

Cabinet

Meeting held 23 September 2020

(NOTE: This meeting was held as a remote meeting in accordance with the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.)

**PRESENT:** Councillors Julie Dore (Chair), Jackie Drayton, Terry Fox, Mazher Iqbal, Bob Johnson, Mark Jones, Mary Lea, George Lindars-Hammond, Abtissam Mohamed and Paul Wood

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1.1 No apologies for absence were received. All members of the Cabinet were present at the meeting.

**2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

- 2.1 It was reported that a number of appendices to the reports at items 12, 13 and 14 in the agenda were not available to the public and press because they contained exempt information described in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), as follows:

Item 12 - Appendices 1 and 2 (Paragraph 3)  
Item 13 - Appendix A (Paragraph 3)  
Item 14 - Appendix 1 (Paragraphs 3 and 5).

Accordingly, if the content of the appendices were to be discussed, the public and press would be excluded from the meeting.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 3.1 Councillor Mazher Iqbal declared a personal interest in agenda item 14 (Provision of Grant Funding for Sheffield City Trust, to allow Ponds Forge to Re-Open) (See minute 4 below) as he was a Board Member of the Sheffield City Trust.

**4. PROVISION OF GRANT FUNDING FOR SHEFFIELD CITY TRUST, TO ALLOW PONDS FORGE TO RE-OPEN\***

- 4.1 The Executive Director, Resources, submitted a report reviewing the decision taken on 11th August 2020 regarding the re-opening of leisure facilities and recommending an additional package of funding support to Sheffield City Trust (SCT) in order to enable the Trust to reopen Ponds Forge. Members of the SCT Board attended the meeting to set out the latest position in respect of the Trust and to respond to Members' questions.

It was noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on SCT ability

to generate income from events at Ponds Forge and without additional funding from Sheffield City Council it will not be possible to re-open Ponds Forge.

4.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet, after considering the detail in the report, approves:-

- (a) additional funding to Sheffield City Trust (SCT) of up to £1.6m for the remainder of 2020-21, this will need to be funded from reserves.;
- (b) the payment to Sheffield City Trust by way of grant or loan an additional sum of up to £1.6m to enable the reopening of Ponds Forge;
- (c) the Council entering into revised security arrangements with SCT and Sheffield International Venues (SIV); and
- (d) further consideration of the opening of Ponds Forge and other venues to be dealt with as part of two future reports to Cabinet on the Leisure and Entertainment Strategy and the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget for 2020/21.

#### 4.3 **Reasons for Decision**

The financial support to SCT to re-open Ponds Forge will allow an increased range of facilities to re-open and will contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents.

#### 4.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

The alternative options considered included keeping Ponds Forge closed. In conjunction with SCT, Sheffield City Council is currently developing the future strategy for leisure and entertainment in the city and as part of that work is looking at areas for potential investment. There was an option to assess the potential to accelerate improvement works at Ponds Forge whilst the venue remained closed as this would avoid disruption in the future. However following consideration this option was ruled out because it was felt that re-opening Ponds Forge during 2020/21 would potentially help to restart the city centre economy, support students returning to the city, provide access for disability groups and other community users (226k visits per year) as well as a number of clubs and groups. Considering the wider implications of keeping this facility closed, particularly the impact on community groups that rely on this facility, along with the need to get our city centre moving again, means that we are making a recommendation to provide funding for the remainder of the financial year 2020-2021 to re-open the facility to all users.

A further option to open Ponds Forge for only club use was also considered. This option was ruled out as it did not provide equality of access for a wide range of users of Ponds Forge. The cost of this option was estimated at £90k per month (excluding lifecycle costs), with the clubs contributing c£30k and the Council needing to contribute the remaining £60k. This option was not supported due to the relatively small number of users it would support.

#### 4.5 **Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted**

None

#### **4.6 Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration**

The appendix to the report is not for publication by virtue of Regulation 20(2) Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 because, in the opinion of the proper officer, it contains exempt information under Paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

#### **4.7 Respective Director Responsible for Implementation**

Eugene Walker, Executive Director, Resources.

#### **4.8 Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In**

Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee.

### **5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- 5.1 The minutes of the meetings of Cabinet held on 18th March, 20th May, 17th June and 15th July, 2020 were approved as correct records.

### **6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

#### **6.1 Public Questions Concerning the Local Plan**

- 6.1.1 Nigel Slack commented that the first stage of consultation for the 'Local Plan' is now under way, this is good. We are years behind where we should be but, if we get it right, we will be stronger for it. It is just a shame about the abuse that developers have handed to this city in the meantime.

He stated that over time, changes to national planning laws have broken the ability of local planning committees to actually deliver democratic decisions on behalf of our residents. Even headline decisions like 'Owlthorpe Field' are not safe, an appeal is already under way with central government, where developers usually win. This was even used as outright threat by The University of Sheffield when there was even the least suggestion they might not be allowed to demolish the Grade 2 listed Jessops Hospital. On that occasion Sheffield City Council caved.

New government legislation is now looking to streamline the destruction of our system of local planning with ever more presumptive acceptance of planning applications. Offices transformed into some of the darkest tiniest flats in Europe, without permissions needed, and deregulated market forces trash our cities, towns and countryside. Money/profit is king and the planning system supports this wasteful and antisocial approach.

Local architects, whose motto should be destroy history, demolish the good and

sod the people, are now proposing new back to back housing for the city centre. Less than 100 years since the slums of the city were cleared for decent, affordable Council Housing. At the same time the economic impact of first Covid and then a disastrous Brexit will dictate a change from 'business as usual' and this Council must drive that change.

What will be the new 'Local Plan' be able to do to protect our city from the depredations of government and predatory developers?

- 6.1.2 Councillor Johnson commented that the Council also had concerns about many aspects of the proposals in the Government White Paper and how it will affect our Local Plan, the development mandate and the development management process. He stated that the Council welcomes some of the proposals, for example the shorter planning time, simpler process for preparing plans, the greater use of digital plans and a stronger emphasis on designing quality. There is however a lack of detail in many of the government's proposals, which seems to be a common thread amongst many of their proposals of late. So, its currently unclear as to what some of these plans mean in reality.

Under the government's proposals local plans will have a strong say over where development takes place, but the shift to a zonal system with fast track or automatic permission for certain categories of development specified in the Local Plan has significant risks attached to it, and removes democratic accountability and scrutiny from the planning application stage. It seems clear from the proposals however that areas defined in the Local Plan as protected areas, which include green belt, conservation areas and wildlife sites would still be subject to more stringent development controls and should still see full planning applications required for schemes affecting those type of areas. So, we will be keeping a close eye on that.

He added that the council's Local Plan is currently at the consultation stage, which means that the council should be able to adapt to any emerging changes resulting from this legislation, while still maintaining the direction of the Plan and of course maintaining and promoting what you and I both know is special about Sheffield.

## 6.2 Public Questions Concerning the Council's Reserves

- 6.2.1 Nigel Slack commented that with more of the city's reserves being earmarked to support Ponds Forge, John Lewis, etc, when will those reserves be exhausted and how long after that will the city be bankrupt? Also, what can this Council do to utilise the governments approach of 'Limited & Specific' unlawfulness to mitigate these issues?
- 6.2.2 Councillor Fox commented that the Council will be bringing the medium term financial analysis to Cabinet shortly, hopefully in October, and that analysis will give full details on our financial forecast including the reserves position. He stated that the Council and its elected members have a responsibility to set a balanced budget at the end of the year, otherwise we are in contempt and Government would send in individuals to run the Council. We believe that Elected Members are the right and accountable people to set that balanced budget.

6.3 Public Questions Concerning disposals of Parks and Countryside Estate

6.3.1 Mike Hodson commented on disposals of parks and countryside estate and asked:

Could the Cabinet Lead for Leisure and Culture confirm that any proposals for “disposals”, whether by lease or sale, of Parks & Countryside estate must be subjected to the Building Better Parks Policy approved by Cabinet in Nov 2018?

Could she also confirm that according to the decision making process of that Policy, laid out in Appendix 1, this entails;

(a) a prior assessment of any proposal for such disposal against the Reinvestment Assessment Criteria detailed in Appendix 2; and

(b) that such an assessment should be followed by a consultation with “key stakeholders” - including local Councillors, Friends Groups and the wider community etc (also detailed in Appendix 1); and

(c) that these should take place prior to any discussions with other Council departments including Planning, and prior to any authority to progress such a proposal by the Cabinet Member?

In relation to the proposal by True North Brewery (TNB) to lease a section of Millhouses Park, lodged with Parks & Countryside in November 2019, can she confirm that the proposal did not undergo the assessment prescribed above as a first step, and that the consultation prescribed as a second step did not take place, before she gave her authorisation to progress the proposal in Feb 2020? (in the light of the published Assessment bearing the date 28 August 2020, with internal evidence that it was prepared after the lodging of a Planning Application by TNB in May 2020; and in the light of the failure of Planning and Countryside Officers to carry out the required consultation with key stakeholders.)

Would she agree with Carter Knowle & Millhouses Community Group and the Friends of Millhouses Park that it would be appropriate for her to withdraw the authority to progress for the TNB proposal, given by her in Feb 2020; and that the proposal should revert to its status as at December 2019, so that the proposal can be subjected properly to the required steps in the Building Better Parks Policy?

Would she also agree with Carter Knowle & Millhouses Community Group and the Friends of Millhouses Park that it would be appropriate that any indications given by Parks and Countryside Officers that the proposal is being favourably considered, and that it would be approved if the Planning Application is successful, should likewise be withdrawn, as pre-judging the outcomes of any consultation? (which according to Council policies require 'the need for an open mind at the beginning of a consultation, and a readiness to modify proposals according to the feedback received.' In particular she is referred to the Sheffield City Council Involvement Table from 2016, which lays out the different levels of participation expected, and refers specifically to disposals as one situation where these would be needed.)

6.3.2 Councillor Lea commented that any proposal for disposal of our parks or sites are

subject to the Better Parks Policy and the criteria that's laid out in the Policy. She confirmed that a disposal in this case refers to a lease, it doesn't mean the sale of land.

All proposals are assessed against the criteria in the Better Parks Policy. Proposals are subject to consultation with key stakeholders, which includes users of the park, the community as well as the Carter Knowle & Millhouses Community Group and the Friends of Millhouses Park. She stated that there is no set order for the consultation and engagement process in the Better Parks Policy and that during that process we need to take advice from other services in the Council, including Property Services, Planning Services and Legal Services, to enable us to make an informed decision as to whether the proposal is feasible.

She clarified that as a Cabinet Member she does not give a formal authorisation for proposals such as this, officers recommend that a proposal be considered and that includes consultation and any planning application. This proposal was received initially in 2017 (As a result of this proposal the Better Parks Policy was developed). There was engagement with the Carter Knowle & Millhouses Community Group and the Friends of Millhouses Park during that time. We have supported this proposal because we think it benefits the park and community and it fits with the Better Parks Policy which is about betterment of the parks and enhancement of the benefits to the community. It was assessed against the relevant criteria in May 2019 and we then aimed to undertake further consultation, which was planned to take place during the pre-application part of the planning process. However, as you know the national lockdown commenced in March and the submission of a full planning application was submitted. This over rid the timetable that we had planned so we have had to amend the approach to the consultation. One of the ways we have done that is to use social media and we have had more than 500 responses. Planning applications are obviously subject to consultation themselves and again, because of the lockdown, that couldn't take place. At the request of the Friends of Millhouses Park the Planning Department extended the consultation process and determination date for the application. A lot of work has been undertaken on social media with regards to consultation and engagement in the community. More consultation is planned, hopefully in October, with the community including all the stakeholder groups. It is not appropriate for me to halt the consultation on this proposal.

She commented on the benefits of parks during this pandemic which had, for some, been the only thing that people had been able to enjoy, certainly in the first month of lockdown. They were widely used. When we were able to open up further, one of the things that we did was to allow businesses in parks such as cafes to extend their seating areas to outside their premises, and that this proposal is really about extending what is already there outside of the particular premises where that business takes place.

She stated that the recommendation by the Parks service to pursue the proposal will be part of the planning consultation process. Should the planning application be successful, we would expect that a 10 year lease would be granted. Consultation is part of the process and the Park's service are interested in these proposals due to the benefits that this would bring to Millhouses Park, the local

community and the City as well. She reiterated that we plan to have further consultation next month and that the basis of that further consultation will shape the proposals further. This will be done with people in the local community, the users of the park and True North Brewery as well.

## **7. ITEMS CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY**

- 7.1 It was noted that there had been no items called-in for scrutiny since the last meeting of the Cabinet.

## **8. RETIREMENT OF STAFF**

- 8.1 The Executive Director, Resources submitted a report on Council staff retirements.

- 8.2 **RESOLVED:** That this Cabinet :-

(a) places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by the following staff in the Portfolios below:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Years' Service</u>
<b><u>People Services</u></b>		
Anita Barnsley	Senior Teaching Assistant Level 3, Pipworth Community Primary School	24
Philip Horton	Business Contingency and Continuity Officer	47
Val Huzzard	Lead Professional, Inclusion and Learning	35
Sharman Keverne	Children's Senior Social Worker	39
Victoria McDougall	Teacher, Hunters Bar Junior School	20
Shahzana Saeed	Children's Senior Social Worker	34
Dawn Walton	Director of Commissioning, Inclusion and Learning	35
Shirley Ward	Cleaner, Halfway Junior School	24
Cathy Wigg	Co-ordinator, Early Years Inclusion Team	23





None

9.6 **Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration**

None

9.7 **Respective Director Responsible for Implementation**

Eugene Walker, Executive Director, Resources.

9.8 **Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In**

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

**10. EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND, SECTOR ROUTEWAYS**

10.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted a report seeking approval for acceptance of £1,957,860.75 of funding from The European Social Fund (ESF) and approval for the Sector Routeways project of £3.2m comprising of ESF, City Council and Barnsley Council contributions. The Secretary of State is the managing authority for the ESF Operational Programme and wishes to offer the Grant under the terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement administered by the Department of Work and Pensions, following Sheffield City Council's successful bid under ESF Priority 1.4.

10.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:

- (a) approves Sheffield City Council accepting the European Social Fund grant offer of up to £1,957,860.75;
- (b) approves the £3.2m Sector Routeways project as described in the report;
- (c) grants delegated authority to the Executive Director, People Services, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members, the Executive Director, Resources and the Director of Legal and Governance, to:-
  - (i) develop and utilise an appropriate procurement strategy as and when required; and
  - (ii) accept and administer the Sector Routeways fund and procure the services required to deliver its related outcomes and award the associated contracts; and
- (d) approves that Sheffield City Council will act as the Accountable Body and also make grant payments for the Sector Routeways project to its Partner Barnsley MBC.

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

By accepting this funding the Council will be able to:

(1) increase the skill levels for Sheffield and Barnsley out of work residents by streamlining access to entry level roles within sectors that require labour;

(2) improve the unemployed indicators within the City, moving long term unemployed residents to the “in demand” labour market and/or enhancing skill levels;

(3) create increased revenue for the Council; and

(4) attract inward investment through co-ordinated pipeline offer of workforce skills within key sectors.

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

The Council could decide not to accept the funding. Alternative funding could be potentially sourced to support our businesses workforce needs as part of the Government Covid-19 response offer to regions. There is demand from other sectors to replicate the “building block” model, so rejection of funding could carry reputational risk within our regions employer base.

#### 10.5 **Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted**

None

#### 10.6 **Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration**

None

#### 10.7 **Respective Director Responsible for Implementation**

John Macilwraith, Executive Director People Services

#### 10.8 **Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In**

Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee.

### 11. **COMMISSIONING NEW CARE AND SUPPORTED SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH COMPLEX NEEDS**

11.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted a report setting out proposals to commission new services to provide supported living and care for people with very complex needs. The report describes the needs and current service gaps and seeks approval to secure new provision through a competitive tender process

11.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

(a) approves the approach to commissioning new services to provide

supported living and care for people with very complex needs as set out in the report;

- (b) delegates authority to the Director of Strategy and Commissioning, People Services, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Commercial Services and the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care to approve a procurement strategy to secure supported living services in line with the report and thereafter approve a contract award to the successful bidder; and
- (c) where no existing authority exists, delegates authority to the Executive Director, People Services, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Commercial Services to take such steps to meet the aims and objectives of the report.

### **11.3 Reasons for Decision**

The approach set out in the report will enable the development of specialist services to fill a gap in care and support provision for people with complex needs for whom current services have not been able to support effectively.

It enables the Council to consider the experience, innovation and resources that can be brought into Sheffield from the wider market. It enables services to be provided quickly and timely considering the current service end dates.

The services will form an essential part of a wider strategic response to people with complex needs and will compliment internal and external services.

### **11.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

Consideration has been given to tendering for services in fixed blocks of accommodation against a very detailed specification with price as the lead factor. This option has the benefit of bringing stable provision for a range of clients who struggle to live independently. However, to specify too stringent a model, too early, would not give the flexibility to explore different market options to bring in innovation and choice and offer solutions that we may not have considered yet.

The current services could be allowed to close and not be replaced, and we could not take the opportunity to commission services that have been identified in the needs' analysis. This would save the Council immediate funding but would result in higher costs further down-stream in care, housing and community safety, and there would then be no suitable services for this client group. More importantly we would not be providing good quality services to support recovery and independence for people with specific needs, and in addition who are socially excluded. Consideration has been given to the potential for the Council to establish new provision and run it directly. However, the Council's housing service are having to accommodate a higher number of people who would otherwise be sleeping rough following the Covid Outbreak and new requirements, as well as finding alternative temporary accommodation.

Needs for new services are high and any new developments through the Next Steps funding for rough sleepers will be part of a separate and wider requirement to offer choice. Social care managers are already concerned about the lack of provision for this client group. There are a number of good external partners who would be in a position to bring innovation quickly to a commissioning process and secure new accommodation unavailable to the Council. The recommendation therefore is that this project commissions externally, as part of a wider strategy for support and housing which includes new provision being also developed by the Council.

**11.5 Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted**

None

**11.6 Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration**

None

**11.7 Respective Director Responsible for Implementation**

John Macilwraith, Executive Director, People Services.

**11.8 Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In**

Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee.

**12. DECISION BY CABINET AS TRUSTEES OF HILLSBOROUGH PARK - LEASES OF FORMER COACH HOUSE AND BOWLS PAVILION\***

12.1 The Executive Director, Place, submitted a report seeking the approval of Cabinet acting as the Charity Trustee of Hillsborough Park (Registered Charity Number 510841) ("the Charity") to grant two leases to Age UK Sheffield being:

(a) a lease for the derelict former Coach House building, together with the adjacent Potting Shed, in order to undertake a restoration and conversion to a café, associated facilities and services; and

(b) a lease for parts of the Pavilion to deliver a dementia day centre and community activity services including exercise classes, choir and theatre performances.

12.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet acting as the Charity Trustee of Hillsborough Park:

(a) approves the leases of the subject properties to Age UK Sheffield based on the terms set out in Appendix 1 of the report;

(b) agrees that the Trustees are satisfied that the proposed terms are the best that can be reasonably obtained in the circumstances based upon consideration of the commercial details in Appendix 1 and the Qualified

Surveyor's Report in Appendix 2;

- (c) approves the grant of a charge over the legal title of the Trust in relation to grant funding, as set out in the report; and
- (d) authorises the Chief Property Officer, in consultation with the Director of Legal and Governance, to negotiate the terms of the lease with the proposed lessee and the Director of Legal and Governance to prepare and complete all the necessary legal documentation, in accordance with the agreed terms and in respect of a charge over title.

### 12.3 **Reasons for Decision**

The proposal to grant two leases to Age UK Sheffield will achieve:

- full restoration of a derelict Grade II Listed Building via third party finance/funding
- provision of a new café, public toilets and activity/function space at Hillsborough Park which will support the site become more inclusive for the benefit of new and existing users of the Park
- Increased community use of the pavilion
- Increased presence in the Park which may reduce anti social behaviour
- increased income stream for the Trust which can be reinvested in the Park
- transfer of significant property liabilities
- regeneration of an under-utilised part of the Park
- enhancement of the quality and attractiveness of the Park as a valuable asset for visitors
- occupation for the purposes of the charitable objects of the Trust
- compliance with the provisos contained within the power granted to the Trustee by the Scheme and with the statutory provisions contained within the Act and further with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

### 12.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

The former Coach House has been in a dilapidated condition for many years and has generated little interest when offered to the market. The Parks and Countryside Service has previously explored the possibility of a Heritage Lottery bid to restore the Coach House, however this did not prove to be viable at that time. The costs of restoration can realistically only be met through grant funding via a third party such as the proposed lessee. The Pavilion offers modern facilities but comprises community space and changing facilities so has limited alternative potential. The building originally had a Parks & Countryside Ranger managing the bookings, but this was very costly and not very effective. Eventually this role was combined into managing a number of other Park buildings but this did not improve the use of the building as the Pavilion was not promoted and used to its full potential. Age UK Sheffield see that there is synergy with the Coach House proposals and an opportunity for better services/benefits by using both buildings. There is no better option in our opinion.

**12.5 Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted**

None

**12.6 Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration**

Appendices 1 and 2 of the report are not for publication by virtue of Regulation 20(2) Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 because, in the opinion of the proper officer, it contains exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**12.7 Respective Director Responsible for Implementation**

Laraine Manley, Executive Director, Place.

**12.8 Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In**

Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee.

**13. COVID-19 TEST, TRACK & ISOLATE PROGRAMME FUNDING\***

13.1 The Executive Director, Resources and Director of Public Health, submitted a joint report:

- advising Cabinet of the current position regarding COVID-19 in Sheffield;
- describing the programme established to implement the Outbreak Control Plan and the estimated costs of implementing that programme;
- informing Cabinet of Government funding received to assist with the costs of preventing, mitigating against and managing local outbreaks of COVID-19; and,
- seeking approvals and delegations to continue this work.

Greg Fell, Director of Public Health provided the meeting with an update on the latest position with regard to Covid-19.

13.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:

- (a) recognises the hard work and the achievements of Council employees, partner organisations and the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS) in preventing, mitigating and managing local outbreaks of COVID-19 to date, an enormous effort that began in March 2020;
- (b) notes that in June 2020, Sheffield City Council (SCC) was allocated a ring fenced grant of £3,101,989 from the Department of Health and Social Care

(DHSC) towards expenditure incurred in relation to the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19;

- (c) notes that Sheffield City Council, along with 6 other Local Authorities, has written to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to request further funding of approximately £2m to implement Integrated Local Arrangements for Test, Trace and Support;
- (d) notes that in July 2020, SCC was allocated a grant of £774,649 from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to support those struggling to afford food and other essentials due to COVID-19 and that this grant is not ring fenced but is expected to be used in accordance with DEFRA guidance;
- (e) notes and approves the Investment Plan described in Annex A of the report, including noting the expenditure already approved through the Category 1 Covid-19 decision making process, as set out in the report;
- (f) agrees to establish a fund as described in Annex A: Investment Plan of the report, sourced from DHSC funding received, for the purposes of providing grants to and purchasing services, as appropriate, from the VCFS;
- (g) to the extent not covered by existing delegations, delegates authority to the Executive Director Resources, in consultation with the Director of Public Health, to:
  - (i) award grants; and
  - (ii) approve procurement strategies and award contracts funded from the fund established in accordance with recommendation (f) above; and the Cabinet notes that a Steering Group will be established to provide advice and guidance as to the broad criteria for funding, with the Steering Group including the Executive Director, Resources, the Director of Public Health, the Executive Director, People Services, and appropriate Cabinet Members;
- (h) notes that the DEFRA grant for Food and Essential Supplies will be administered through the Local Assistance Scheme; and
- (i) to the extent not covered by existing delegations or the specific delegations outlined above, delegates authority to the Executive Director, Resources, in consultation with the Director of Public Health to take such other decisions as may be necessary to achieve the outcomes set out in the report.

### **13.3 Reasons for Decision**

The recommendations described in the report will enable Sheffield City Council to implement a Test, Track & Isolate Programme that will help to deliver the Sheffield Local Outbreak Control Plan and to prevent, mitigate against and manage local outbreaks of COVID-19.

#### 13.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

The Test, Track and Isolate Programme has been established to implement the Outbreak Control Plan and to prevent, mitigate against and manage local outbreaks of COVID-19.

The Programme is organisationally complex (it involves multiple Council services and partner organisations), it is technically complex (requiring new processes and systems to be established and incorporated into new and existing Council services), it provides a new and complex range of services (prevention, testing, track and trace, isolation support), and it exists in a complex environment that changes from week to week - based on the spread of the virus and changes in government policy.

The report describes what officers believe to be the best way of preventing, mitigating and controlling the virus in Sheffield. However, this will be kept under review and the approach described may need to change. The TTI Programme is agile and responsive, and is capable of adapting to changes in epidemiology and policy, in order to protect the health of the people of Sheffield.

There are also constraints over what the grants can be used for. The DHSC grant of £3,101,989 is ring fenced towards expenditure incurred in relation to the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19.

The DEFRA grant of £774,649 is not ring fenced but has been provided to support those struggling to afford food and other essentials due to COVID-19, and is expected to be used in accordance with the associated guidance and within 12 weeks of receipt.

Alternative options that have been considered and rejected include:

##### Implement Without Programme Management

This option was rejected because without the capability and capacity of the Council's Business Change and Information Solutions business change resources deployed on the project, it would not have been possible to translate the outbreak control plan into a consistent and coherent programme of activity, capable of delivering the additional processes and systems needed to prevent, mitigate and manage outbreaks of COVID-19 in Sheffield.

##### Implement Without Additional Staff Resources

This option was rejected because without additional resources to backfill existing staff or to provide additional knowledge, skills and capacity, then it is not possible to deliver the on the ground prevention, mitigation and outbreak management services needed to manage COVID-19 in Sheffield.

##### Implement Without Communications



This option was rejected because without regular communications to people and businesses, providing advice and guidance about how to prevent infections, how to behave if there is an infection, and the support available, all of which is designed and delivered in ways that will achieve maximum impact, including translations into foreign languages, then we believe the virus will spread quickly across the city resulting in damage to public health and economic prosperity.

#### Implement Without Local Testing

This option was rejected because without a local testing service we would not be able to manage small localised outbreaks, in a homeless hostel or care home for example, and fulfil our duties to protect public health and manage and prevent COVID-19 outbreaks. A scalable solution has been designed so that we only pay for what we need (recognising there are some structural/set up costs), and that testers will be asked to help with other response related work when not engaged in testing activity. This could be prevention work or communications activity for example.

#### Implement Without VCFS Assistance

This option was rejected because since the outbreak of COVID-19, the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector has provided tremendous support and resilience to communities in Sheffield. The connections, knowledge and understanding that these organisations have of their local areas will help us to be more effective in future prevention, outbreak management, testing, tracing and isolation support.

### **13.5 Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted**

None

### **13.6 Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration**

Annex A of the report is not for publication by virtue of Regulation 20(2) Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 because, in the opinion of the proper officer, it contains exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

### **13.7 Respective Director Responsible for Implementation**

Eugene Walker, Executive Director, Resources and Greg Fell, Director of Public Health.

### **13.8 Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In**

Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee.

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