

Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee

Meeting held 20 June 2022

**PRESENT:** Councillors Martin Smith (Chair), Ben Miskell (Deputy Chair), Paul Turpin (Group Spokesperson), Kurtis Crossland, Jayne Dunn, Tom Hunt, Barbara Masters, Henry Nottage and Minesh Parekh

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

**2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

**4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

4.1 The Committee received an electronic petition 'Allow re-entry to Tramlines in Hillsborough Park'. The petitioner was unable to attend the meeting and the Chair agreed to send a detailed response.

4.2 Matt Hill attended the Committee and asked the following question which was answered by the Chair:

Question: Our successful non-profit co-working space is currently full to capacity and looking to expand, alongside being located in an area which the Landlord is looking to convert into flats. Therefore, at Union St we're conscious of the plans for Events Central on Fargate to include two floors of co-working which are to be put to external tender.

Our previous tender to Sheffield City Council for Leah's Yard (bid here) outlined in detail our externally validated plans to create 2,500 jobs, attract 600,000 additional visits to the city centre, and create fifteen million pounds per year for Sheffield's economy. However, large contracts such as these are generally awarded to bigger operators, who are seen as a less risky proposition due to their size. However, they do not usually focus on their social or economic impact for Sheffield.

Would the committee agree that it's vital to ensure that opportunities for tendering such as these are accessible for local organisations, and would it commit to looking at the tender process for Events Central with a view to dividing it into smaller contracts, to be realistic and viable for local organisations to bid for?"

Answer: The Council would wish to encourage bids and proposals from local organisations in respect of Events Central. The tender process will start in the summer and officers will contact you directly as soon as that process begins. The project is funded by the Future High Streets Fund and as part of the successful bid for that funding there is a requirement to make sure we have a commercial return on the building's upper floors and the proposed music venue, with a view to securing the ground and first floor exhibition and community spaces. Subject to that, positive social and environmental impacts will be a key criteria in accessing the relevant bids. In addition it was suggested that the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee have regard to the point on breaking up procurement contracts as part a of a Community Wealth building approach.

4.3 The Committee received a question from Janine Lawson. The questioner was unable to attend the meeting.

Question: Our question is about the Economic Recovery Fund and the ability of existing projects to apply for further funding. You may be aware that Hillsborough is an area that has already seen benefit from the fund. However there is much work still to be done and the existing funds will not cover the current plans. The area has been extended beyond original plans due to the significant decline in the area and the many years the area has been left behind. So how can this committee help Hillsborough, an area needing further resources and with the capacity to deliver, secure further funding to allow the project to continue to bring prosperity to its businesses and attract more of the local community into the area.

Answer: No decision has yet been made as to whether existing beneficiaries will be able to access further funding through the second iteration of the Economic Recovery Fund. An options appraisal that would support the Committee in making this decision was recommended at the meeting on 20 June 2022. The Committee will take a decision as to any future shape of the Fund at its September meeting and will therefore be able to communicate the outcome to you at that time.

The legacy of ERF round 1 and ongoing work of each project will be considered and continued support offered though the Local Area Committees. Two important strands of work are an evaluation of the Economic Recovery Fund and research into the future of the city's district centres. The Committee would invite all of those involved in the Hillsborough project to come forward and take part in these pieces of research to help record the learning from this project and take this forward, and generate the ideas and interventions the Council can work towards in future years.

The Committee would like to take the opportunity to thank you and all of those involved in the hard work of delivering your project, as well as those in all of the other areas. We look forward to seeing the projects develop over the coming months.

4.4 Ian Lawlor and Rose Wilcox attended the Committee and asked the following

question which was answered by the Chair:

Question: In 10 months time The Leadmill is due to be evicted by its landlord who intends to stage a hostile takeover to operate their own corporate chain venue in its place, with no ties to Sheffield. This is a landlord who used underhand tactics to purchase the building, under the pretence of being a property portfolio company. Once the deal was done they then swapped ownership to another of their companies which operates music venues. This is just one of the sly tactics they used to hide their true intentions. They purchased the building exactly 5 years before The Leadmill's lease ends which is the minimum length of time required for the right of renewal for a commercial tenant to not apply, so it was their intention from the very start to evict The Leadmill. Despite this 5 year plan of the landlords, they failed to inform The Leadmill of their intentions until their legal team cruelly served The Leadmill with an eviction notice in April, leaving only 1 year for The Leadmill to plan. The Leadmill has always been a tenant of the building they operate from, they've never had the opportunity to purchase the building at its true value but have never had any cause for concern as they have always paid their rent on time and are a model tenant, this eviction notice came as a real shock.

Despite false claims made in the past few months by the landlord, they have no rights to "The Leadmill" trademark or any of its heritage or assets, all of which belong wholly to The Leadmill company. Once The Leadmill are evicted, the building would be completely stripped of everything including all utilities such as water, gas & electricity, it would be stripped of its floor, the bars, stage, speakers and even the doors. What would be left would be a sad shell of a once-derelict empty old flour mill building. The work then required to return the building to a useable venue would be massive, expensive and incredibly lengthy. There would be no venue operating from the building for at least a year and it would no longer be The Leadmill if they did manage to get it reopened.

This will force redundancy on the extremely talented and dedicated workforce behind The Leadmill. It is these 80 people who make The Leadmill so special. We recently saw the landlord use the same tactics to take over the O2 Academy Newcastle and the Leadmill actually currently employs a member of staff who lost their job in that venue in Newcastle. They are now having to go through this horrible ordeal for a second time, because of the exact same landlords. The landlords have made no attempt to contact the staff, despite having this all planned for 5 years. This has caused immeasurable stress and anxiety amongst the 80-strong team, who were all still recovering from the stresses of the pandemic. Because of the downtime that would be necessary to turn their empty flour mill back into a music venue it would be impossible for the landlord to offer the team a full salary for at least a year whilst it's not operating. The landlord would be forcing The Leadmill to make sweeping redundancies of its own dedicated and loyal staff. Any statements made by the landlord to the contrary would just be more lies.

Over the last 10 years alone, The Leadmill has employed over 900 people. They ranged from graduates from outside of the city, those who have lived in Sheffield for their entire life, apprentices, student placements and kickstarters

who needed a helping hand back into work. The Leadmill has substantial relationships with both universities, offering invaluable work experience and apprenticeship opportunities to those interested in the industry. The Leadmill are one of the leading organisations harnessing talent within the arts and events industry in Sheffield. The majority of The Leadmill's staff moved to or chose Sheffield as their University purely for the chance to work at and visit The Leadmill. Most of The Leadmill management team worked their way up from apprenticeship and placement level, nurtured by the business and allowed to grow with the company. It's no coincidence that some Leadmill staff have been with the company happily for 15+ years, despite this usually being a high-turnover industry. The whole team of staff were looked after incredibly well throughout the pandemic by The Leadmill. A pandemic where the landlords were the only people to refuse The Leadmill any financial help when asked. They didn't care about The Leadmill's staff or it's future then and they definitely don't now.

It's also a little known fact that The Leadmill isn't just the venue on the ground level, it has 3 other floors housing 9 independent businesses that operate above the venue. Over the years these have ranged from Tramlines Headquarters, artists, clothing shops, makeup studios, recruitment firms, tattooists and dance studios. The landlord's plans would not only displace The Leadmill and it's staff, it would also result in the removal of these independent businesses, one of whom has even been there as long as The Leadmill has.

So I ask the committee members here today, what will you do to help prevent this avoidable mass redundancy, the loss of vital career & skills development opportunities, and the forced homelessness of local independent businesses?

The Leadmill, the birthplace of Sheffield's Cultural Quarter, is set to be exterminated by its corporate London-based landlord. After 42 long, hard years of building The Leadmill into one of the most respected and influential music venues in the UK, this legacy is at risk. The landlords intend to evict The Leadmill and have not engaged in any kind of negotiations with the company or it's staff, in fact they refuse to respond to even the most basic of questions. Unless Sheffield City Council intervenes, The Leadmill will cease to exist in March 2023 - just 10 months away.

Sheffield is considered one of the best breeding grounds for new music in the UK. The amount of widely successful artists that have been produced in this city is staggering. Music is a huge part of Sheffield's cultural identity, an identity which The Leadmill has played an important role in cultivating. Over the last 42 years, The Leadmill has worked constantly with new musicians to nurture and develop their talent. The loss of The Leadmill will mean the loss of a powerful institution and cultural asset which has helped to put Sheffield on the map.

Sheffield will lose a company that cares deeply about this city and the people that live and work here. It will lose a company that works closely with the local community, supports local businesses, regularly donates to local charities, and nurtures and elevates the local music scene. Sheffield will lose a company that brings tens of thousands of people into the city each year. Sheffield will lose

that feeling of pride when being compared to surrounding cities' musical heritage.

The Leadmill recently organised the award-winning Sheffield Music Trails this May. This event brought much needed attention and income to 19 local independent venues, after suffering through a tough 2 years in the pandemic. It also lifted the city's spirits, by creating a memorable and unique experience for the thousands of people in attendance.

The Leadmill was also a pivotal player during the early years of Tramlines Festival. In the beginning, it invested so generously in Tramlines, that it actually made a loss on its sold out events each year. The aim was to selflessly help raise the profile of the festival in its early years when money was tight because The Leadmill could see the bigger picture. Sheffield now has a festival to be proud of at Hillsborough Park, where The Leadmill is honoured to have its own stage. This stage celebrates The Leadmill's role in the heritage of both Tramlines Festival, and the city of Sheffield. It's a little known fact that for many years, Tramlines Headquarters also operated from one of the studios at The Leadmill. This is a real testament to the cultural breeding ground of the venue; great things start with The Leadmill.

In the 2016 UK Music 'Wish You Were Here' report, it was stated that people from outside of the city make up 26% of all customers that attend grassroots music venues and that they then contribute an average of £158 each to the local economy. In the past year alone, The Leadmill has had 160,000 customers through its doors. This would equate to £6.6 million that music tourists have contributed towards our local economy as a direct result of The Leadmill's hard work.

Has the council considered that the closure of The Leadmill will paint a negative portrait of our city and has it considered what the cultural & financial impacts on both a local and national scale will be when Sheffield is seen as a place where grassroots businesses cannot thrive. How would the city cope with the loss of one of its most significant cultural landmarks.

So I ask the committee members here today, what is the council willing to do to prevent this travesty from happening, will this committee back a campaign to compulsory purchase the building so Sheffield can retain this crucial cultural asset?

Answer: Music is indeed a part of Sheffield's cultural identity, and The Leadmill is without doubt a stalwart of Sheffield's nightlife and culture scene and an iconic venue for musicians and music fans across the country. We understand how strongly people feel about the news of its potential closure; we echo their feelings and do not want to lose an important piece of our cultural heritage.

We know that this will be an unsettling time for the hardworking staff of The Leadmill. Through Business Sheffield, there are support packages available to provide support to staff, if required.

We have been working closely with The Leadmill team for a number of months now, supporting their efforts to find suitable alternative venues and exploring all proposals. Compulsory Purchase Order Powers can only be used in limited circumstances. They are lengthy processes and must meet the strict criteria set out in Law.

We will continue to do all we can, within the powers we have, to support, guide and help The Leadmill to find a resolution. A meeting has been arranged for next Thursday to discuss this matter.

- 4.4 Question from Robin Hughes, referred from Council - What will this Council's strategic approach be to realising the full value of heritage in all its forms to the economy and skills? And how will this extend to maximise the benefits to climate change, education, health and wellbeing?

It was agreed that a written response would be provided.

## **5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SKILLS POLICY COMMITTEE OVERVIEW**

- 5.1 The Committee received a presentation setting out details of the Committee's areas of responsibility:

- Economic strategy
- Business growth, sectors (including digital) and enterprise Employment policy and programmes
- Adult education and skills policy and programmes
- Culture and arts, development and projects (including Theatres, Museums and Galleries)
- City and community events

An overview of the of the strategic context; resources; Economy Skills and Culture; Lifelong Learning and Skills; and Public Health purview was provided.

- 5.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the information now reported be noted.

## **6. WORK PROGRAMME**

- 6.1 The Director of Legal and Governance presented the Work Programme and informed Committee that this would be a regular item and although it contained suggestions for what it may contain, it was up to the Committee to decide. Appendix 3 of the report contained the actual work programme which would be visible to the public.

- 6.2 Members discussed potential items for inclusion in the Work Programme including a jobs strategy and an ethical business policy. The Chair recommended that Members give close consideration to the Work Programme and submit details of any suggested items for inclusion to him, Deputy Chair and Group Spokesperson.

- 6.3 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That:

1. With reference to issues raised in this report, consideration be given to any further additions or adjustments to the work programme presented at Appendix 3 of the report;
2. That the committee's work programme as set out in Appendix 3 of the report be agreed; and
3. Consideration be given to any further issues to be explored by officers for inclusion in part 6 of the next work programme report, for potential addition to the work programme, details to be submitted to the Chair, Deputy Chair and Group Spokesperson.

## **7. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT MONTH 01, 2022/23**

7.1 This report brings the Committee up to date with the Council's financial position as at Month 1 2022/23. The report also reports the proposed budget timetable for the development of the 2023/24 budget. It was noted that next update report to Committee would identify details of the areas of discretionary spend available to this Committee.

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

1. notes the Council's challenging financial position and the Month 1 position;
2. notes the budget timetable set out in this report including the requirement for the Committee to plan to develop budget proposals over the course of the summer;
3. notes that the Strategy and Resources Committee agreed at its 31 May 2022 meeting to "require any Policy Committee that is forecasting an overspend on their budget to develop an action plan to address the overspend in-year and ask the Finance Sub-Committee to monitor both the development of any required action plans and delivery against them";
4. continues to closely to manage and monitor expenditure in line with budget expectations and ensure forecasts represent current financial conditions.

## **7.3 Reasons for Decision**

- 7.3.1 Under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Chief Finance Officer of an authority is required to report on the following matters:
- the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of determining its budget requirement for the forthcoming year; and
  - the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- 7.3.2 There is also a requirement for the authority to have regard to the report of the Chief Finance Officer when making decisions on its budget requirement and level of financial reserves.

7.3.3 By the law the Council must set and deliver a balanced budget, which is a financial plan based on sound assumptions which shows how income will equal spend over the short- and medium-term. This can take into account deliverable cost savings and/or local income growth strategies as well as useable reserves. However, a budget will not be balanced where it reduces reserves to unacceptably low levels and regard must be had to any report of the Chief Finance Officer on the required level of reserves under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, which sets obligations of adequacy on controlled reserves.

#### 7.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

7.4.1 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.

### 8. **ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUND 2022-23**

8.1 Full Council resolved during its budget setting process (on 16 February 2022) to allocate £2m to the city's district and local centres to support their economic recovery. The budget amendment committed to building on the work of the Economic Recovery Fund (launched in March 2021).

This report proposes to continue the work of the Economic Recovery Fund, re-establish its governance arrangements, and develop options for the future operation of the Fund.

The objectives of the Economic Recovery Fund are:

- To support local economic recovery; helping our businesses and our retail and hospitality centres to rebuild and grow.
- To help businesses open safely and remain viable – building resilience to future economic changes.
- To protect jobs and businesses, particularly in hardest hit sectors.
- To generate demand, to bring back customers and promote consumer confidence.

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

1. notes the allocation of £2m to the Economic Recovery Fund resolved during its budget-setting process by Full Council on 16 February 2022; and

2. supports re-establishing the Economic Recovery Fund Steering Group with updated membership and term of reference, with a first task of supporting the development of options for the future operation of the Economic Recovery Fund.

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

8.3.1 The report makes these recommendations to support delivery against the Council's priorities, as set out in the Business Response Plan and One Year Plan (see section 2). It will enable the Economic Recovery Fund to deliver a new phase

of the scheme, continue supporting district and local centres and building relationships with our communities.

- 8.3.2 The expected outcomes of this work include:
- The establishment of a refreshed Economic Recovery Fund that improves on the first iteration and touches additional areas of the city that were not successful in the first round.
  - The delivery of a new set of projects in district centres that will achieve positive economic and other impacts for their local high streets and businesses.
  - The bringing together of new local collaborations and strengthening of existing networks.
  - Embedding this collaborative, enabling approach across different council teams and sharing the organisational learning generated by the first year of delivery.
  - Increasing the council's knowledge and understanding of the health of district centres and the development of a set of longer-term interventions to work towards.

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

8.4.1 In the development of this report several alternative options were considered:

8.4.2 Option 1: Sheffield City Council allocating funding directly to local areas without running a competitive process  
This option does not fit with the ambition and ethos of engaging, enabling and empowering of residents and communities. This would not deliver the benefits that collaboration and competition has brought to the first iteration of the scheme. It risks losing the local insight, enthusiasm, confidence and collaboration that the first scheme engendered and harnessed.

8.4.3 Option 2: Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee take on the decision-making role  
Overseeing and steering the Economic Recovery Fund is a detailed job and the Steering Group committed many hours in undertaking tasks relating to the Fund. In this model it is unlikely the Committee would have the time to undertake the necessary work and the Committee does not meet frequently enough to meet the needs of the scheme, which has been able when required to take decisions at pace. In this option the project would also lose the participation of private sector partners who have provided such valuable perspectives to date.

### **9. LOCAL ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY STRATEGY'S INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK**

9.1 The report sets out the proposal to develop the City Strategy by way of: evidence gathering and engagement (including the production of the Local Economic Assessment and the delivery of the Community Voice and Insight Commission); strategic development; and consultation and testing.

The report proposes the alignment of the City Strategy with Sheffield's Levelling Up regeneration pilot and the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority's Strategic Economic Plan.

The report also sets out the proposal for governance arrangements for the City Strategy.

Karl Dalgleish, Director at Kada Research attended the meeting and gave a detailed presentation on Sheffield's Economic Overview, summarising the contents of the report attached to the agenda papers. (Copy of the presentation available [here](#)).

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

1. endorses the proposed process to develop the City Strategy as set out in the report;
2. endorses the approach to align economic strategic and policy announcements with the City Strategy, as set out in this report; and
3. notes the governance arrangements of the City Strategy, as set out in the report.

9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

9.3.1 It is crucial that we understand the economic challenges that the city faces, including inequalities across our communities. As our Local Economic Assessment, the Economic Evidence Base creates a new source of evidence upon which the Council can make informed policy decisions.

9.3.2 The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and new collaborations across the city mean there is a fresh impetus behind having a coherent joined up vision for the city that sets out the city's ambitions and how they will be achieved. The economy and people's health, wellbeing, the environment and social inequalities are inextricably linked. Integrating a strategy for an inclusive economy into a wider partner-led City Strategy helps to address cross-cutting issues and creates a focus for the city for the medium to long-term.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

9.4.1 Do nothing: Whilst undertaking the Local Economic Assessment is a duty of the Council, there is no requirement to produce a strategy. Instead, policies could be developed and agreed on an ad hoc basis. However, this approach has a number of drawbacks:

1. An agreed strategy between city partners facilitates better joint working which is particularly important on issues that cut across different organisations, for example health and skills.

2. A strategy provides a framework for activity over the longer- term, which allows services to plan more effectively.
  3. A strategy provides an opportunity to communicate the city's priorities which can support discussions with central government, funding bodies and investors.
- 9.4.2 Produce a separate City Strategy and Inclusive Economic Strategy: Another option is to produce two separate strategies. One would cover broad policy areas whilst another would focus on the economy. However, this option had the following drawbacks:
1. Links between the economy and wider policy issues may be missed
  2. There would be significant duplication of effort, particularly in regard to partner and community engagement, potentially resulting in 'engagement fatigue'.
  3. The coherency of having one single document that sets out the city's priorities would be diluted.

## **10. UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND**

- 10.1 The report provides the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee with an update of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) announced by Government in April 2022 and identifies several issues that are developing through the process to develop an SPF Investment Plan for South Yorkshire.

The report also identifies several projects currently funded by European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) that will be coming to an end over the next twelve to eighteen months and how they might benefit from SPF funding in the future.

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

1. the Council promoting the engagement of key City organisations in the consultation process associated with the development of the Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan;
2. the development of potential Shared Prosperity Fund projects and activity that might benefit support from Year 1 funding; and
3. the undertaking of internal evaluations of existing EU Funded projects to determine whether they would benefit from Shared Prosperity Fund support in the future, either continuing in their current form, being adapted to improve performance or ended.

### **10.3 Reasons for Decision**

- 10.3.1 The Committee is asked to note the report for information so that it can consider future recommendations with a better understanding of the strategic and external funding context.
- 10.3.2 The engagement of key organisations in the development of the SPF Investment Plan is considered essential to ensure there is full 'buy in' to a plan that has

'Place' as one of main categories of intervention.

10.3.3 That the Council is well placed to quickly respond to Year One Call for Proposals published by SYMCA to maximum SPF impact for the benefit of Sheffield residents and businesses.

10.3.4 An internal evaluation of current and recent EU funded projects will determine whether future funding bids should be developed for their continuation or whether alternative routes are required to deliver the same or alternative benefits. The outcome of the evaluation will also inform potential HR implications that will result from external funding ending.

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

10.4.1 In respect to the SPF activity ultimately it will be the SYMCA that submits the Investment Plan based on the advice provided to it from local partners. There will be options to consider in respect to the contents of this Plan which SYMCA will need to determine.

10.4.2 As such the Council has two options:

Option 1: It can fully engage with the SPF development process being undertaken by SYMCA and use its influence to ensure the Investment Plan reflects the needs of the City.

Option 2: It can choose not to engage with the SPF development process which might mean the Investment Plan does not address the economic and social needs of the City.

Option 1 is considered the preferred option.

### 11. **APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONING THE ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET GRANT FROM SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY.**

11.1 The report sets out the proposal to use the Adult Education Budget grant from South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority (SYCMA) to provide the skills and learning needed to be ready for work, further education, traineeship, voluntary work or apprenticeships for individuals aged 19+.

The report emphasises the need to empower and enable those potential adult learners who lack the very basic skills for education and work to access provision. It will include a scaffolded or step by step approach, for those without any qualifications or confidence, to enter a 'learning journey' through promotion of equality, diversity, and inclusion.

In order to achieve these aims, this report proposes the commissioning of a number of subcontracts up to a maximum value of £450,000 from the Adult Education Budget grant (AEB) to improve access to the education/employment pathway.

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

1. notes the Council's future acceptance of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) from the South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority;

2. approves the proposal to commission a variety of subcontracts with service providers to a maximum combined value of £450,000 using the Council's existing Adult & Community Learning Framework 2019-2023 to provide services to improve access to the education/employment pathway.

### 11.3 **Reasons for Decision**

11.3.1 To add diversity to the curriculum, offer that will enable the service to target the most marginalised groups, add capacity to high demand curriculum and meet the needs of Sheffield adults across every part of the city.

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

11.4.1 The service is not legally required to subcontract but it is an option we wish to exploit in order to meet the demands and needs of Sheffield residents and continue to work in partnership with localised community learning organisations.

## 12. **DECISION TO CONTINUE TO COMMISSION WORK AND HEALTH SERVICE**

12.1 The report is to seek a decision to re-commission a Work and Health Service. If there is a decision to continue to commission this work it will go out to procurement.

Work is a key determinant of good health. Good work contributes income, self esteem and opportunities to individuals and their families and is good for health. A healthy workforce is also a key asset for the economy.

The current Work and Health service supports approx. 1250 people per year with health conditions to stay in work or return to work after being off sick. The service supports job retention in the city and receives referrals from GPs and other health colleagues as well as voluntary sector organisations who support groups such as carers.

This is an existing service funded by the ring fenced Public Health Grant and already has budget allocated to it. This is not new spend and does not negatively affect the overall Council budget position.

12.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee Policy Committee agrees to commission the Work and Health service in line with this report, allowing a procurement process to start so that this service can continue to be delivered for the people of Sheffield.

### 12.3 **Reasons for Decision**

12.3.1 To commission a Work and Health Service so that this service can continue to be provided in Sheffield to support individuals in Sheffield with health conditions to stay in employment.

12.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

12.4.1 Stop funding this service and use the funding for other public health related activities - The Public Health Grant does not fund any other employment and health related work. This aspect of the Grant funding is the most directly related to employment.

12.4.2 Stop funding this service and use the funding for other employment and health related public health work – the Work and Health Service fills a key gap in the city which is supporting people with health conditions to stay in work (job retention). Other potential areas for funding relate to getting people into work where there are existing funding already being provided to a range of partners in the city.

12.4.3 Deliver in house - Sheffield City Council do not have the skills or networks to be able to deliver occupational health support to people with health conditions.

(NOTE: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 26 this urgent Item of business was considered on the recommendation of the Chair, on the basis that the Council must agree to commission the Work and Health service to allow a procurement process to start so that this service can continue to be delivered for the people of Sheffield. It was not possible in the time available to give appropriate notice, and it was considered that the Council would not be able to begin the procurement process in time if not considered at this meeting).