

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Monday 10 July 2023 by the Finance Committee.

### **Item No**

#### **7. CAPITAL APPROVALS MONTH 2 2023/24**

7.1 This report provides details of proposed changes to the existing Capital Programme as brought forward in Month 02 2023/24.

7.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Finance Committee:-

(i) approves the proposed additions and variations to the Capital Programme listed in Appendix 1; and

(ii) approves the acceptance of grant funding as identified in Appendix 2.

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

7.3.1 The proposed changes to the Capital Programme will improve the services to the people of Sheffield.

7.3.2 To formally record changes to the Capital Programme and gain Member approval for changes in line with Financial Regulations and to reset the Capital Programme in line with latest information.

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

7.4.1 A number of alternative courses of action are considered as part of the process undertaken by Officers before decisions are recommended to Members. The recommendations made to Members represent what Officers believe to be the best options available to the Council, in line with Council priorities, given the constraints on funding and the use to which funding is put within the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

#### **8. SOCIAL HOUSING DECARBONISATION FUND (SHDF) 2**

8.1 The Council has secured a grant funding offer of £4,007,500 through the Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) 2 scheme. This funding would contribute toward the delivery of energy improvement measures to approximately 370 Council homes.

This project directly supports Sheffield's strategies and ambitions centred on net zero carbon by 2030, tackling fuel poverty and providing affordable warmth. The associated government funding is time limited. To not access this would be a missed opportunity. The £4m will offset some of the project cost, reducing some of the pressure on the council housing capital programme, and indeed the wider

Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

The purpose of this report is therefore to seek approval for the Council becoming the accountable body for £4,007,500 grant funding from DESNZ (Dept for Energy Security & Net Zero).

8.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Finance Committee approves the Council becoming the accountable body for £4.07m of grant funding from Tees Valley Combined Authority for the SHDF 2 scheme, subject to the grant terms not being materially different to those set out in this report.

### 8.3 **Reasons for Decision**

8.3.1 The SHDF2 grant provides an excellent opportunity to help fund the retrofitting of some of the least efficient council housing stock across the city.

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

8.4.1 The alternative is not to accept the funding. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the capital programme budget would not benefit from the £4.07m funding in contribution toward this major improvement project.

## 9. **FARGATE AND HIGH STREET, FUTURE HIGH STREETS FUND - FRONT DOOR SCHEME UPDATE**

9.1 To update on delivery of the Future High Streets Fund 'Front Door Scheme' and seek approval to award capital grants of:

- (1) £250,000 to The Sheffield Church Burgesses Trust, towards the costs of shop front improvements on Chapel Walk and internal access works and reconfiguration of vacant upper floors for new workspace;
- (2) £650,000 to The Foundry Sheffield towards the costs of shop front improvements, internal ground floor access and reconfiguration works to vacant upper floors at Victoria Hall, Chapel Walk;
- (3) £250,000 for the Council to commission works of Public Art in Chapel Walk; and
- (4) £90,000 dedicated small grants for Chapel Walk that will be made available through Renew Sheffield to assist new and small businesses with capital fit-out costs on occupying vacant property.

9.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Finance Committee:-

- (a) approves the grant of £250,000 to Sheffield Church Burgesses Trust and £650,000 to The Foundry Sheffield;

- (b) allocates £250,000 to the Council for its commissioning of works of public art in Chapel Walk as set out in this report; and
- (c) grants £90,000 to Renew Sheffield to assist new and small businesses with capital fit-out costs on occupying vacant property in Chapel Walk.

### 9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 9.3.1 Approval of the grant funding to the landowners will secure additional private and public sector investment in the buildings. It will contribute to delivering a fully accessible concert/performance space and new and enhanced commercial floorspace.

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

- 9.4.1 Do nothing - Without grant assistance the buildings are likely to remain vacant and/or underused and issues arising from anti-social behaviour will not be addressed. The enhancement of Chapel Walk was an integral element of the vision for Fargate and High Street approved by Government. The vision highlights the importance of this pedestrian route but also the opportunities to introduce new uses into vacant property.