

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Thursday 29 August 2024 by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee.

Item No

9. GLEADLESS VALLEY REGENERATION AND DELIVERY PLAN

9.1 The Executive Director City Futures submitted a report seeking approval for an improved approach to regeneration in Gleadless Valley that better works alongside the community, investors and partner organisations to see the ambitions in the Gleadless Valley Masterplan come to fruition. The proposal is to develop a One Council and partnership working approach to the delivery of the Gleadless Valley Regeneration Programme in order to unlock and accelerate delivery of housing and green space improvements and deliver sustainable social and economic benefits to the local community. The proposals include an improved approach to regeneration, a new delivery structure to drive social and economic regeneration and new governance arrangements to facilitate partnership working.

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

- (a) notes that due to rapid build cost inflation, the existing Gleadless Valley Masterplan proposals previously approved in 2022 are no longer deliverable within the allocated Council budget and that delivery of the housing and green space improvements has stalled;
- (b) approves the development of an improved approach to regeneration in Gleadless Valley involving working across the council, with voluntary and community groups and with delivery and investment partners to bring additional expertise, capacity and funding into the programme;
- (c) agrees that the current approved Gleadless Valley Masterplan proposals should be reviewed and updated to reflect the new approach to regeneration. The review should also consider the potential for physical improvements to housing and open spaces to be complemented by social and economic interventions to address the high levels of deprivation in the area and build thriving communities. Once the review is complete the draft revised proposals to be brought back to the appropriate Council Policy Committee for consideration and approval;
- (d) agrees that a Delivery Plan for the updated Gleadless Valley regeneration proposals should be developed over the coming year in partnership with the local community and potential delivery partners and investors. The Delivery Plan, once drafted, to be brought to the appropriate Council Policy Committee for consideration and approval, at which point the full financial implications and risks will be considered;

- (e) agrees to the establishment of a new Gleadless Valley Regeneration Board, bringing together residents, local community organisations, delivery partners and Council representative with the purpose of advising on the overall strategy for Gleadless Valley and aligning stakeholders to deliver the vision;
- (f) agrees that residents living in blocks that are identified in the existing masterplan for demolition or remodelling should be informed that the plans for their blocks are being reviewed and may change; and
- (g) approves the transfer of £662,300 from the Gleadless Valley Housing Revenue Account Capital Allocation into a Gleadless Valley Housing Revenue Account revenue budget to cover additional expenditure in the current financial year to implement the new approach to regeneration and develop the Delivery Plan.

9.3 Reasons for Decision

- 9.3.1 The Council embarked on the masterplan work in 2017 and spent four years developing the masterplan proposals in partnership with the local community. Rising construction costs have made it unaffordable for all of the proposed works to be funded by the council's capital programme.
- 9.3.2 Scaling back the masterplan to meet the council's budget would fail to deliver meaningful change for Gleadless Valley residents. Instead, the proposed approach will explore opportunities to use council spending to seed fund and de-risk the Valley for external investment from the likes of: Housing Associations, Institutional investors, the Combined Authority, Homes England and third sector organisations.
- 9.3.3 This new approach would also allow Gleadless Valley to better contribute to the ambitions that the council and partners have for the future of Sheffield as set out in the City Goals and Council Plan, for example inclusive housing growth, net zero and great local centres and facilities.

9.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

- 9.4.1 Alternative Option 1: Allocating additional HRA capital funding to the project in order to deliver the masterplan proposals in full
This option is rejected as unaffordable within the HRA business plan. Sticking precisely to the existing masterplan would also fail to deliver significantly against the council's net zero commitments, or housing growth targets (a net increase of only 115 homes based on current plans) and would not address resident priorities for improved shops and services.
- 9.4.2 Alternative Option 2: Allocating additional HRA capital funding to the project in order to deliver the refurbishment, remodelling and green space improvements while delivering the redevelopment aspects of the masterplan through disposals to housing associations
This option would still require a very significant uplift in the capital allocation to

the project (from £40m to c£100m excluding any works to the shopping centres) which is considered unaffordable within the HRA business plan.

- 9.4.3 Alternative Option 3: Reducing the scope of the proposed works to meet the available HRA capital budget.

This would allow delivery of (for example) around half of the refurbishment proposals in the masterplan plus some public space improvements. It would be a fast and relatively low risk delivery option but would deliver very limited improvements, lead to significant reputational damage and fail to deliver meaningful change for Gleadless Valley residents.

10. BUDGET MONITORING, QUARTER 1 2024/25

- 10.1 The Director of Finance & Commercial Services submitted a report bringing the Committee up to date with the Council's revenue outturn position for 2024/25.

- 10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee notes the updated information on the 2024/25 Revenue Budget Outturn as described in this report including the detailed committee budget monitoring information and management actions provided.

10.3 Reasons for Decision

- 10.3.1 To record formally changes to the Revenue Budget.

10.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

- 10.4.1 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.

11. A SMOKE FREE GENERATION

- 11.1 The Strategic Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning presented a report seeking authorisation to spend the Local Stop Smoking Services and Tobacco Control Interventions Support Grant, which is being made available to the Council by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) totalling £650,694 from April 2024 for the delivery of stop smoking services and tobacco control interventions in Sheffield and across South Yorkshire. An officer decision was taken on 25th March 2024 to permit the Council to become the accountable body for this grant.

This proposal will contribute to the achievement of the vision of the 2022-2027 Tobacco Control Strategy in Sheffield which aims for people to live longer and healthier lives, smokefree. The vision is also that Sheffield children grow up in a city where smoking is unusual; and that Sheffield is a smokefree city in which to live, work and play. Our ambition to make smoking obsolete by 2030 or to get to 5% prevalence in adults across all social groups. This strategy was signed off at Council Cabinet in April 2022.

- 11.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy

Committee:-

(a) approves the grant of £65,000 to Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board to contribute to the Yorkshire and Humber Smokefree campaign, as outlined in this report;

(b) notes the Council's intention in becoming a key partner and funder of the South Yorkshire Tobacco Control Alliance and entering into a partnership agreement. (This decision will be taken via an officer decision report); and

(c) notes the £127,694 being allocated to the incentive scheme in which the Council will commission goods and services, as outlined in this report. (This decision will be taken via an officer decision report).

11.3 **Reasons for Decision**

11.3.1 By approving the grant of £65,000 to Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board to contribute to the Yorkshire and Humber Smokefree campaign on behalf of the South Yorkshire Tobacco Control Alliance will enable Sheffield to maximise the opportunity to support smokers further in increasing quit attempts and quit outcomes and ultimately reducing smoking prevalence and associated harm and health inequalities amongst our most vulnerable groups.

11.3.2 Furthermore, by the Committee noting the Council's intention in becoming a key partner and funder of the South Yorkshire Tobacco Control Alliance and entering into a partnership agreement, as well as noting the intention to deliver an incentive scheme ensures the committee have a full overview of the spend of the Local Stop Smoking Services and Tobacco Control Interventions Support Grant re: 2024/25 and future years. These plans will accelerate declines in smoking in Sheffield and South Yorkshire.

11.3.3 This proposal will contribute to the achievement of the vision of the 2022-2027 Tobacco Control Strategy where people to live longer and healthier lives, smokefree. Children will grow up in a city where smoking is unusual; and that Sheffield is a smokefree city in which to live, work and play. Our ambition to make smoking obsolete by 2030 or to get to 5% prevalence in adults across all social groups.

11.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

11.4.1 Alternative Option 1:

All additional funding to be allocated to the community stop smoking service.

This would lead to a contract larger in size than the demand we could hope to treat via services. Some money would be dormant in the contract and not used to best effect. Only 5% of the smoking population attend services – which is why large promotion and engagement is required. Population level interventions are necessary such as mass media campaigns to elicit behaviour change across the whole smoking population. By funding a range of

interventions, we maximise the opportunity to meet the needs of a range of smokers, as people are motivated by different factors to quit.

11.4.2 Alternative Option 2:

Smokefree App

Whilst Smokefree App's have been proven to support smokers in achieving successful quit attempts at a population level with wide reach. Previous use of these in Sheffield has led to low uptake. Also, they do not support those who are digitally excluded and could in some cases such as, where English is not your first language provide further barriers to accessing support. This was not viewed as the best option to maximise quit attempts.

12. STREET TREE INQUIRY REPORT PROGRESS

- 12.1 The Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement presented a report providing an update on progress towards the recommendations made by the Lowcock report into the street trees dispute, and the additional commitments made in the Council's response.

The report sets out the good progress that has been made against the substantial majority of the recommendations that were due to be completed by this point. It also explains the reasons that a small number of recommendations have not been completed within the original timescales and describes how these are intended to be progressed and resolved.

Finally, it sets out progress against the wider and longer-term recommendations which are not yet due to complete and proposes that these be monitored via the relevant programmes of work that these relate to, including, particularly the Future Sheffield programme.

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

(a) notes the progress made since the last update to the committee in December 2023 towards the actions agreed in the June 2023 'Learning from the past and moving ahead: response to the Sheffield Street Tree Inquiry' report;

(b) notes the ongoing work to complete the remaining apologies to those who are owed them, and notes the renewed progress on the work to design and install a commemorative plaque in the Town Hall;

(c) notes the underpinning reports that sets out in more detail the key activity relating to governance, information management, organisational culture and transformation, and to agree that the remaining actions in these areas should be progressed through the relevant service areas and/or programmes as set out in section 4 of this report, with contingent decisions being made and monitored by the relevant committee; and

(d) agrees that whilst good progress has been made, the most critical lessons of the street tree dispute are the importance of listening to the people and communities of Sheffield, to hearing different points of view, to reflecting on mistakes and to being open to feedback at all times, and further agrees to commit to an ongoing dialogue with the people of Sheffield as the organisation continues to improve

12.3 Reasons for Decision

12.3.1 There has been substantial progress towards the recommendations for Sheffield City Council as set out in the Lowcock and subsequently agreed by Strategy and Resources Committee in June 2023.

12.3.2 This progress includes taking forward actions across the themes of reconciliation, Streets Ahead, and the wider council, and means that the actions that were recommended to have been taken by this point are now substantially completed. As such, it is not proposed that a further report is brought to the committee, but that the remaining actions are taken forward within other workstreams (including, particularly, the Future Sheffield programme which will drive the wider transformation of the organisation).

12.3.3 Although the immediate actions recommended by Sir Mark in his report have now been completed, it will take concerted ongoing effort to fully respond to the findings of the report and to reset the council's relationship with communities and to regain trust with those who were let down by the council's approach during the street trees dispute.

12.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

12.4.1 Alternative Option: Not to provide an update report

It would have been possible not to provide a further update report to Strategy and Resources Policy Committee on this matter. This was dismissed because of the direct request of the committee for a further report on progress at this point, and because of the degree of public interest in the street tree dispute and the Lowcock Inquiry, and the Council's ongoing commitment to learn lessons and take action in response to the recommendations.

13. ENTERING INTO A FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF NABLUS

13.1 The Executive Director City Futures submitted a report stating that, in February 2024, Strategy & Resources Policy Committee considered an International Update Report covering the Council's known international relationships and making recommendations in respect of them. As part of this consideration, the Committee agreed that the City Council enter into a Friendship Agreement with the City of Nablus, situated on the West Bank in Palestine.

This report outlines subsequent steps taken to implement the decision and seeks approval of draft wording for the proposed Friendship Agreement

between the two cities.

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

(a) approves the draft wording for a Friendship Agreement with Nablus, attached to this report as an Appendix and agrees that a signing ceremony (either virtual or in-person) be arranged; and

(b) notes the further steps to develop the relationship between the cities of Sheffield and Nablus, as described in the report.

13.3 **Reasons for Decision**

13.3.1 Alternative Option 1:

Do not enter into a Friendship Agreement with Nablus

The alternative option would be not to proceed to enter into a Friendship Agreement with Nablus. Given the existing links with Nablus established through Sheffield community groups and the frequent public representations encouraging the Council to proceed to link with Nablus, it is felt that this would not be desirable.

13.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

13.4.1 Entering into a Friendship Agreement with Nablus provides the mechanism to find out more about Nablus and to identify any synergies and potential areas of collaboration between our two cities.

Following an initial 12-month period, the Friendship Agreement would be subject to review. If either party felt that there was no merit in continuing the relationship, then there would be scope to step away.

Sheffield City Council is supportive of the community links that have been established between groups in Sheffield and Nablus. Agreeing to enter into a Friendship Agreement between the two cities, presents the opportunity to raise awareness of these activities within the public domain.