

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Thursday 18 July 2024 by the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee.

### **Item No**

#### **8. PRIDE OF PLACE PROGRAMME**

8.1 Members considered a report of the Executive Director of City Futures which provided information on the Sheffield Pride of Place Programme (PoP) which the Council has committed to support for the next three years requiring a total contribution of £150,000 towards delivery.

8.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee:-

- Notes the content of the Sheffield Pride of Place Programme
- Approves the Executive Director of City Futures to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Business in the Community for the three-year programme 24/25, 25/26 and 26/27

#### **8.3 Reasons for Decision**

8.3.1 To note the work undertaken so far by the Pride of Place Programme in Sheffield which the Council has committed to support for the next three years.

8.3.2 To enable the Council to continue to participate in the Pride of Place Programme and improve opportunities for people in Sheffield we ask Members to approve the project and approve the ability to enter into a grant funding agreement with BITC for the three-year period, noting that funding for the first financial year has been secured by Business Sheffield through UKSPF funding.

#### **8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

8.4.1 The Pride of Place Programme comes with a requirement to be involved in the Pride of Place Programme for a contribution by the local authority which outlines the commitment to the Pride of Place Programme for the full three years. Without the contribution by the Council of the full three years funding the Council would have to withdraw from our involvement in the Pride of Place Programme which would jeopardise the entire Pride of Place Programme taking place in Sheffield.

8.4.2 The preferred option is to show the commitment from the Council to the programme for the full three years and to explore funding from other external funding sources by Business Sheffield or identify the funding corporately, noting that the first year's funding has already been secured by Business Sheffield through UKSPF funding.

8.4.3 There is no external funding successor to UKSPF funding currently, but

following the election this position could change. Alternatively, if other external funding sources are not available the funding would be identified corporately and if sources cannot be identified that could mean that savings will need to be identified elsewhere to cover any unsecured amounts.

## **9. ADULT SKILLS FUND ALLOCATION**

9.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of City Futures which informed the Committee that SYMCA had confirmed Sheffield City Council's indicative 2024/2025 Adult Skills Fund (ASF) grant allocation for the purpose of enabling the Local Authority to provide adult education and skills training to learners aged 19+. The report asked the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee to make a formal decision to allow the Council to become the accountable body for this grant ahead of the Council agreeing the terms of a Grant Funding Agreement and applying the grant money.

9.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee:-

- a) Accept the Adult Skills Fund grant allocation for Sheffield and for the Lifelong Learning and Skills Service and to become the accountable body for this grant allocation for the academic year 2024/2025; and;
- b) Approves the Commissioning and Procurement of 19+ Adult Learning and Skills activities in community settings across Sheffield from external providers for a period of one year [from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025] and an estimated value of £650,000.

### **9.3 Reasons for Decision**

9.3.1 The recommended outcome is to allow FACES within the Lifelong Learning and Skills Service to accept the allocation to enable delivery of adult learning to begin in September 2024.

9.3.2 The further recommended outcome is to enable Lifelong Learning and Skills to move to procurement so that the service can deliver the necessary niche or high demand Adult Learning, Employment, Learning and Skills activities from partners and training providers to meet the regional skills priorities.

9.3.3 This recommended outcome will also enable the service to continue to reach to some of the most disadvantaged communities and those furthest from the labour market and offer those communities learning opportunities to begin a pathway towards employment and active citizenship.

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

9.4.1 Do Nothing – This is not an option as the Council has agreed a delivery plan with SYMCA which includes sub-contracting a proportion of the AEB towards its overall targets and needs to proceed with delivery to ensure the contract for 2024/25 is met.

9.4.2 Self-Deliver – This is not an option; the service does not have the capacity to deliver the necessary skills activities where demand is high and does not have the staffing expertise to deliver diversity to meet the skills priorities for the region.

## **10. SHEFFIELD MUSIC HUB – FUTURE GOVERNANCE**

10.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, City Futures following a successful bid to lead a consortium on behalf of the South Yorkshire region for Music Hubs. The report set out the arrangements of the change to the regional hub structure, and the steps which needed to be taken by Sheffield City Council and the other South Yorkshire Music Hub Consortium members in order for these proposals to be implemented.

10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee:-

- Notes the proposed structure for the new South Yorkshire Music Hub, with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority acting as lead authority on behalf of the Council, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, City of Doncaster Council and Doncaster Community Arts (DARTS) as approved by the Department of Education and Arts Council England through a competitive tendering process on 8th July 2024.
- Notes all arrangements required for the Council to finalise the proposals contained in the Arts Council England bid and that the Council will enter into the necessary Governance arrangements and documentation required to implement the new South Yorkshire Music Hub Governance Structure.
- As part of those arrangements authorises the Council to act as accountable body for the funding from SYMCA.

### **10.3 Reasons for Decision**

10.3.1 Supporting SYMCA to act as lead organisation and to provide strategic governance and support is the best solution to enable each Local Authority area to ensure continuity of delivery in 2024/25 academic year and beyond; minimising disruption to activity for Children and Young people and enabling time and energy to be spent on developing and diversifying the offer.

10.3.2 More ambitious plans could then follow with opportunities to access additional ACE / Government funding and contribute collectively to a shared cultural and educational ambition. This could have a profound impact on activity for children and young people who face the greatest barriers.

10.3.3 Opportunities to grow the reach of the Harmony Works project will be enhanced through this strategic relationship.

**10.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 10.4.1 Options for the new Hub to be led by one of the local authorities was explored. This would include one area taking full responsibility and risk for the delivery of the new Hub. The cost implications of this would mean that the lead hub would need to top slice the grant (around 4%) for back-office costs. The proposal for a consortium led by SYMCA removed the risk of reduced funding as it is being delivered without a charge.

**11. CULTURE STRATEGY**

- 11.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of City Futures which provided an update on the progress to date with the City's Cultural Strategy including sharing a draft for consideration and comment.
- 11.2 It was agreed that an update would come to Committee in the Autumn. The report was noted.

**12. 2023-24 FINAL OUTTURN BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

- 12.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Finance and Commercial Services which presented the Council's final outturn position for 2023/24.
- 12.2 The report was noted.