

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Monday 19 February 2024 by the Finance Committee.

Item No

8. CAPITAL APPROVALS MONTH 9 (2023/24)

8.1 This report provides details of proposed changes to the existing Capital Programme as brought forward in Month 9 2023/24.

8.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Finance Committee:-

1. approves the proposed additions and variations to the Capital Programme listed in Appendix 1;
2. approves the issuing of grant funding as identified in Appendix 2; and
3. approves the acceptance of grant funding as identified in Appendix 3.

8.3 Reasons for Decision

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

8.3.2 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.

8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

8.4.1 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.

9. AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL TAX LONG-TERM EMPTY PREMIUM AND INTRODUCTION OF SECOND HOME PREMIUM

9.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with details of the Council's powers to make changes to the Council Tax Long-Term Empty Premium and to introduce a new Council Tax premium for second homes.

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

1. notes the new powers which will enable the Council to make changes to the

Council Tax Long-Term Empty Premium from 2024/25, and the ability to introduce a new Council Tax Premium for second homes from 2025/26; and

2. agrees to adopt these powers and introduce the Council Tax Long-Term Empty Premium, for dwellings empty and substantially unfurnished for more than 12 months, from 1 April 2024.

9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 9.3.1 Legislation provides for making changes to the Long-Term-Empty Premium and for the introduction of a second home premium.
- 9.3.2 The Council must decide if it wants to make changes to the Long-Term-Empty Premium. If the Council decides it wants to make changes to the Long-Term-Empty Premium, it must decide if it wants to do so from 2024/25 or from 2025/26.
- 9.3.3 The Council must also decide if it wants to introduce a second home premium. If the Council decides to introduce a second homes premium, that is agrees to apply a premium of 100% to dwellings that meet the definition of being a second home and that it will do so from 2025/26.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 9.4.1 The alternative options the Council has is to not adopt these new powers and keep the Long-Term-Empty Premium the same and to not adopt the second home premium.

10. **FINANCE COMMITTEE CLIMATE STATEMENT**

10.1 The Committee Climate Statements:

1. Respond to the Annual Climate Progress Report 2022/23 in a timely manner.
2. Restate the cross-party council commitment to taking what action we can to address the climate emergency, adapt our city and council for a changing climate and reduce emissions to achieve our ambition to be a net zero city and council by 2030.
3. Increase understanding of the impact climate change will have on committees, the opportunities that tackling climate change offers, and the contribution to climate and net zero action each committee is currently making and needs to make moving forward.

- 10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Finance Committee consider and agree the Statement of Climate Commitments relevant to the Finance Committee to ensure that the proposed actions contained in such statement are reflected in their Work Programme.

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 10.3.1 It is important that the response to the Annual Climate Progress Report is open and transparent in setting out the challenges which the local authority faces in making progress and clarifies future expectations on the part we all have to play in addressing climate change.
- 10.3.2 Committee do not currently have specific strategic goals for climate. The process required to develop these, and have the statements approved to be read at each committee meeting meant that option 5.2 was not feasible with the available resource and timeframe.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 10.4.1 Not providing committee climate statements considered due to the resource required to collate.
- 10.4.2 Providing more detailed Committee Climate Statements that provided an overview of strategic climate goals, with each Chair then reading the committees statement publicly at their respective committee meeting following release of the report.