

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Thursday 30 May 2024 by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee.

### **Item No**

#### **8. WORK PROGRAMME**

8.1 The Committee received a report containing the Committee's Work Programme for consideration and discussion. The aim of the Work Programme is to show 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. It was highlighted that this is a live document and Members input to it was invaluable.

In particular it was noted that the report contained a proposal that approval be given for the Finance Committee to consider the annual Council Tax Support Scheme item, as it did last year and recommended that the cross cutting issue Yorkshire & Humber Shared Care Record, be considered at the Adult, Health and Social Care Policy Committee for decision and the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee for briefing.

Further to the earlier discussions in this meeting, members discussed the need to add in additional items to the Work Programme in relation to a review of the ethical procurement policy and a review of the governance of the Stocksbridge Towns Deal.

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

(a) approves the Committee's work programme, as set out in Appendix 1, including the additions and amendments identified in Part 1 of the report;

(b) agrees that further issues be included in the work programme in respect of:

- an ethical procurement policy, as part of a Commercial Strategy; and
- subject to advice from officers on the most appropriate Committee for consideration, a review of the governance of the Stocksbridge Towns Deal;

(c) approval be given to the consideration of cross cutting issues as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and

(d) approval be given for the Finance Committee to consider the annual Council Tax Support Scheme item, as it did last year.

## **9. STRATEGY AND RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE - 2024/25 THE YEAR AHEAD**

- 9.1 The Chief Executive presented a report setting out the significant progress the Council had made in 2023/34, working with communities and partners to agree long-term City Goals for Sheffield and a four-year Council Plan aligned to our Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Our progress was recognised by the LGA in our Corporate Peer Challenge Progress Review (Dec 23) and demonstrated by the delivery of real impact for citizens – from our ‘good’ OFSTED rating for children’s services to the transformation of our city centre and creating the UK’s first Investment Zone.

This paper outlines a forward agenda for the 2024/25 year, setting out the key steps we need to take to build on the progress made last year to deliver our Council Plan. This includes the need to prioritise our resources on our Council Plan outcomes and become a community and customer focused organisation to deliver high quality services for the people of Sheffield and address the financial pressure facing the Council.

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

(a) notes the progress made in 2023/24, recognising the work of Members, officers and partners to establish strong strategic foundations for the organisation;

(b) notes the key issues identified in section 3 of the report as part of our forward agenda for 2024/25; and

(c) agrees to work across Policy Committees to ensure the opportunities and issues identified in section 3 are taken forward as part of Committee workplans in 2024/25.

### **9.3 Reasons for Decision**

- 9.3.1 The recommendations support the continued strategic development of the organisation and will enable the delivery of our Council Plan by agreeing the key issues that we need to address in the 2024/25 year.

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

- 9.4.1 Not set out a forward agenda for 2024/25 – this was rejected because having agreed a new Council Plan, we need to set out for citizens the things we want to achieve in 2024/25.

## **10. DRAFT HOUSING STRATEGY**

- 10.1 The Executive Director Neighbourhood Services submitted a report setting out a draft Housing Strategy for Sheffield. The report sets out five strategic housing ambitions for the next decade to achieve our vision that everyone in Sheffield has a home that supports good health and is suitable for their needs and aspirations.

Having good quality, sustainable homes that meet the needs of our growing population is a vital part of achieving the outcomes in the Council Plan, contributing to driving the prosperity of the city, our communities and ensuring that we take action to protect our environment. The draft Housing Strategy is a Tier 1 strategy for Sheffield City Council as it sets the longer-term strategic direction for housing in the city and will be underpinned by more detailed strategies and delivery plans to achieve specific commitments (eg. Housing Growth Delivery Plan).

Citizens and partners have been involved in shaping the draft Housing Strategy vision and ambitions and it is recommended that we undertake further consultation on the draft Strategy before presenting a finalised version to Strategy and Resources Policy Committee in the autumn of 2024.

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

(a) endorse the draft Housing Strategy, as set out in Appendix 1;

(b) approves the launch of a second phase of public consultation on the draft Housing Strategy;

(c) agrees that the outcome of the consultation on the draft Housing Strategy will be presented back to the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee in the autumn of 2024; and

(d) agrees that a final draft of the Housing Strategy will be presented to the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee in the autumn of 2024 for consideration and approval.

### 10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 10.3.1 It is not a legal or statutory requirement to have a Housing Strategy and therefore there is no legal requirement for the Council to carry out consultation. However, the Council cannot deliver the Housing Strategy on its own and, as a Council, we are committed to working with residents and partners across the city to develop strategies that effectively meet the needs of our communities and sets the Sheffield's strategic ambition for Housing.

- 10.3.2 Approval to launch the second phase of consultation on the draft text of the Strategy will allow for this vital engagement with residents, partners and

community groups across the city, and timely completion of the project to deliver the new Strategy.

#### 10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 10.4.1 Do not develop a Housing Strategy: The development of a Housing Strategy is not a statutory duty. The Council is not, therefore required to produce one, and other strategies, such as Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy, are produced to consider specific issues. However, this option was rejected, on the grounds that a long-term, strategic document is seen as critical to guide planning, development/investment and policy over the next decade and this is a cornerstone strategy for the city. A Housing Strategy is produced by Local Authorities in comparable cities to set their strategic vision and ambition for Housing. The approach to not develop a Housing Strategy is therefore Not recommended.