Mr Leah.

5.3 Brian Holmshaw

5.3.1 I would like to ask, with reference to the proposals regarding the Station/Sheaf Valley, as part of the presentation to be made at this meeting, whether the dual carriageway that was shown as being on previous versions of the illustration, was still there? It was between Park Hill and the Station, and if built, would further isolate the communities beyond the tram tracks at this point.

5.3.2 Edward Highfield (Director of City Growth) stated that proposals for this area were included as part of the HS2 Masterplan, and reference would be made briefly to such plans as part of the presentation at this meeting. Mr Highfield added that a report was due to be submitted to the Cabinet, at a meeting to be held in March 2020, seeking endorsement to the Masterplan.

**6. CITY CENTRE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

6.1 The Committee received a presentation from Edward Highfield (Director of City Growth) and Tammy Whitaker (Head of Regeneration and Property Services) on 'Regenerating our City Centre'.

6.2 Edward Highfield stated that the information in the presentation represented a series of very broad proposals, together with details of progress. He added that the City Centre was very important in terms of commerce, retail and leisure, as well as being a major economic driver within the City Region economy. He stated that, whilst there were many other elements to the City Centre, the presentation primarily focused on its proposed physical regeneration.

6.3 Tammy Whitaker stated that the overall aim was for the City Centre to become a vibrant place of ambition, creativity and inclusiveness, and she referred to a map, which was displayed at the meeting, which highlighted the locations within the City Centre where regeneration and development activity had taken place, and was planned, between 2019 and 2021. Ms Whitaker referred to a number of recent successes with regard to development in the City Centre, relating to commercial and residential development, university investment and creating sustainable places. She also referred to a number of priority areas in terms of future development, which included West Bar, the Station/Sheaf Valley, Castlegate and Fargate/High Street, and reported on proposals regarding City Living, which included the provision of affordable, sustainable and high-quality accommodation in and around the City Centre area. Ms Whitaker stressed that many of the schemes discussed during the presentation were not Council-led, but were private sector-led schemes where the Council had an enabling and facilitating role.

6.4 Members of the Committee raised questions, and the following responses were provided:-

- It was accepted that proposed development schemes in the City Centre were reliant on the private sector, and therefore, the buoyancy of the market. At

the same time, it was acknowledged that the private sector had been instrumental in terms of driving forward a number of development schemes. Regeneration was a long-term, iterative process, and there would always be regeneration opportunities in large cities such as Sheffield. The Council's role was to encourage and support the private sector, and sometimes, this would involve taking risks.

- In terms of any regeneration plans, it was necessary to find out what was important to, and for, the City. There was also a need, through effective communication and marketing, to sell the City internationally, which would hopefully result in further visitors and investment. Marketing Sheffield was currently responsible for this area of work, and there had been a significant shift in terms of the quality of advertisement and promotion material over the years, which included greater use of social media.
- There had been a major change over the last 20 years in terms of how the regeneration of the City had been led. Around 20 years ago, there was the Sheffield One Masterplan, which comprised seven major projects, the majority of which were public sector-led schemes. Now, the investment in the City Centre was mostly private sector-led. However, it was important to learn the lessons of over-reliance on major investors. It had been considered that the most effective way to implement regeneration was to make progress incrementally, whilst ensuring that there was still an overall vision.
- Phases 1 and 2 of the Grey to Green element of the Creating Sustainable Places initiative had only been part-funded by the European Union (EU). It was not clear how the Shared Prosperity Fund, which was to replace the EU funding programme would work. The Grey to Green schemes often acted as a catalyst for private sector funding and investment, and it was believed that such schemes would remain as a key priority for the City, given the current climate change ambitions.
- There were still plans, as part of the redevelopment of Castlegate, to create a public park around the site of the former Sheffield Castle, with the remains of the Castle being a key part of the plans. Such plans also included residential and employment proposals. The scheme needed to be commercially viable and deliverable, and the Council would commence the process of looking for a development partner during 2020.
- Whilst the business rates in the City Centre were set by Central Government, there were a number of schemes run by the Council, where small businesses could apply for rate reductions.
- As well as local businesses, the Authority wanted to attract businesses with an international outlook, and able to trade with the rest of the world.
- Whilst it was accepted that the ethos and nature of the retail offer on Devonshire Street had changed over the years, it was believed that this had been down to the success of some of the businesses in that area, which had

resulted in them outgrowing their premises, and other businesses moving in. The Council would continue to help and support local businesses grow in the City, and was actively looking for suitable areas in and around the City Centre to locate such businesses.

- It was not possible for the Authority to give any assurances or guarantee that affordable housing would be provided by private developers as part of residential developments. It was simply a case of whether it was a viable option for the developer. Whilst it was accepted that there was a need to increase the supply of affordable housing, the Authority could not guarantee, as part of the planning process, that developers provided such accommodation. Developers could challenge any requirements made by the Authority on viability grounds. Land was owned by developers and could be left vacant and undeveloped if schemes were unviable.
- No details could be provided in connection with the planned restructuring of the Planning Service as consultations were currently taking place. However, it was believed that following such restructuring, the Authority would still be in a position to deliver a modern and fit for purpose Planning Service.
- It was not expected that any change in Central Government would have any major effects on the National Planning Policy Framework, as such Framework was set fairly firm. There was no indication that there would be any specific risks.
- The Authority was currently looking at the possibility of pedestrianising further areas in and around the City Centre, through the Transforming Cities Fund. The Authority was optimistic that it would be successful in terms of a funding bid, which would hopefully result in the receipt of between £40 to £60 million over the next four years, to be used for sustainable travel. There had been no firm plans or proposals to date, but various options would be investigated, which would include wider requirements, such as amending bus routes.
- The Authority was one of many partner organisations involved in the regeneration of the City Centre, and no longer had sufficient resources or access to funds that it had in the past. It had become more of a team approach now, with the Authority now playing more of a supporting role. It was hoped that, as with the Heart of the City project, the development schemes now referred to would help to facilitate other development schemes.
- There was no set budget for development schemes in the City Centre, with each scheme being dealt with, and funded, on a project by project basis. The Authority was currently looking at key priorities, as well as funding options, including the City Region Infrastructure Fund, monies from which had been used to fund several development projects over the last few years. A sum of approximately £8 million had been set aside by the Authority for land assembly purposes, with £3 million of this having been identified specifically for residential development. In some cases, developers would express an interest following the sale of land by the Authority, or where the Authority had

purchased land under a Compulsory Purchase Order and where, in some instances, the developers would pay the Authority's legal fees.

- The Authority had not yet signed any deal in connection with the proposed large office development at West Bar following recent Cabinet approval of the scheme. If the Authority took a lease, as intended, it was not likely that the office space at West Bar would remain vacant for the term of the lease and, indeed, the Authority could actually make a surplus in terms of sub-letting some of the space.
- With regard to city living, particularly in those areas where such planned developments/communities were split by major arterial roads, there were plans to create linkages by means of implementing traffic-calming measures, stopping certain uses on the roads, making improvements to road junctions and pedestrian crossings, and providing cycle paths.
- There were no detailed plans regarding the proposed City Living development within the Housing Zone North. It was envisaged that the development, planned for the area, would comprise a mix of new build and refurbished accommodation.
- There were no detailed plans with regard to the proposed development at Castlegate (Canada House). The Authority was in regular dialogue with The Music Academy, and it was likely that the development would include a mixture of Council and other external funding, such as Arts funding.
- It was planned that the various regeneration and development schemes would be prioritised, and applications for funding would be made to the Corporate Infrastructure Fund, details of which would be reported through the Cabinet process.
- Whilst every opportunity would be made to maximise the benefits from HS2, there would be significant physical constraints with regard to developing the Station/Sheaf Valley area, particularly heading to the north of the City. There were plans to take some local services off the main network and move them on to the tram/train network. Other major issues, such as flooding risks and taxis, would have to be considered.
- The Authority had submitted a bid to the Future High Street Fund, which would include funding to acquire some properties and would provide an option to open up some of the upper floors for residential development.

6.5 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the information reported as part of the presentation, and the responses to the questions raised; and
- (b) thanks Edward Highfield and Tammy Whitaker for attending the meeting and responding to the questions raised, and requests that they attend a future

meeting of the Committee to report on the progress of the regeneration of the City Centre.

**7. WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**

- 7.1 The Committee received a report of the Policy and Improvement Officer (Alice Nicholson) containing the Work Programme for 2019/20.
- 7.2 Further to issues raised by Members of the Committee, the Policy and Improvement Officer reported that a report on the flood defence programme could be added to the Work Programme, and that consideration would be given to a briefing paper on the issue raised by the member of the public, with regard to Ponderosa Park.
- 7.3 RESOLVED: That the Committee notes the information now reported, and approves the Work Programme for 2019/20.

**8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 8.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020, at 4.30 pm, in the Town Hall.



## Report to Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Report of:** Executive Director - Resources

**Subject:** Leisure re-opening subsidy – SCT/Places Leisure

**Author of Report:** Lisa Firth, Director of Culture, Parks & Leisure

Ryan Keyworth, Director of Finance and Commercial Services

### Summary:

This report provides an update on the package of funding support in order to begin re-opening a number of leisure facilities operated by Sheffield City Trust (SCT) and Places Leisure (PL). The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the facilities ability to generate income and without additional funding from SCC it would not be possible for SCT or PL to open any leisure provision in the city. SCT and PL therefore required urgent funding, by way of grant and contract payment, respectively, to meet additional costs and lost revenue caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Type of item:** The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	✓
Other	

### The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

### Background Papers:

None

**Category of Report:** OPEN

## **Report of the Executive Director of Resources**

### **Leisure re-opening subsidy – SCT/Places Leisure**

#### **1. Introduction/Context**

Officers and members are currently working to develop the future vision for Sport, Leisure and Entertainment in the city. Working collaboratively with Sheffield City Trust and supported by Turner Townsend and Sport and Leisure Consultancy (SLC). This work had progressed significantly and a series of workshops had been held before lockdown.

Sheffield City Trust was set up in 1987 as an independent charity to oversee the running of the City's sport and leisure facilities, linked to the Major Sporting Facilities (Ponds Forge, Hillsborough Leisure Centre and the Arena) that were built for the 1991 World Student Games. The Council's existing contractual relationships with the Trust for the management of Major Sporting Facilities is due to come to an end in 2024.

In October 2019 a report was presented to this Committee to provide an update on the current financial position of Sheffield City Trust (SCT). The report identified a number of financial issues for SCT that have arisen as a result of difficult trading conditions and a long period of austerity, together with some of the assets being quite dated and maintenance costs are increasing.

Prior to Covid-19, the Council agreed a package of financial support for SCT that has stabilised their financial position. This included up to £2.8m revenue subsidy and up to £3.5m contribution for essential maintenance and repairs to buildings within the SCT Leisure and Entertainment estate.

On March 20th 2020 the UK Government took the decision to close all public leisure centres in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a consequence, the facilities in Sheffield stopped trading and a number of fixed costs have to date been met by the Council to ensure the buildings are safe and secure and can be activated for any civil emergency response.

The funding package identified within this report for the 2020/21 period will support the re-opening of a reduced number of venues across the city. Additional funding is required to remobilise services as some facilities remain closed and even where opened income is expected to be significantly reduced whilst social distancing measures are in place and impacting on capacity levels and the speed at which services can rebuild and recover.



Whilst the Council does not have a legal duty to provide leisure services there are a number of statutory duties related to leisure facilities, which includes the statutory youth provision and the need to ensure children in primary schools can learn to swim. Over and above this, the Council has received significant external capital funding over the last 20 years to modernise the leisure estate and there is a requirement for these facilities to operate in order to avoid the capital investment potentially being clawed back by funders (e.g. Ice Sheffield, EIS Sheffield, Graves Health and Sports Centre, Thorncliffe Health and Sports Centre).

## **2. Re-opening of Facilities**

### **2.1 Rationale for re-opening**

2.1.1 As a condition of the council providing additional emergency funding to SCT, the Trust was asked to provide a plan for re-opening facilities that the Trust believed would provide the best socio-geographic range of leisure provision for the city, along with the associated subsidy ask of the council to support their re-opening proposal. The phased reopening of facilities identified within this report provides a good geographical spread of provision across the city, considering the demographic of communities.

#### **2.1.2 Sheffield City Trust Facilities**

**Concord Sports Centre:** The catchment is predominantly S5, but also takes in regular customers from neighbouring S6, S9 and S35. The venue has a large floorplan with easy separation of wet and dry side customers. There is also a lot of sports hall space and outdoor activity area, leading onto a public park. This means that it should be relatively easy to enforce social distancing in the venue and to hold group activities in a well-spaced environment. The location of the venue fits well with newer, cost-effective sites operated by Places to give a good coverage across the city and include communities in the north-east. The venue is also a key base for a lot of the partner activity in the local community by organisations such as Street Leagues and the city's football clubs. Concord Sports Centre is one of the NCSEM bases, providing a critical link for Exercise Referral programmes for vulnerable individuals

**English Institute of Sport Sheffield (EISS):** Has a regular fitness membership from S9 and neighbouring S5, S2 and S13. With specialist activities in athletics, EISS draws from all Sheffield postcodes. The return to work of athletes (initially from British Boxing) training for Tokyo 2021 means that the venue is open and earning income and the addition of public fitness, school usage and other activities would be available at net income. The facility also provides administrative and training centres for National Governing Bodies; all of whom are working on their athletes' road to Tokyo 2021. EISS also provides the school physical education provision for the neighbouring Oasis Academy Don Valley for their pupils, currently 120 rising to c.600 pupils.

**Ice Sheffield:** Provides unique activities having specific appeal for teens & younger adults with the general skating sessions being popular with teenage girls, a group that's difficult to engage in physical activity. Calculations show that the venue can be operated to generate a financial contribution to the other activities of the trust. Ice Sheffield provides administrative and training centres for National Governing Bodies; all of whom are working on their athletes' road to Winter Olympic 2022. This venue will be opened as soon as Government guidance permits.

**Tinsley, Beauchief and Birley Golf Courses:** These sites are already operational following an earlier phase of easing of lockdown restrictions. All 3 courses are seeing buoyant demand, across all days of the week. The required operational restrictions have reduced playing capacities, but greater flexibility in players' lives means greater uptake than normal for 'off-peak' playing times. As the season comes to a close and demand reduces it is proposed that one course will close from November 2020. Further detailed work and consultation on which course to close will take place over coming weeks and prior to any decision.

**Heeley Pool:** It is proposed that Heeley Pool is used to serve as a convenient central location to offer dedicated water space for School Swimming programmes, Learn to Swim and for elite swimming clubs' use in relocating from Ponds Forge. The option provides a cost-effective way of replacing some of the lost capacity from Ponds Forge.

**Springs Leisure Centre:** Adds to a very strong community and swimming-focused approach widening access for a geographically tightly defined audience in the S12, S2 and S13 postcodes. The venue has a fitness membership of c.500 appealing to the oldest demographic amongst the SCT venues (36% aged over 45 years old) and a coached programme attracting 675 children each week across swimming, football and gymnastics and trampolining. As well as the general public, Springs provides services for specific community groups; offering autism-specific sessions and 'Walking' sports (Walking Football, Walking Cricket) for older adults as well as joint working with Spire Community Centre, Manor & Castle Development Trust and Sheffield United Community Foundation to engage a wide cross section of the local community. These will be re-introduced as soon as the social distancing regulations make them feasible. In addition, the venue focuses on specific health-recovery work with Exercise Referral programmes with NHS activity for individuals living with acute health conditions.

**Hillsborough Leisure Centre:** Has a large fitness membership with the highest attended fitness class programme in the city, alongside offering additional water space for school swimming, coached swimming for learners and lane swimming for general public usage. The gym has recently been re-designed with the latest equipment and the large space will allow a large capacity for users throughout the day. The extensive group exercise programme can be delivered in a well-spaced atmosphere in the sports hall. Wet and dry side attenders can be easily separated to maximise distancing

### 2.1.3 Places Leisure Facilities

**Graves Health and Sports Centre:** provides fitness memberships and physical activity options including specialist indoor tennis, gymnastics & trampoline facilities, with modern and welcoming Gym, studio's and pool hall to compliment. The centre is also provides clinical services via the NCSEM, providing a critical link for Exercise Referral programmes for vulnerable individuals. Graves serves the people of Sheffield within its immediate catchment area and neighbouring postcodes S8, S12, S17 and S18, this ranges from the Norton, Jordanthorpe & Batemoor area's to Westfield, Woodhouse, Greystones and Sharrow Vale.

**Thorncliffe Health & Leisure Centre:** provides fitness memberships and physical activity options with its modern and welcoming Gym, studios and pool hall to compliment. The centre is also provides clinical services via the NCSEM, providing a critical link for Exercise Referral programmes for vulnerable individuals. Thorncliffe serves the people of Sheffield within its immediate catchment area and neighbouring postcodes S35, S36 and S61.

**Wisewood Sports Centre:** Provides fitness memberships and physical activity options with its modern and welcoming Gym, studio and Sports Hall, the Centre is equipped with a recently upgraded gym, fitness studios, and football pitches. Wisewood serves the people of Sheffield within its immediate catchment area and neighbouring postcodes S6 and S35.

### 2.1.4 Ponds Forge

It is not proposed to re-open Ponds Forge ISC at this time. Ponds Forge is a major international swimming pool and regional conferencing and banqueting centre and is home to Sheffield's main swimming, diving and water polo squads as well as Sheffield Sharks Basketball teams. In keeping with the entertainment and theatre venues in the city, it isn't currently possible to open up Ponds Forge as restrictions still apply and the significant lost income would lead to the net cost of the venue being unaffordable and disproportionate compared with other facilities in the city. The proposal is to temporarily keep Ponds Forge closed and re-open it when regulations permit commercial activity to operate.

Sheffield City Trust is currently in discussion with all the clubs and tenants based at Ponds Forge to discuss alternative solutions in the short and medium term, and also alternative provision at non SCT/council venues in the city, particularly:

- City of Sheffield Swim Squad
- City of Sheffield Diving Club
- City of Sheffield Water Polo
- Sheffield Sharks
- Sheffield Hallam University

Both SCT and SCC understand the importance of these clubs to the city and it is a difficult decision to keep the facility closed. From discussions with SCT and information from Swim England, we believe that Sheffield all clubs have been temporarily accommodated in other facilities.

## **2.2 Budget implications**

### **2.2.1 SCC Budget**

SCT has seen a significant financial impact from the loss of income from the entertainment venues – the cost of the Arena and City Hall this year will be c£2m, however, a normal year would see them make a positive contribution to subsidising leisure operations of about £1m. This loss of income shows the leisure operations in financial deficit just from the loss of live event / entertainment.

The Council has committed £15m in this current financial year to support SCT with its facility re-opening plans (whilst accepting that Arena and City Hall cannot re-open for the foreseeable future). However, £10m of this money is not in the budget and is just one part of the council's £56m of increased costs so far as a result of the global pandemic. Government support totals £44m to date, but no government support has been made available to cover cost increases for leisure trusts like SCT.

Supporting SCT to open Ponds Forge in its current format would cost the council an additional £1.5m in revenue subsidy up to the end of March 2021 and at least £3m in revenue subsidy for 2021/22. This is more than the total budget for SCT revenue subsidy of £2.8m for all leisure and entertainments facilities for 2021/22.

The cost of not re-opening any SCT venues at all this year and ceasing operations would have been around £11m in 2020/21, of which Ponds Forge accounts for £1.5m, still significantly above the council's budget. However, the council's commitment to improving health and wellbeing and equality of access to leisure facilities for residents meant that not opening facilities was not an option. Tough decisions have had to be made about how much money could be set aside to support SCT with their re-opening programme and the council has supported SCT's plan to open the facilities that provide the best mix of community facilities and school swimming. Unfortunately, in its current state and extremely high costs, it has not been possible to provide enough additional support to open Ponds Forge and to do so would have meant that other community facilities might not have been able to open.

### **2.2.2 Government Relief Support**

We are supporting UK Active and Sport England, in highlighting the need for urgent financial support for the public leisure sector from the

Government, to ensure that reopening of public facilities in Sheffield is financially viable. Whilst there is some support available to the council to cover lost revenue as a result of the pandemic, the support package identified to date does not currently allow for losses where councils, such as Sheffield, subsidise leisure services either directly or through a management charge. The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), is aware of this and is continuing to review the details of the support package currently available to councils. We also continue to work closely with the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to consider what more can be done to support the unplanned expenditure pressures which councils are incurring in relation to local leisure provision.

We are in regular contact with Sport England and are awaiting details of any further support available from central government. In the meantime we are working with other core cities to prepare a letter to DCMS and regarding this relief.

### **3.0 Future Strategy for the provision of Sport, Leisure & Entertainment**

- 3.1 This work provides a real opportunity to explore the services currently on offer and assess whether they are fit for purpose, delivering the right outcomes and fulfilling the needs of Sheffield's residents.

Officers are currently working with Turner Townsend and Sport Leisure Consultancy (SLC) together with SCT to develop a range of options for the future delivery of Sport, Leisure and Entertainment. This work will build on the successes of the recent investment model developed for the Graves and Thorncliffe Leisure Centre developments.

### **3.2 Evidence and Insight**

- 3.2.1 The future strategy will be informed by insight from Sport England's Facility Planning Model (FPM) for swimming provision. This will provide the Council and SCT with an evidence base for swimming pool provision and will help to inform the Council's strategic planning for the future provision of swimming pools across the city. The overall aim of the FPM work is to:

- Assess the extent to which the existing supply of swimming pools meets current levels of demand (2019) across the council area.
- Assess the extent to which the existing supply of swimming pools would meet future demand, taking into account population increases across the council area and the projected scale and location of residential development within the city.

- 3.2.2 Turner Townsend and SLC are also undertaking feasibility work to explore the latest facility mix options (e.g. health and wellbeing, youth and family activities and flexible use areas). This will help the Council ensure that any future developments are informed by industry insight and offer an up to date and attractive offer for residents.

- 3.2.3 The Council and SCT are keen to ensure that any future investment into Sport Leisure and Entertainment supports the health and wellbeing of residents. The review will compliment SCC and Public Health strategies for physical activity, obesity and health inequality.
- 3.2.4 Once complete the insight work will support the Council to develop the vision for Sport, Leisure and Entertainment, and develop a sustainable pathway for the future transformation of facilities and services.
- 3.2.5 The review also provides an opportunity for the Council to ensure that facilities and services on offer meet the needs of the people of Sheffield and align to the revised contractual arrangements required for Sport, Leisure and Entertainment from 2024 onwards.
- 3.2.6 The future strategy will enable the Council to make positive steps to support the transformation of the portfolio, ensuring that any future investment is used to provide an up to date facility mix, located in fit for purpose buildings that, where appropriate, can support the development of co-located services.

### **3.3 Future timeline and decisions**

- 3.3.1 Turner Townsend and SLC were due to conclude their work in June 2020 and provide Councillors with a range of options, intelligence and costings needed to inform the future strategy and provide the expected cost of implementation. Unfortunately, this work has been delayed by the CV-19 lockdown but is now underway again. Alternative options can then be considered alongside the known costs of maintaining the status quo. A revised timetable is being developed that should see conclusions presented in October 2020.
- 3.3.2 A subsequent programme of partner and public consultation will be developed to take place, delivered in a range of community facilities (where possible) as well as on-line. This will ensure that the views of residents are captured and fed into the future decision making process.
- 3.3.3 The insight and feasibility work along with the outcomes from the consultation, will inform a report to Cabinet early next year. The report will set out the Council's future vision and strategy for Sport, Leisure and Entertainment and will enable any financial implications arising from the strategy to be considered and fed into the budget setting process.

## **4 What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?**

- 4.1 The facilities provided through SCT form a key part of the City's Sport, Leisure and Entertainment infrastructure. The work being done to stabilise the financial position of SCT and the work to develop a longer term strategy for Sport, Leisure and Entertainment in the city will ensure that high quality facilities continue to be available long into the future.

## **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 The Committee are asked to note the content of this report.



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