

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday 2 August 2023 by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee.

### Item No

#### **5. UPDATE ON SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE RACE EQUALITY COMMISSION**

- 5.1 The Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement submitted a report updating the Strategy and Resources Committee on progress against the Council's December 2022 response to the Race Equality Commission and setting out recommendations to increase the pace and monitoring of change. This is important if we are to meet our goal to become an anti-racist organisation and implement all aspects of the Race Equality Commission report.

The recommended actions should empower senior leaders to take an active role in monitoring performance and outcomes across their teams, and ensure action plans are fit for purpose to achieve our goals. By doing this we will be working towards addressing racial disparity and seeing equality, diversity and inclusion being integrated into service plans and becoming part of the way we do things within the Council. We will also be able to monitor progress more accurately and be ready to report into the final legacy arrangements.

These recommendations will support us to build an organisation that anyone can feel welcome in and proud to work for and help us to see the services we deliver for every resident improved to tackle the inequalities and racial disparity set out so starkly by the Commission.

In addition, in September we will work with anchor organisations and others to jointly hold an event for community representatives and anchor representatives. This event will enable reflection on the work that has been done and challenge us all to go further and faster over the coming year.

- 5.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

(a) notes the progress made against the Council's response to the Race Equality Commission agreed at their meeting on 5 December 2022 and agrees the need to increase the pace and monitoring of change;

(b) compile and analyse the learning from the activity to date and set out to the Chief Executive during September a plan to further define priority actions, identify gaps and target support and challenge;

(c) use that plan to support senior leaders to challenge their services, including corporate functions, to set out timebound actions which are realistic and for which impact is measurable;

(d) build on work under our three underpinning areas: learning and development,

awareness raising; de-biasing; and data, particularly improving how we gather employee views;

(e) support the work of the legacy working group so that it leads to proposals which enable us to work with anchor organisations, partners and the community to support, learn from, and challenge each other as we seek to make progress; and

(f) agrees that the Strategic Equality Inclusion Board monitors this work and that a further progress report is brought to this Committee in December 2023.

### **5.3 Reasons for Decision**

5.3.1 To learn from early experiences in our response to the Race Equality Commission and refine our approach to increase the pace of change and monitoring.

### **5.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

5.4.1 This Committee agreed that the Council should pursue a specific response to the Race Equality Commission. This report does not recommend a change to that approach.

## **6. CONSULTATION RESPONSES ON THE PUBLICATION DRAFT SHEFFIELD PLAN**

6.1 The Executive Director of City Futures submitted a report and associated appendices recommending the Council's response to the representations received as a result of public consultation on the Publication Draft Sheffield Plan that took place from 9th January to 20th February 2023. The main body of the report highlights the key issues that were raised and outlines the recommended Council response. Recommended responses to all the main issues raised in the representations are set out in the Consultation Statement on the Publication Draft Plan (Appendix 1).

Appendix 2 recommends a schedule of suggested amendments to the Plan that are derived from the recommended responses. Officers consider that these amendments are needed to make the Publication Draft Plan 'sound'. If approved by full Council, they would be submitted to the Government alongside the Draft Plan. The amendments will then be considered by an independent Planning Inspector as part of the public examination (following submission of the Plan to Government).

Appendix 3 of the report lists recommended other minor amendments to the Plan to correct errors (mainly typographical) or update factual information that has altered since the Plan was approved by full Council in December 2022. These do not need to be considered by the Planning Inspector.

The proposed amendments are set out in a tracked change version of the Publication Draft Sheffield Plan at Appendix 4 (showing all the suggested changes that are listed in Appendices 2 and 3).

Appendix 5 provides a list of the 'submission documents' and, when relevant, refers to updated positions on these documents. Updates will generally have resulted in response to comments received as part of the public consultation, and/or owing to the iterative nature of these documents.

The report also sets out the timetable and process for submitting the Sheffield Plan to the Government for public examination.

6.2 **RESOLVED:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

(a) endorses the recommended responses to the main issues raised in representations on the Publication Draft Plan set out in the Consultation Statement (Appendix 1);

(b) endorses the suggested amendments to the Publication Draft Sheffield Plan set out in Appendix 2 and shown as tracked changes within Appendix 4;

(c) endorses the suggested other minor amendments to the Publication Draft Sheffield Plan set out in Appendix 3 and shown as tracked changes within Appendix 4;

(d) notes the ongoing evidence updates with respect to the relevant 'submission documents' as set out in the main body of the report and within Appendix 5;

(e) delegates authority to the Chief Planning Officer, in consultation with the Chair, Deputy Chair and Spokesperson of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee, to bring forward further minor amendments to the Publication Draft Sheffield Plan and updates to associated documentation prior to consideration by full Council; and

(f) refers this report to full Council in accordance with the constitution to seek approval to submit the Draft Sheffield Plan and associated documentation to the Government for independent examination.

6.3 **Reasons for Decision**

6.3.1 Once adopted, the new Sheffield Plan will make a major contribution to the future development of the city and will guide development over the next 15-20 years. It is important that the plan is adopted as soon as possible.

6.3.2 The documents that are the subject of this report (Part 1: Strategy, Sub-Area Policies and Site Allocations, Part 2: Development Management Policies, Annex A: Site Allocation Schedule, Annex B: Parking Guidelines, Policies Map and Glossary) comprise the draft development plan documents for Sheffield. They were published under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended). The submission documents will include such documents as fall within the definition at Regulation 17 (as agreed by full Council on 14th December 2022).

6.3.3 The suggested amendments to the Draft Sheffield Plan set out in Appendix 2 of

this report (and shown as tracked changes in Appendix 4) may or may not be supported by the Inspector. The Planning Inspector will only consider whether the plan is sound and whether it complies with the legislation. However, proposing amendments now should help to save time at the public examination hearings. It also shows respondents to the consultation how the Council has been able to take on board their comments

6.3.4 The Draft Sheffield Plan represents the Council's firm proposals for the development of the city over the period to 2039. The public consultation, seeking views on the 'soundness' of the Plan is a required stage before the Draft Plan is submitted to the Government for public examination.

6.3.5 The recommendations reflect earlier decisions taken by full Council on 14th December 2022 for decisions on any desired amendments to the Plan to be taken by the Strategy & Resources Policy Committee and then full Council.

#### 6.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

6.4.1 The options available to the Council in terms of proposing amendments to the Sheffield Plan are outlined in paragraphs 1.5.1 to 1.5.6 of the officer report. This will be a matter for the Strategy & Resources Committee and Full Council to consider.

### 7. **FUTURE SHEFFIELD MEMBERS ASSURANCE**

7.1 The Chief Operating Officer submitted a report seeking agreement to put in place Member assurance for the Future Sheffield change programme.

7.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

(a) agrees the establishment of a Future Sheffield Members Working Group, as detailed in the report now submitted;

(b) agrees Councillor Fran Belbin – Deputy Leader, as the chair of said working group; and

(c) approves the appended Terms of Reference for the Future Sheffield Members Working Group.

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

7.3.1 The recommendations are critical in ensuring that Future Sheffield has Member oversight and assurance.

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

7.4.1 Rely solely on officer assurance – this was rejected because it would not provide Members with assurance over the delivery of activities in Future Sheffield and would prevent Member input.

- 7.4.2 Provide Member updates via newsletters or written briefs – this was rejected because this engagement method would prevent direct involvement and would not enable constructive discussions to take place.
- 7.4.3 Provide Member assurance via regular reports to Strategy and Resources Committee - this was rejected because the amount of time that could be dedicated to Future Sheffield at committee meetings would be insufficient for the scale of the programme. Regular update and monitoring reports will however be brought to the committee to provide broader public oversight and transparency about the progress being made.