

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday 9 November 2022 by the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee.

### **Agenda Item No**

#### **8. SECONDARY PLACES PLANNING - AREA 5**

- 8.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children's Services seeking agreement to proceed with secondary school expansion plans in Planning Area 5 in the east of the city, to address the forecast deficit of places in 2023/24 due to new housing and population growth.

Arising from consideration of the proposals in the report, the Director of Children's Services agreed to:-

- Arrange for school and early years' provision maps to be published on the Council's website; and
- Ensure that details of the planning work being undertaken with adjacent local authorities be included within the report to be submitted to the December meeting of the Committee on mainstream sufficiency, which will provide an overview of the 3-year strategy to ensure sufficient provision across early years, childcare, primary, secondary and post-16 provision.

- 8.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee:-

(a) agrees the proposed secondary school expansion plans in Planning Area 5, which will enable the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory duty and ensure sufficient secondary places are available to meet the forecast demand in 2023/24; and

(b) agrees for up to £5.5m of the remaining balance of Basic Need funding to be utilised to fund the proposed expansions.

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

- 8.3.1 The proposed expansions in Planning Area 5 will contribute to:-

- Need for places: without additional places in the area, the impact on families of not getting a local place will be significant as well as the impact on neighbouring schools.
- Children's outcomes: the standard of education that are provided at the two schools is of a good quality – both schools are rated by Ofsted as "Good."
- Equality: the catchment area is characterised by deprivation

and a higher proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic population. By increasing places at these two schools the needs of all children are met, in particular the needs of more vulnerable children and families located in the city.

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

- 8.4.1 A detailed Options Appraisal was undertaken to consider alternative options to help address the secondary deficits from 2023/24 onwards. This is set out in Annex 1 of the report.

### 9. **SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION PROVISION**

- 9.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children's Services seeking approval to commission an extension to the current Supported Accommodation (young people 16 to 25 years) Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) contract for Looked After Children and Care Leavers, for 18 months from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The current term of the contract is 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 (4 years), and the value of the extension is estimated to be £8.4m.

Arising from a question regarding quality assurance, the Committee was informed of the activities undertaken to ensure high quality support and accommodation was provided for Looked After Children and Care Leavers in the city, which included:-

- For 16 & 17 year olds, a pathway plan and care plan for care leavers, overseen by a social worker, and continued access to an independent reviewing officer, meaning that individual needs are reviewed regularly.
- Strong liaison between children's services and the commissioning team in relation to sharing key intelligence, identifying and acting on any concerns identified; undertaking of regular spot checks of accommodation; and receipt of regular feedback from social workers and the Leaving Care service.

- 9.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee:-

(a) approves the commission of an 18-month extension (1 April 2023 – 30 September 2024) of the current Supported Accommodation (young people 16 - 25 years) DPS, with such variation having an estimated value of £8.4m;

(b) requests the Director of Children's Services to consider, as part of the re-commissioning exercise, how providers who either lease the tenancies or own the buildings can be encouraged to be as

environmentally-friendly as they possibly can; and

(c) supports the principle of the introduction of an Ofsted inspection regime for Supported Accommodation.

### 9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

Commissioning an extension to the existing arrangements will ensure our statutory duty continues to be met whilst allowing time for a full re-commissioning exercise to be undertaken.

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

9.4.1 Not to proceed with an extension to the contract - the alternative option considered is not to proceed with the proposed extension, however, this raises the risk of an appropriately specified and monitored contract not being in place, which would be in breach of the Contract Procedure Rules (2015).

9.4.2 Additionally, the Local Authority will not be compliant in relation to its statutory duties to provide appropriate accommodation to Looked After Children and Care Leavers, therefore, this option is not recommended.

9.4.3 There are no additional implications arising out of the request to extend the current contract.

## 10. **BUDGET POSITION FOR YEAR 2023/24**

10.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Finance and Commercial Services providing an update on the progress of the 2023/24 budget process.

The report indicated that the financial pressures facing the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee in 2023/24 amounted to £12.4m. Mitigations of £6.9m had been noted at the previous meeting of the Committee, leaving further savings of £5.5m needing to be found, and it was reported that this figure had now reduced to £3.4m in the light of further mitigations which had recently been endorsed by members of the Committee from all three political groups on the Council.

10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee notes the update on the Council's budget position for 2023/24.

### 10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

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 Policy Committee on 31 May 2022 and 5 July 2022.

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

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

### 11. **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - MONTH 6**

- 11.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Finance and Commercial Services providing an update on the Council's financial monitoring position for 2022/23, as at Month 6 (30<sup>th</sup> September 2022).

The report indicated that the Council was forecasting an £18.6m overspend against the 2022/23 budget as at month 6, of which £6.5m related to services within the remit of the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee, and further detail on the breakdown of that overspend was set out in the report.

The Committee confirmed that, whilst work would continue on developing plans to mitigate in-year forecast overspends, as well as pressures on the 2023/24 budget, the safety of children in the city would remain of paramount consideration.

- 11.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee notes the Council's financial position as at the end of September 2022 (month 6).

#### 11.3 **Reasons for Decision**

This paper is to bring the Committee up to date with the Council's current financial position as at Month 6 2022/23.

#### 11.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

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