

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday 22 February 2023 by the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee.

Item No

8. **SHARED PROSPERITY FUND YEAR - LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT PROJECTS**

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

- a) Approve the use of £4.55 million of UKSPF revenue funding to provide business support to Sheffield businesses through the following four key projects –
 - Launchpad – £850,000 UKSPF revenue funding for start-up and early stage business support including workshop programme, specialist advisor 1-2-1 support and a small grants programme for start up businesses.
 - Productivity and digital innovation grants – £2.1 million UKSPF revenue funding for SME's to access grants to support productivity gains and digital adoption in the business.
 - Low carbon – £1.3 million UKSPF revenue funding used to provide sustainability audits and grants to improve the energy efficiency, reduce carbon consumption of Sheffield SME businesses.
 - RISE – £300,000 UKSPF revenue funding to provide graduate jobs in Sheffield SME's, partnership programme with both Sheffield Hallam University and University of Sheffield.

Reasons for Decision

The underlying benefit that this proposal brings to secure external funding to deliver a programme of activity in Sheffield that will cover:

- Addressing the Cost-of-Living crisis
- Support the community sector
- Support to the cultural and visitor economy
- Improvements to the built environment and reduce carbon emissions.

The estimated value of support from SPF to Sheffield is a minimum £4.55 over

two years with an expectation of additional private and public match funding

Alternatives Considered and Rejected

A do-nothing option would result in core business support programmes stopping altogether. The proposal as developed specifically looks to address strategic and financial support to increase productivity, reduce carbon emissions, reduce energy costs and help individuals to start businesses in the city. Alternative proposals would have less alignment with the themes developed in the SYSPF Investment Plan and might not be supported by SYMCA.

9. PROGRESS UPDATE ON ADOPTING THE CULTURE STRATEGY

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

- Note the progress made in commissioning a wider, refreshed city Culture Strategy with the sector and partners, for completion in Autumn 2023.
- Note the outcomes of three Expressions of Interest and work being undertaken on other funding opportunities.
- Note the progress made in establishing a Cultural Pipeline Fund supported by SYMCA resources.

Reasons for Decision

1. This report provides a progress update on the actions and recommendations in the September 2022 report. The Economic Development and Skills Committee is recommended to:
 - Note the progress made in commissioning a wider, refreshed city Cultural Strategy with the sector and partners, for completion in Autumn 2023.
 - Note the outcomes of three Expressions of Interest and work being undertaken on other funding opportunities.
 - Note the progress made in establishing a Cultural Pipeline Fund supported by SYMCA resources.
2. As set out in the original report, the continuation of these actions will help to create a context where Sheffield's cultural sector can develop further and SCC can show cultural leadership.
 - The development of a refreshed Cultural Strategy will give ownership and encouragement to our diverse cultural sector, plus clarity and

confidence to funders.

- SCC's ongoing support with external funding bids will, over time, improve the likelihood of success.
- A Cultural Pipeline Fund will start to create a cultural project stream, and will begin to address inequalities in provision and access to resources.

Alternatives Considered and Rejected

1. Do nothing

By undertaking none of the proposed actions, the cultural sector in Sheffield will continue to experience under-investment from external funders and SCC will suffer ongoing reputational damage in its cultural leadership

2. Do not commission a renewed city Cultural Strategy, and retain the Culture Collective Strategy as a finished product.

The Sheffield Culture Collective Strategy is an excellent document but was developed for a particular purpose with 19 local organisations and individuals, and does not include all the elements (e.g Net Zero) or methodology (co-creation) which would ideally feature in a city Cultural Strategy. While the general approach and priorities of the Collective Strategy are in line with Council policy, and provide a valuable immediate strategic hook for strengthening the cultural landscape in the city, a longer-term Cultural Strategy needs to be built on the views, needs and mandate of the wider cultural sector. With the support of the University of Sheffield and the Arts Council, we have an opportunity to co-create an inclusive, well-grounded and diverse strategy which will provide a blueprint for the next 10 years.