

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee

Meeting held 18 July 2024

PRESENT: Councillors Martin Smith (Chair), Iby Ullah (Deputy Chair)
Henry Nottage (Group Spokesperson), Simon Clement-Jones, Tony
Downing, Denise Fox, Mary Lea (Substitute Member), Barbara Masters
and Safiya Saeed.

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nikki Belfield. Councillor Mary Lea attended as their substitute.

2. Exclusion of Press and Public

2.1 Item 10 was exempt under paragraph 3 as it contained 'information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)'.

3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1 The minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on the 20th March 2024 and the 15th May 2024 were approved as correct records.

5. Public Questions and Petitions

5.1 No petitions or public questions were received.

6. Members' Questions

6.1 No questions were received from Members.

7. Work Programme

7.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement on the Committee's Work Programme detailing 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.

7.1.1 The Director of Economy, Skills and Culture informed the committee that a workshop is taking place on the LGBTQ Quarter and that an update will come from September.

7.1.2 The Chair asked that an update be provided on the Investment Zone on how many applications were made. The Director of Economy, Skills and Culture said an update on this would be added to the Work Programme.

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

1. That the Committee's work programme, as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed, including any additions and amendments identified in Part 1;
2. That consideration be given to the further additions or adjustments to the work programme presented at Part 2 of Appendix 1;
3. That Members give consideration to any further issues to be explored by officers for inclusion in Part 2 of Appendix 1 of the next work programme report, for potential addition to the work programme; and that the referrals from Council and Local Area Committees (petition and resolutions) detailed in Section 2 of the report be noted and the proposed responses set out be agreed.

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.

8.1.1 Councillor Safiya Saeed and Councillor Tony Downing joined the meeting.

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 set out that the 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+
- 9.1.1 Members agreed that a briefing paper, with a focus on mathematics and to include case studies, be brought to a future Policy Committee meeting within the current municipal year.
- 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 1st August 2024 to 31st 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 For consideration of this item of business, and in order for Members of the Committee to consider the exempt report, it was **RESOLVED**: That the public and press be excluded from the meeting and the webcast be paused before further discussion takes place on the grounds that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, if those persons were present, there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as described in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.
- 10.1.1 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 Councillors asked how sport, music and dance could be expanded beyond the city centre to ensure those living in wider Sheffield could engage with these activities. The Director of Economy, Skills and Culture stated that this was a key aim within the Culture Strategy.

11.3 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. It was noted that the report had been due to come to Committee in June; however, this was not possible due to the Pre-Election period.

12.2 The report was noted.