

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday 18 January 2023 by the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee.

### **Item No**

#### **7. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND - SUSTAINABLE CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

7.1 The report sought approval from the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee of the proposals for the use of £2.2m the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to improve the energy performance of community and cultural buildings within Sheffield.

7.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee approve that:-

1. £2.2m UKSPF capital funding is used to provide grants to improve the energy efficiency performance of buildings used primarily in the cultural and community sectors; and
2. the draft eligibility criteria and grants levels are progressed as part of the detailed funding application to SYMCA.
3. the eligibility criteria could include energy efficiency grants where the purpose of the facility is to enable low carbon skills training.

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

7.3.1 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.

7.3.2 The estimated value of support from SPF to Sheffield is a minimum £2.2m over two years with an expectation of additional private and public match funding.

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

7.4.1 A do-nothing option would require an alternative capital project to be developed. The proposal as developed specifically looks to address immediate financial pressures faced by organisations in the community and culture sectors as well as having carbon benefits.

7.4.2 Alternative proposals for capital investments in the community sector would bring benefits but would have less alignment with the themes developed in the SY SPF

Investment Plan and might not be supported by SYMCA.

## **8. DECISION SEEKING APPROVAL TO UPDATE THE ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET (AEB) COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR FAMILY ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERVICE**

8.1 Lifelong Learning and Skills receives and manages the Adult Education Budget (AEB) grant from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA). A proportion of this grant is used to commission adult learning provision from partner suppliers that have the capability to deliver learning that includes employment skills activities and learning to Adults 19+ across the communities of Sheffield.

They are procured via a framework arrangement in accordance with Regulations 74 – 76 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The current framework arrangements are scheduled to terminate at the end of the current academic year, and it is recommended that a successor framework is commissioned for the next four academic years commencing 2023/24.

The Family Adult Community Education Services (FACES) which manages and administers this grant funding is seeking approval from the committee to update the procurement framework to ensure the service can continue to diversify its offer for adult learning in community settings from August 2023.

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

1. to enable a new framework so that FACES can commission adult learning provision across the city, undertaking the necessary due diligence and quality assurance; and
2. to liaise with the Head of Commercial Services and the Director of Legal and Governance to procure and award contracts for the delivery of AEB funded adult learning provision by means of a framework arrangement in accordance with Regulations 74 – 76 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015.
3. that the Committee open up discussions with SYMCA regarding the importance of multi-year funding

### **8.3 Reasons for Decision**

8.3.1 The intended outcome is the commissioning of a framework which supports the delivery of adult learning in community settings. This will adhere to the Adult Education Budget Funding regulations to allow the service to procure niche delivery or curriculum high in demand that the service does not have the capacity to meet. It will also meet the demands of OFSTED criteria which are critical as the service is in scope for an imminent inspection.

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

8.4.1 The service could explore the option to extend the existing framework arrangement and contracts thereunder with current suppliers. However, the funding is now received via SYMCA and not direct from government (Education and Skills Funding Agency – ESFA) and this should allow more localised flexibilities, the service recognises this is an opportunity to update the commissioning strategy to align to this.

8.4.2 Commissioning of a new framework will allow the service to take account of any fundamental changes in the context of delivery of adult learning in the city, and ensure it aligns to local, regional and national skills demands.

## **9. MARKETING SHEFFIELD'S APPLICATION FOR LVEP STATUS (LOCAL VISITOR ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP) AND PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE STRUCTURE OF TOURISM AND STRATEGIC EVENTS.**

9.1 This report proposes that Marketing Sheffield submits an EOI/applies for Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) accreditation in January 2023 via the Visit Britain formal process and undertakes any additional work to ensure we meet the eligibility criteria.

LVEP status will:

- Not formally change the nature of Marketing Sheffield's remit.
- Help us capitalise on Marketing Sheffield's current successful work for the benefit of the Sheffield visitor economy for 2023 and beyond.
- Be the starting point for more significant private sector engagement around visitor economy promotion.
- Allow Sheffield to apply for national funding schemes administered via Visit England as and when they become available.
- Allow strategic support from Visit England, involvement in national strategy development and involvement in Visit Britain/Visit England marketing and other activity.
- Allow Sheffield to lead the way in South Yorkshire on developing national and international audiences and reputation.
- Strengthen SCC's relationship with SYMCA in this area by providing expertise and access to the national framework.
- Take the first step to addressing the challenges within the current Marketing Sheffield structure (financial and capacity)

9.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee approve that:-

1. Marketing Sheffield submit an EOI for LVEP accreditation in January 23 via the Visit Britain formal process and undertake any additional work to ensure it meets the eligibility criteria.
2. An information briefing on Market Sheffield be added to the Work Programme

## **9.3 Reasons for Decision**

- 9.3.1
- Marketing Sheffield has achieved much success even within tight budgets. The small but highly experienced team has achieved many successes through creative work with partners which could be scaled up with the right support. LVEP status will help us capitalise on this work for the benefit of the Sheffield visitor economy for 2023 and beyond.
  - It should be a catalyst for more significant private sector engagement.
  - It will allow Sheffield to apply for national funding schemes administered via Visit England as and when they become available.
  - It will allow strategic support from Visit England, involvement in national strategy development and involvement in Visit Britain/Visit England marketing and other activity.
  - It allows Sheffield to lead the way in South Yorkshire on developing national and international audiences and reputation.
  - It will strengthen SCC's relationship with SYMCA in this area by providing expertise and access to the national framework.
  - It is the first step to addressing the challenges within the current Marketing Sheffield structure (financial and capacity)

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

- 9.4.1 Should Marketing Sheffield not apply for LVEP status Sheffield 'loses its seat' at the table within the new national framework. Sheffield will disappear from the national agenda for tourism. Inclusion in the national and regional tourism agenda, and opportunities to access match-funded or grant-funded tourism campaigns will be lost. Sheffield will not be able to achieve its aspiration to be recognised as a European City Break destination without support of the national tourist board. We would lose strategic support from Visit England, involvement in national strategy development or involvement in Visit Britain/Visit England marketing and other activity. There would be no lead LVEP for South Yorkshire thus the subregion would not be part of the new national framework.

### 10. **MONTH 8 BUDGET MONITORING**

- 10.1 This report brings the Committee up to date with the Council's financial position as at Month 8 2022/23.

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

1. note the Council's financial position as at the end of November 2022 (month 8).
2. That the Chair of the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee write to the SYMCA to seek assurance of continuation of year 2 Business Support Programme by the end of February 2023.

#### 10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

10.3.1 This paper is to bring the committee up to date with the Council's current financial position as at Month 8 2022/23.

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.