

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Monday 6 February 2023 by the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee.

Item No

10. PUBLIC HEALTH PARKS INVESTMENT

10.1 The Service Manager for Parks and Countryside introduced the report where the Committee were asked to approve an extension of the existing spending principles for Parks & Countryside's Public Health. The funding is used to support sustaining and improving the quality of Sheffield's green and open spaces in areas of Sheffield with the greatest health inequalities. The report also provides context relating to the use and value of green space public health funding.

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

1. Approve the extension of the spending principles for Parks & Countryside's Public Health funding as described in this report to enable continued investment and renewal of Sheffield's Parks and Countryside sites.
2. Approve the spend profile for the funding as described in this report.
3. Request an annual brief to the committee on the investment plan as specific projects and opportunities are identified

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

10.3.1 The reason for the recommendation is to ensure public health funding for Sheffield's parks and green spaces continues to be focused on the priority needs of targeted communities – as defined by the spending principles and that specific project proposals will be discussed with local ward councillors and brought to committee in an annual brief. This will enable the continuation of the work of the Parks and Countryside Service's green space investment supported by public health funding to tackle green space quality and access to quality outdoor leisure facilities for communities in the most deprived areas of Sheffield. The recommendations will allow the Parks and Countryside Service to be targeted in the use of public health investment, ensuring, where possible, that return on investment is maximised, and that investments are sustainable, and consequently that benefits such as the improved health and wellbeing of communities endure for years to come.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

10.4.1 There is an option to not revise these principles, however, with a changing green space landscape, it is prudent to refresh these, particularly post pandemic.

11. PARTICIPATION IN THE NORTH-WEST AND YORKSHIRE BOOK CONSORTIUM

- 11.1 The Interim Head of Libraries, Archives and Information Service introduced the report which sought authority to continue to commission library books and other materials, for Sheffield Libraries Archives and Information Service, for the next 3 years until 2026/2027 via a joint arrangement with the North-West and Yorkshire Book Consortium (NW&YBC).
- 11.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the **Communities, Parks and Leisure** Policy Committee:-
1. Approve the commissioning and purchase of library books and other materials for the next 3 years until 2026/2027 through a joint arrangement with the North-West and Yorkshire Book Consortium (NW&YBC).
- 11.3 **Reasons for Decision**
- 11.3.1 Joining together with the 36 Authorities in the consortium, will ensure that we obtain optimum discounts and efficiencies leading to best value.
- 11.3.2 Options for the Council to purchase books and materials outside of the consortium are unlikely to secure the terms and discounts that would be on offer as part of a wider collaborative group. Additional costs would be incurred in resourcing any process and significant officer time would also be required.
- 11.3.3 It is essential that the Library Service continues to be able to provide a regular supply of new library books and other materials to our customers, both adult and children. Not having a mechanism for purchasing books and materials is not an option due to our statutory duty.
- 11.3.4 The current contracts run out on 31st May 2023. Usual practice is to order books 3 months in advance, so new orders must be placed promptly to avoid delay and meet the expectations of our customers.
- 11.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**
- 11.4.1 A separate independent process by SCC would involve additional workload and costs and the likelihood of less favourable prices and terms. In previous exercises, the terms/costs achieved by the consortium framework were possible because of the number of participating authorities and the economies of scale in tendering.
- 11.4.2 Not having a mechanism for purchasing books and materials is not an Page 57
Page 6 of 6 option due to our statutory duty.
- 12. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - MONTH 8**
- 12.1 The Head of Accounting introduced the report which brought the Committee up to date with the Council's financial position as at Month 8 2022/23 General Fund revenue position.
- 12.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the **Communities, Parks and Leisure** Policy Committee:-

1. Note the Council's financial position as at the end of November 2022 (month 8)

12.3 **Reasons for Decision**

12.3.1 The paper was to bring the committee up to date with the Council's current financial position as at Month 8 2022/23.

12.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

12.4.1 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.