

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee.

### **Item No**

#### **7. OUR SHEFFIELD: THE YEAR AHEAD**

7.1 The Director of Policy, Performance and Communications presented the report which provided the Committee with an overview of the Council's financial, policy and operating context. The report set out the key issues and opportunities facing the authority over the coming year.

The report also set out a proposed approach for the development of a Corporate Plan, with an intention of bringing forward a draft of the plan to the Strategy and Resources Committee in September 2022.

7.2 **RESOLVED:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

1. Note the financial, policy and operating context set out in this report, and the risks and opportunities identified therein;
2. Agree to receive further reports on these issues as required, whilst noting that the primary responsibility for responding to these issues will lie with the relevant policy committee;
3. Agree the proposal to develop a statement of policy priorities for the year ahead and to hold a meeting of the Strategy and Resources Urgency Committee to consider and agree this;
4. Note the importance of developing a Corporate Plan for the organisation and to note the work already done to engage with staff across the council on this;
5. Agree to holding a series of Member workshops as set out in paragraphs 25 and 26 of the report to help develop the content of the Corporate Plan;
6. Agree to receive and consider a draft of the Corporate Plan at its meeting on 30 August in advance of a final report being considered by Full Council.

#### **7.3 Reasons for Decision**

7.3.1 The proposals set out in the report will help contribute to set a clear direction for the organisation for the forthcoming year, and through the development of the Corporate Plan, beyond. They will help to ensure that the organisation stays focused on key objectives whilst responding to the changing context within which it is working. In turn this will ensure that the council continues to place the wellbeing of the people of Sheffield and the communities in which they live at the heart of its

decision-making.

#### 7.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

7.4.1 Two alternative options were considered:

- Producing a Corporate Plan for discussion at the Strategy and Resources Committee in July. This was discounted on the basis that it would leave insufficient time for engagement with Members, staff or other stakeholders.
- Not producing a Corporate Plan at all. This was discounted on the basis that the policy, financial and operating context for the organisation was such that not having a clear statement of direction, objective and priorities would have a significant detrimental impact on the organisation's ability to operate effectively.

### 8. **MONTH 1 MONITORING, FINANCIAL POSITION AND BUDGET TIMETABLE**

8.1 The Director of Finance and Commercial Services presented the report which brought the Committee up to date with the Council's financial position as at Month 1, 2022/23. The report also sought the Committee's agreement to a proposed budget timetable for the development of the 2023/24 budget.

8.2 **RESOLVED:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

1. Note the Council's challenging financial position;
2. Confirm that *"It is the responsibility of each Committee to work within the budget framework agreed by Council. This includes taking timely action to address any overspend within the services for which the Committee is responsible."* As agreed by Full Council on 23 March 2022;
3. Note that the Finance Sub-Committee on 7 June will receive more detailed budget monitoring;
4. Note that each Policy Committee will receive more detailed budget monitoring for their areas of responsibility at their meetings in June 2022;
5. Requires any Policy Committee that is forecasting an overspend on their budget to develop an action plan to address the overspend in-year and ask the Finance Sub-Committee to monitor both the development of any required action plans and delivery against them;
6. Approve the budget timetable set out in 1.5.1 of the report; and
7. Note that each Policy Committee will be advised of the budget timetable at their June 2022 meetings including the requirement for each Policy Committee to plan to develop budget proposals over the course of the summer

#### 8.3 **Reasons for Decision**

8.3.1 The recommendations in the report will ensure that the Council has a robust budget process for 2023/24 and will ensure that each Policy Committee undertakes any work required to both balance their 2022/23 budget and prepare for the 2023/24 budget.

#### 8.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

8.4.1 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.

### 9. **SUPPORTING SHEFFIELDERS THROUGH THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS**

9.1 The Director of Policy, Performance and Communications presented the report which set out how the cost-of-living crisis is having profound implications for people across Sheffield and the steps that Sheffield City Council and partners in the public and voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sector have taken to provide support and advice to those who are being most impacted.

The report proposed that the Council urgently establish a cross-partner incident management approach to the cost-of-living crisis, learning from the strength of our whole city response to Covid-19. This would include the establishment of a strategic response group ('Gold'), chaired by the Leader of the Council, that will bring together relevant Committee Chairs, SCC officers and representatives from across Sheffield's public, private and VCF sector. This group would set out and direct Sheffield's overall response to supporting communities through the cost of living crisis.

This 'Gold' command group will be supported by a 'Silver' (tactical) group who would have responsibility for coordinating planning and activity in support of the overall strategy developed by the Gold group. This group would meet frequently and set out an operational plan to respond to the cost-of-living challenges facing the city.

9.2 **RESOLVED:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

1. Note the work that has been done on a cross-partner basis to date to help the people of Sheffield respond to the cost-of-living crisis, as described at paragraph 7 of the report, including supporting the work of South Yorkshire Community Foundation to establish a new fund to support people with the cost-of-living crisis;
2. Agree to establish an incident response arrangement to help the city respond to the current situation and prepare for the forthcoming autumn and winter period, including the establishment of a strategic-level 'Gold' group to be chaired by the Leader of the Council and a 'Silver' partner group led by a senior SCC officer;
3. Ask all policy committees at their first meetings to consider nomination of an Elected Member to sit on a cross-party Gold group;

4. Agree that partner organisations should be invited to join the Gold group, recognising that the cost-of-living crisis demands a whole-city response across the public, private and VCF sectors; and
5. Agree to receive a report at its July meeting setting out a proposed strategy and action plan for addressing the cost-of-living crisis in Sheffield, which should include proposals around the utilisation of the Food Action Plan fund established as part of the 2022/23 budget, along with updates on the social isolation and volunteering funds.

### 9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 9.3.1 To establish a cross-partner incident management approach to the cost-of-living crisis, learning from the strength of our whole city response to Covid-19.

### 9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 9.4.1 To not do anything, this was rejected as through the services and support Sheffield City Council delivers directly and with our partners in the public and VCF sector, we are working alongside the people and communities across the city who are most exposed and suffering the consequences of the cost-of-living crisis.

## 10. **GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LOCAL PLAN**

- 10.1 The Service Manager Strategic Planning presented the report which sought agreement on the governance arrangements for overseeing work on Sheffield's emerging Local Plan (the 'Sheffield Plan').

### 10.2 **RESOLVED:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

1. Owing to its cross-cutting nature, the Strategy & Resources Committee should have overall responsibility for the Sheffield Plan;
2. Due to the level of work involved in producing the Sheffield Plan, responsibility for overseeing development of it should be delegated to the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Change Policy Committee; and
3. The Sheffield Plan Member Working Group should be re-established under the committee system of governance to enable it to continue to play a key advisory role on the content of the Plan and provide regular progress reports to the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Change Policy Committee

### 10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 10.3.1 The cross-cutting nature and significance of the Sheffield Plan for the future development of the city means that it is appropriate for the Strategy & Resources Policy Committee to take overall responsibility for the Plan. However, delegation to the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Change Policy Committee reflects the

level of work required from Members to progress the Plan and the relative capacities of the two Policy Committees.

10.3.2 Continuing the Sheffield Plan Member Working Group will allow officers to obtain a regular political steer on various matters relating to the content of the Sheffield Plan. The Group will have no decision-making powers. The Strategy and Resources Policy Committee can be kept up to date on progress and will have ultimate responsibility for deciding whether to support the Publication Draft Plan and refer it to full Council for final approval.

#### 10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

10.4.1 An alternative option would be for officers to seek a political steer on specific matters relating to the Sheffield Plan directly from either the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee or the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Change Policy Committee. However, the Strategy and Resources Committee only meets monthly and the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Change Policy Committee every 2 months. It would cause considerable delay to the Sheffield Plan timetable if each issue under consideration had to be reported to one of the formal Policy Committees.

10.4.2 A further option would be to formally establish a Task and Finish Group for either the Strategy & Resources Policy Committee or the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Change Policy Committee. However, under Council Procedure Rules at 25.2, a Policy Committee is only able to have one Task and Finish Group operating at any one time. Having a Task and Finish Group for the Local Plan would effectively limit the scope to have a Group working on other matters for a considerable period.