

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday 20 December 2023 by the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee.

Item No

8. **2023/24 Q2 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

8.1 This report brings the Committee up to date with the Council's outturn position for Quarter 2 2023/24 General Fund revenue position

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

Notes the updated information and management actions on the 2023/24 Revenue Budget Outturn as described in this report

8.3 **Reasons for Decision**

8.3.1 To record formally changes to the Revenue 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. **GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL AND DOCFEST 2024-2026**

9.1 The committee considered a report seeking approval to grant International Documentary Festival Sheffield (DocFest) with a total of £100,000 per year to be expended over a 3 year term to support the delivery of the 2024, 2025 and 2026 DocFest events in Sheffield, the detail of which will be agreed and signed by way of a grant agreement.

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

a) Awards a 3-year grant to DocFest for the sum of £100K a year for 3 years to support the delivery of DocFest in Sheffield in 2024, 2025 and 2026; and,

b) Notes that the funding will be drawn from the Strategic Major Events Fund

c) Requests an annual report be submitted to the committee following DocFest 2024

9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

9.3.1 Providing a three-year grant agreement ensures stability and certainty for Sheffield DocFest and the Council whilst DocFest continue to grow. It ensures that the new senior team at DocFest are in a position to plan ahead and develop the Festival. The grant supports DocFest in being able to lever more external funding from national bodies to ensure its long-term viability. It also ensures Sheffield continues to benefit from the economic impact the Festival delivers to our various organisations and businesses (including vulnerable sectors such as hospitality). The timing of DocFest 2024 in June provides a fantastic platform to showcase the regeneration and developments in the city centre to this diverse and 'out of town' audience. The Council will be able to review its position in 2026.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

9.4.1 Providing no grant for Sheffield DocFest would likely result in the permanent withdrawal of DocFest from Sheffield or a significant reduction in the quality and breadth of the Festival, risking its international reputation, community outreach and/or future relocation to an alternative city. This would result in the approximate £2,000,000 delegate spend per year being lost, and would also have the effect of reducing the city's profile and reputation within the creative community inside and outside of Sheffield.

10. **SYMCA EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS STRATEGY BRIEFING**

10.1 Members received a presentation from the Director of Skills, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) on their Employment and Skills Strategy, due to be agreed in March 2024, detailing the three key mission areas. The importance of the interface between the MCA strategy and the local strategy was emphasised and members highlighted that the issue of inequality needed to feature more strongly in the strategy.

10.2 The committee agreed to note the update, thanked the Director of Skills for their time and requested a further update be brought back to the committee next year.

11. **UKSPF UPDATE**

11.1 The committee considered a report providing a progress update in respect to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) programme in Sheffield. In doing so the report also highlights concerns about the lack of certainty in relation to what might replace SPF from April 2025. Page 5

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

1. Notes the progress of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme in Sheffield and
2. Shares the concerns raised in respect to future funding for economic

development activity.

11.3 Reasons for Decision

11.3.1 This report provides Committee with a full update of the UKSPF programme to date and confirms that funding is available to complete all project activity through to March 2025.

11.3.2 The report provides an opportunity to highlight concerns about the ability to deliver similar activity in the future given no current indication of what will replace UKSPF in 25/26.

11.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

11.4.1 The provision of an update report does not require an options assessment.

12. SOCIAL VALUE

12.1 The Sheffield Employability Programme Manager presented an overview of the Social Value Annual Report to the committee. A list of achievements was included in addition to specific case studies and new sectors that had been involved this year such as Care and Fleet Services.

12.2 The Director of Economy, Skills and Culture agreed to further articulate the economic impacts and benefits to employers using case studies. The committee resolved to note the report .