

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday 30 November 2022 by the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee.

Item No

7. APPROVAL TO PROCURE PARTNERS FOR DELIVERY OF MULTIPLY FUNDING GRANT FROM SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY (SYMCA)

7.1 The report sought Committee approval for the commissioning of up to £1m (over 3 years to March 2025) in order to maximise the Multiply Numeracy Grant awarded by the South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority (SYCMA) for the benefit of Sheffield residents.

7.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee:-

1. Approve the option to subcontract funding awarded to SCC from SYMCA over 3 financial years to March 2025.

7.3 Reasons for Decision

7.3.1 To maximise the opportunity to raise aspirations and attainment in numeracy skills and maths achievement in Sheffield, working in partnership with those that can increase engagements and activity in learning.

7.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

7.4.1 There are no alternative viable options for this funding. The only alternative would be to not accept the funding, which would mean we miss out on this investment in adult learning.

8. BUSINESS RECOVERY PLAN UPDATE: COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS AND SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS

8.1 The report provided the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee with an overview of activity undertaken as part of the Business Recovery Plan: both in terms of what had been achieved so far and future proposed activity.

The new activity proposed in the report reflected the ambitions contained within the original Business Recovery Plan as well as the city's response to the new challenges facing Sheffield businesses due to the cost of living crisis. The report identified initial steps required to enable Sheffield City Council to support businesses through this period.

8.2 RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee Policy Committee:-

1. Notes the progress made in delivering the Business Recovery Plan so far;
2. Notes the effects of the cost-of-living-crisis on the business base and the Council's response; and
3. Endorses the Council's priorities for the SPF business support programme.

8.3 Reasons for Decision

8.3.1 The Business Recovery Plan created a framework to support the city's long-term recovery from the COVID pandemic. The city now faces a new economic crisis. Many of the interventions and initiatives set out in the Business Recovery Plan are still relevant to supporting businesses but new activity is also required. The report set out how the Council is already responding to the crisis and puts forward proposals for new activity that will help to protect jobs and businesses and support new growth.

8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

8.4.1 The Council also has the option to deliver these services through centrally delivered business support, rather than utilising the Business Information Officers in the district centres. This has the following disadvantages:

- It is less proactive on the Council's part and relies on businesses making the effort to contact the Council. The risk is that this leads to businesses in distress delaying their access to support and increasing the chance of unnecessary business closures.
- This model also is more likely to miss out smaller businesses who do not have the networks or capacity to engage with business support and as a consequence may miss out on opportunities for growth.

9. RACE EQUALITY COMMISSION AND THE BUSINESS GROWTH RESPONSE

9.1 The report sought to update the Committee on the focus and progress of Business Sheffield towards supporting the delivery of the Race Equality Commission (REC) report recommendations and to approve a specific action for the development of a diverse and inclusive Sheffield Business Board for the city.

In doing the above, the report outlined:

- The background to the Race Equality Commission (REC)
- An overview of Business Sheffield's response to the REC Commission
- An update of the progress made to date towards recommendations of the REC Final Report
- A key action for a diverse and representative Business Board

9.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee Policy Committee:-

1. Notes progress of Business Sheffield in meeting the recommendations and actions from the Race Equality Commission Final Report dated July 2022;
2. Endorses a proposal to develop a new Sheffield Business Board which is representative of the city's diverse business base. The board will be developed with other business facing services of the Council and in collaboration with the Sheffield Chamber; and
3. Instructs that once developed, the proposed terms of reference for the new Sheffield Business Board be brought back to the Committee for consideration and further recommendations as appropriate.

9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 9.3.1 To note the work undertaken so far by Business Sheffield in becoming anti racist and reaching and diverse business base in its provision
- 9.3.2 To ask Members to endorse and agree the proposal for a new Business Board and to note that the draft terms of reference for the Board will be brought back to Committee for consideration and further recommendations as appropriate.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 9.4.1 The *Do Nothing* option is discounted developing a more diverse Business Board is essential in meeting the recommendation for an equal and enterprising city. To not follow through on the work already undertaken by supporting this part of the Commissions feedback and recommendations would pose a reputational risk for Business Sheffield and for the Council more generally in meeting the specific recommendation and its contribution to the wider overarching theme of becoming an antiracist city.

10. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - MONTH 6

- 10.1 The report brought the Committee up to date with the Council's

financial position as at Month 6, 2022/23

10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee Policy Committee:-

1. Note the Council's financial position as at the end of September 2022 (month 6).

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 10.3.1 The report brought the committee up to date with the Council's current financial position as at Month 6, 2022/23.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 10.4.1 The Council is required to both set a balance budget and to ensure that in-year income and expenditure are balanced. No other alternatives were considered.

11. **BUDGET POSITION FOR YEAR 2023/2024**

- 11.1 The report updated the Policy Committee on the progress of the 2023/24 budget process.

11.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee Policy Committee:-

2. Note the update on the Council's 2023/24 budget position; and
3. Endorse the budget proposals set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

11.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 11.3.1 The Council is required by law to set a balanced budget each year. This report is pursuant to that objective and is in line with the process and timetable agreed by the Strategy and Resources Committee on 31 May 2022 and 5 July 2022.

11.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 11.4.1 The Council is required to both set a balance budget and to ensure that in-year income and expenditure are balanced. No other alternatives were considered.