

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Monday 11 September 2023 by the Finance Committee.

Item No

8. QUARTER 1 BUDGET MONITORING (2023/24)

8.1 This report brings the Committee up to date with the Council's outturn position for 2023/24 including the General Fund revenue position, Housing Revenue Account, and Capital Programme Monitoring (Appendix 1). The report also provides an update of the Council's Treasury Management activity (Appendix 2) and the Collection Fund Account (Appendix 3).

8.2 RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Finance Committee:-

- a) approves the virement of £700k from the Ward Pots (£25k per ward) to the Local Area Committees (LACs);
- b) notes the updated information and management actions provided by this report on the 2023/24 Revenue Budget Outturn as described in this report;
- c) notes the updated information and management actions provided by this report on the Q1 2023/24 Capital Programme Monitoring as described in Appendix 1;
- d) notes the Treasury Management report for Q1 2023/24 as described in Appendix 2; and
- e) notes the Collection Fund monitoring report for Q1 2023/24 as described in Appendix 3.

8.3 Reasons for Decision

8.3.1 To record formally changes to the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

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. CAPITAL APPROVALS MONTH 4 (2023/24)

9.1 This report provides details of proposed changes to the existing Capital Programme as brought forward in Month 04 2023/24.

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

- (i) approves the proposed additions and variations to the Capital Programme listed in Appendix 1;
- (ii) approves in principle the award of grant funding as identified in Appendix 2 and delegates approval of the grant award to the Director of Regeneration and Development. Such approval (and entry into the agreement) is to be subject to the prior completion of a subsidy control principles assessment to demonstrate to the reasonable satisfaction of the Director of Regeneration and Development that the above grant award is consistent with the subsidy control principles; and
- (iii) approves the acceptance of grant funding as identified in Appendix 3.

9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

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

9.3.2 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.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

9.4.1 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.

10. **ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUND ROUND 2 - SCORING OUTCOME**

10.1 This report provides an overview of progress to deliver the second round of the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF) now that the application and scoring phases are complete. The report lists the outcomes of the scoring process for all applications and provides information about the geographical spread and make-up of the areas that applied for funding. The report marks the point at which ERF moves from the application and scoring phases into the contracting phase, which will enable successful projects to start delivering improvements and activities in their areas.

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

- 1. Approves Sheffield City Council (“SCC”) to allocate funding to areas offered over £50,000 (up to £200,000) and, subject to due diligence and other checks being undertaken to the satisfaction of the Director of Economic Development,

Culture and Skills, for SCC to enter into a funding agreement with an appropriate lead organisation for each of the areas listed in the table below:

Project Area	Funding Offer (final figures TBC)
Crookes	£90,000
Darnall	£100,000
Harborough Avenue	£70,000
Heeley & Newfield Greens	£100,000
London Road	£142,355
Northern Avenue	£66,818
Spital Hill	£74,470
Westfield	£71,456
Woodhouse	£70,000

2. Notes the areas listed in the table below have been allocated funding of up to £50,000 under the general delegation to officers, subject to due diligence and other checks being satisfied:

Project Area	Funding Offer (final figures TBC)
Abbeydale	£37,682
Banner Cross	£36,198
Broomhill	£40,250
Chapelton	£49,644
Ecclesfield	£38,857
Firth Park	£39,932
Greenhill	£50,000
Hackenthorpe	£49,573
Hillsborough	£46,022
Infirmity Road	£32,116
Lowedges	£37,321
Middlewood	£48,971
Stannington	£49,962
Walkley	£35,052

10.3 Reasons for Decision

10.3.1 The nature of ERF means that the projects that have been allocated funding have been through a rigorous process, both during the development of the applications and in scoring. The ERF Steering Group are collectively supportive of the outcomes of this process and in the recommendations presented here.

10.3.2 The successful projects have been informed of the outcome in principle and are awaiting Committee approval in order to move forward. Delaying or changing

these recommendations may have an impact on the Council’s reputation in these areas and would impact on the delivery of the intended outcomes of the ERF.

10.3.3 The recommendations here allow the Council to continue its work to engage with and empower local businesses and high streets and support their recovery following the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent cost of living crisis.

10.3.4 The intended outcome is to have a programme that meets the ERF objectives through the successful delivery of the proposals in these 23 projects as well as the Council’s Delivery Plan objectives.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

Programme

10.4.1 As noted, a range of options for delivering ERF2 were considered over summer and autumn 2022. Several alternative ways of delivering the second round of funding were considered as part of this process and proposals were made in relation to changing and improving the second round of funding. These were approved by the EDSP Committee at its meeting on 19th October 2022. This approach has subsequently been enacted so the proposals here are the outcome of an agreed process.

Outcomes

10.4.2 Because the Fund was oversubscribed, Steering Group had to look at ways of managing that and ensuring funding offers were within the available budget and made in a fair way (as described in appendix 1).

Alternatives to that included the following, but the agreed approach was felt by the Steering Group to be a balanced, individualised and fair way of dealing with the budget pressure that took into account the specific elements within each project and strengths and weaknesses. It was felt that any blanket measures would cut across these nuances and lead to outcomes unreflective of their scoring judgements.

Alternative	Rationale	Why rejected
Making a blanket cut to all projects that passed scoring	To reduce the overall funding ask to keep within the budget	Projects had different strengths and weaknesses and this tactic felt unfair and arbitrary to the Steering Group
Raising threshold at which projects would have passed	To reduce the number of projects that would receive funding	Project that passed scoring not receiving funding – Steering Group wanted to maximise the number of areas that could benefit from the Fund

To remove specific types of activity from all budgets	To reduce the overall funding ask and limit specific activity	This would have potentially been applied unequally across projects, depending on whether they had included the activity in their proposals or not
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11. SALE OF LAND AT COTTON MILL ROW, KELHAM ISLAND, SHEFFIELD

- 11.1 Regeneration and Property Services propose the disposal of freehold land at Cotton Mill Row, Kelham Island, Sheffield S3 on a private treaty basis on the terms set out in the attached Appendix for the development of a high-density residential led mixed use scheme.

As the land has not been subject to a competitive marketing process and consideration to be received by the Council exceeds £300,000, this report seeks the approval of the Council's Finance Committee to dispose of the Land.

- 11.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Finance Committee approves the freehold sale of the Land on the terms set out in the Appendix 3.

11.3 Reasons for Decision

- 11.3.1 The intended outcome of the proposal is to deliver new residential accommodation within the city centre and repurpose vacant and redundant commercial sites where older buildings are inefficient and would benefit from redevelopment.
- 11.3.2 The development proposals will help attract additional footfall which will be of benefit to the city centre. The disposal will also deliver a significant capital receipt, increased Council Tax revenue and CIL contribution for the Council.
- 11.3.3 The proposals will deliver the economic and financial benefits as outlined within this report.

11.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

- 11.4.1 The Council could do nothing; this may result in the Land remaining vacant for several more years and would not contribute to the Council's aspirations to see the Kelham Island area regenerated. This could also have a negative impact on the future use of the Land.
- 11.4.2 The Council could offer the Land for sale in the open market; this may result in a disposal and subsequent development, but in isolation, due to its small size, the Land would be limited in terms of future development potential, and it is considered that a sale would generate a lower capital receipt for the Council as a result.