

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday 20 March 2024 by the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee.

### Item No

#### 8. 2023/24 Q3 BUDGET MONITORING

8.1 Members considered a report of the Director of Finance and Commercial Services bringing the Committee up to date with the Council's General Fund revenue outturn position for 2023/24 as at Q3.

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. ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUND - ROUND 2 UPDATE

9.1 The committee considered a report of the Executive Director of City Futures providing an update on the second round of the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF2). The report also set out the proposed route to consider whether there should be any further rounds of funding and sought approval to change the project previously approved for 'Heeley Green and Newfield Green' with a project for 'Newfield Green and Gaunt Shopping Precinct', to be delivered in its place.

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

- Note the progress in delivering the second round of funding.
- Note the intention to appoint an independent agency to conduct an evaluation of ERF2 and consider the future of ERF.
- Approve the proposed project for Newfield Green and Gaunt Shopping precinct in the ERF2 programme, in place of the previous proposal for Heeley Green and Newfield Green.

#### 9.3 Reasons for Decision

9.3.1 The ERF Steering Group and the team leading the Gleadless Valley Master Plan are aligned in wanting to see allocated money spent in this area. There is high confidence in the team's ability to make a success of the project and commitment to delivering these outputs and outcomes within the delivery period for the project. There are significant synergies to be gained from delivering ERF in an area that will be undergoing significant change in its housing stock and an opportunity to support the retail areas in those locations so they feel that they have a stake in and can benefit from that wider investment.

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

9.4.1 Regarding the proposal for Newfield Green and Gaunt Parade alternatives have been considered as follows:

- The Gleadless Valley Masterplan Team have led on local engagement to try and identify an alternative lead organisation for this project, however none were forthcoming.
- Consideration was given to procuring an organisation that could act as an accountable body and project delivery partner for this project, however, this was felt to be undesirable given the clear synergies of delivering ERF in this area alongside the broader Gleadless Valley Masterplan.

### 10. **EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS STRATEGY UPDATE**

10.1 The committee considered a report of the Executive Director, City Futures providing an update on the project to deliver an Employment and Skills Strategy, as previously instructed by the committee.

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

- Notes the appointment of KADA Research and Ekosgen to develop the Employment & Skills Strategy for Sheffield
- Notes the revised project timeline, pledged outcomes and milestones
- Confirms the composition of the Member Task and Finish Group as each of the Groups Spokespersons or their nominated representative and that the Chair be elected by the Task and Finish Group at their first meeting
- Approves the suggested checkpoints for direct engagement with the Task and Finish Group and review.

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

10.3.1 This report provides an update on the progress made and its recommendations are based on the decisions of Wednesday 15 March 2023, when the EDSC resolved unanimously that the committee:

1. Approves the creation of an Employment and Skills Advisory Board.
2. Approves the development of an Employment and Skills strategy for

Sheffield and the initial policy areas to be considered in the development of the strategy to be led by the Employment and Skills Advisory Board, as set out in this report.

3. Notes that green jobs and skills are a critical part of the employment and skills strategy.
4. Establishes a task and finish group composed of members of the committee, with at least one representative from each of the political parties, to receive regular updates and feedback from the Advisory Board.

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

10.4.1 There were no alternatives considered.