

Finance Committee

Meeting held 18 December 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Zahira Naz (Chair), Mike Levery (Deputy Chair), Bryan Lodge, Toby Mallinson (Group Spokesperson), Marieanne Elliot, Mary Lea, Ibbi Ullah and Andrew Sangar (Substitute Member)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Glynis Chapman and Shaffaq Mohammed. Councillor Andrew Sangar (MBE) attended as a substitute member.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

2.1 It was noted that Appendix 1 to the report at item 10 on the agenda was not available to the public or press because it contained exempt information under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 [as amended]. If Members wished to discuss the exempt information, the Committee would ask the members of the public and press to kindly leave for that part of the meeting and the webcast would be paused.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 November 2023 were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 There were no public questions or petitions.

6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

6.1 There were no questions from Members of the Committee.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 The Committee received a report containing the Committee's Work Programme for consideration and discussion. The aim of the Work Programme was to show 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.

7.2 The Principal Democratic Services Officer reported one change to the Work

Programme: the item “Changes to the Constitution: Part 4 – Financial Procedure Rules (Financial Regulations)” would be received at the Finance Committee in March 2024 prior to being submitted to the AGM in May 2024 for final decision.

7.3 Officers agreed to provide Members with additional information on the Levelling Up Prospectus item which had not yet been scheduled for a meeting of the Finance Committee.

7.4 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Finance Committee:-

1. approves the Committee’s work programme, as set out in Appendix 1, including any additions and amendments identified in Part 1 and the amendment noted in the meeting;
2. gives 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
3. notes any referrals from Council (petition and resolutions) detailed in Section 2 of the report and agrees the proposed responses.

8. **2023/24 QUARTER 2 BUDGET MONITORING**

8.1 The Head of Accounting presented a report that brought the Committee up to date with the Council’s outturn position for 2023/24 including the General Fund revenue position, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme Monitoring (Appendix 1). The report also provided an update of the Council’s Treasury Management activity (Appendix 2) and the Collection Fund Account (Appendix 3).

8.2 Officers agreed to provide members with further information on the RAG rated savings and the impact of the new VOIDS team as well as briefings on the school budget positions, Transformation Fund and the reviews being undertaken as part of the budget process.

8.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Finance Committee:-

- a) notes the updated information and management actions provided by this report on the 2023/24 Revenue Budget Outturn as described in this report;
- b) notes the updated information and management actions provided by this report on the Q2 2023/24 Capital Programme Monitoring as described in Appendix 1;
- c) notes the Treasury Management report for Q2 2023/24 as described in Appendix 2; and
- d) notes the Collection Fund monitoring report for Q2 2023/24 as described in Appendix 3.

8.3 **Reasons for Decision**

8.3.1 To record formally changes to the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

8.4.1 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.

9. CAPITAL APPROVALS MONTH 7 (2023/24)

9.1 The Finance Manager submitted a report that provided details of proposed changes to the existing Capital Programme as brought forward in Month 7 2023/24.

9.2 The Finance Manager updated Members on an amendment to Appendix 1 regarding the Errington Estate Improvements; the approval route was listed as the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee however the approval for the work had come from the Local Area Committee.

9.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Finance Committee:-

(i) approves the proposed additions and variations to the Capital Programme listed in Appendix 1;

(ii) approves the issuing of grants to 3rd parties as identified in Appendix 2; and

(iii) approves the reprofiling and slippage of existing schemes/allocations as listed in Appendix 3.

9.3 Reasons for Decision

9.3.1 The proposed changes to the Capital Programme will improve the services to the people of Sheffield.

9.3.2 To formally record changes to the Capital Programme and gain Member approval for changes in line with Financial Regulations and to reset the Capital Programme in line with latest information.

9.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

9.4.1 A number of alternative courses of action are considered as part of the process undertaken by Officers before decisions are recommended to Members. The recommendations made to Members represent what Officers believe to be the best options available to the Council, in line with Council priorities, given the constraints on funding and the use to which funding is put within the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

10. PROPOSED LEASE AT SOLPRO BUSINESS PARK, WINDSOR STREET, SHEFFIELD, S4 7WB

10.1 The Service Manager (Asset Strategy and Estate Management) presented a

report that sought approval to enter into a lease for the Council's occupation of premises situated at the Solpro Business Park.

10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Finance Committee, on consideration of the commercial terms, confirms that it is satisfied with the proposed terms and authorises the completion of the lease and any other legal documentation necessary required.

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

10.3.1 The proposal to take a lease renewal would enable Housing to continue to function from the subject accommodation and to provide a service to the local community. The proposal will also provide the desired flexibility to allow Housing to relocate should suitable alternative accommodation be identified.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

10.4.1 Do nothing.