

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Monday 26 September 2022 by the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee.

Item No

9. PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

9.1 To seek approval for the adoption of the Sheffield City Council Playing Pitch Strategy 2022. This Strategy focusses on the supply and demand for playing pitches within the city and provides general and sport specific recommendations and actions. The Strategy was undertaken by independent consultants and uses the methodology prescribed by Sport England.

9.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee:-

1. Approve the adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy for Sheffield as set out in this report.

9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

9.3.1 The Playing Pitch Strategy for Sheffield provides a framework for improvement and, although resources may not currently be in place to implement it, partners and possible sources of external funding have been identified. Collaborative working, strong partnerships, and good local governance will be critical towards achieving strategic potential and future successes ahead.

9.3.2 The Playing Pitch Strategy needs to be formally adopted by Sheffield City Council to provide the framework and inform the City's future priorities in conjunction with Sport England and the sports NGB's. By adopting this strategy, we can start to engage with a range of stakeholders to consider delivering key projects across Sheffield. These projects will align with local need and demand, therefore supporting effective and efficient use of resources.

9.3.3 In moving forward, we need to be realistic about what is achievable, and who is best placed to deliver on the key aspects of the Strategy. The council will remain accountable for the delivery of the Playing Pitch Strategy and the Action Plan and providing expertise to seek resources to support that delivery.

9.3.4 The Council will engage with partners to discuss the Playing Pitch Strategy action plan and how projects can be developed. The Strategy will be used to provide a robust evidence base to aid decision making in respect of future provision and management of grass pitches and built sports provision. The Steering Group will continue to meet, to ensure the delivery and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy recommendations and actions, as well as ensuring the evidence and data remain up to date.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

9.4.1 The alternative option is to not adopt the Playing Pitch Strategy. This option is not recommended due to the following risks:

- There is a risk that without an adopted strategy the council would be unable to negotiate effectively with developers where proposals have an impact on the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities
- There is a risk that without an adopted strategy Sport England and the Sport's Governing Bodies will not consider applications for external funding from the council or from any sports club within the city, and additionally if not kept up to date it would not be considered an up-to-date robust assessment needed to inform planning decisions.

10. BUDGET MONITORING - MONTH 4

10.1 The report brought the Committee up to date with the Council's financial position as at Month 4 2022/23.

10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee:-

1. Note the Council's challenging financial position as at the end of July 2022 (month 4).

10.3 Reasons for Decision

10.3.1 By the law the Council must set and deliver a balanced budget, which is a financial plan based on sound assumptions which shows how income will equal spend over the short- and medium-term. This can take into account deliverable cost savings and/or local income growth strategies as well as useable reserves.

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 PROPOSALS FOR YEAR 2023/2024

11.1 This report sets out the budget pressures and risks facing the services that are the responsibility of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee (CPLC), and a budget action plan to mitigate these as far as possible in the 23/24 financial year.

It provides recommendations for approval which will allow our services to contribute to Sheffield City Council's ability to set a balanced budget.

11.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee:-

1. Acknowledges the recommendation approved at the Strategy and Resources Committee on 5 July 2022 that “Policy Committees will be asked to develop savings / additional income options that cover their own pressures – in effect cash standstill” and to “require Policy Committees to report at their meetings in September on how they can balance their budgets.”
2. Notes, as this Committee's initial response to the Strategy and Resources Committee's request, the set of budget proposals set out in this report [and in any appendices]
3. Notes that Officers will now work with Members to consult with relevant stakeholders (including with partners, trades unions and in respect of equalities and climate change) on the proposals in this report so as to inform final budget proposals.
4. Notes that Officers will work to develop any necessary detailed implementation plans for the proposals in this report so that the proposals, if ultimately approved, can be implemented as planned before or during the 2023/24 financial year.
5. Ask to receive a further report in November that will set out the final budget for this Committee following consultation and any adjustments requested by the Strategy and Resources Committee.

11.3 **Reasons for Decision**

Members were asked to note the unsustainable financial position highlighted by the medium-term financial analysis presented to Strategy and Resources Committee in July 2022. This report and its recommendations, sets out the scale of the challenge ahead, the limited resources available and some of the difficult decisions that will need to be taken.

11.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

The Council is required to both set a balance budget and to ensure that in-year income and expenditure are balanced. All the options to achieve this were presented to this Committee for consideration.