

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee

Meeting held 20 March 2024

PRESENT: Councillors Martin Smith (Chair), Minesh Parekh (Deputy Chair), Henry Nottage (Group Spokesperson), Kurtis Crossland, Brian Holmshaw, Abdul Khayum, Barbara Masters and Laura Moynahan

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Terry Fox. Councillor Dianne Hurst was in attendance as his substitute.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21st February, 2024 were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 No petitions or public questions were received.

6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

6.1 No questions were received from Members.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement on the Committee's Work Programme detailing all known, substantive agenda items for forthcoming meetings of the Committee, to enable this committee, other committees, officers, partners, and the public to plan their work with and for the Committee.

7.1.1 The Director of Economy, Skills and Culture informed the committee that the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee, which is responsible for charitable parks, considered a report on the ongoing hosting of Tramlines at its meeting on 4 March 2024.

7.1.2 The Head of Parks and Countryside advised that the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee received the Tramlines report which included the details of the proposed contract agreement, the impacts of the event and the introduction of a new annual fee to benefit the park. The recommendations of that report were listed as;

1. Agree that hosting of the Tramlines Festival in Hillsborough Park represents a positive and beneficial use of the park bearing in mind the Hillsborough Park Charity objectives.
2. Approve the license agreement Heads of Terms set out at Appendix 1.
3. Approve the income to the Charity as set out in the fee schedule at closed Appendix 3 on the basis that it represents and supports positive and beneficial use of Hillsborough Park, having regard to the Charity's objectives, and will benefit the Hillsborough Park Charity.
4. Agree to £10,000 of the annual fee being used to improve, replace, or install equipment or facilities to improve the park for the benefit of park users, which would not have otherwise been possible using the Council's revenue grant to the Hillsborough Park Charity.

7.1.3 The Chair requested that an update be provided to the committee on the Green Investment Fund mentioned at Council and how these funds could be used to further the projects of Economic Development and Skills.

7.1.4 Councillor Brian Holmshaw joined the meeting.

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

1. That the Committee's work programme, as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed, including any additions and amendments identified in Part 1;
2. That consideration be given to the further additions or adjustments to the work programme presented at Part 2 of Appendix 1;
3. That Members give consideration to any further issues to be explored by officers for inclusion in Part 2 of Appendix 1 of the next work programme report, for potential addition to the work programme; and that the referrals from Council and Local Area Committees (petition and resolutions) detailed in Section 2 of the report be noted and the proposed responses set out be agreed.

7.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 7.3.1 To give the committee members an opportunity to consider the direction of the work programme, align it with their key priorities and create a manageable workload for the committee.

7.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 7.4.1 None

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.

- 8.1.1 It was requested that an update be provided from the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee on its savings plan, to determine whether there were any lessons to be learnt in relation to adult education.

- 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.

- 9.1.1 Members suggested that a case study of the methods used in these projects should be created and shared with other areas of the Council as a model of best practice. The community led approach and the networking opportunities between the teams were highlighted as key successes.

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.