

Finance Committee

Meeting held 23 January 2024

**PRESENT:** Councillors Zahira Naz (Chair), Mike Levery (Deputy Chair), Bryan Lodge, Glynis Chapman, Marieanne Elliot, Mary Lea and Ibbby Ullah

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Toby Mallinson and Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed.

**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.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1 The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 December 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 an addition to the Work Programme since the publication of the agenda: the item "Committee Climate Statement" would be received at the Finance Committee in February 2024.

7.3 **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. CAPITAL APPROVALS MONTH 8 (2023/24)**

8.1 The Finance Manager submitted a report that provided details of proposed changes to the existing Capital Programme as brought forward in Month 8 2023/24.

8.2 Officers agreed to provide an update on the prioritisation of projects in the Stocksbridge Towns Fund programme following completion of the tender process.

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

1. approves the proposed additions and variations to the Capital Programme listed in Appendices 1, 2 and 3; and
2. approves the acceptance of grant funding as identified in Appendix 4.

## **8.4 Reasons for Decision**

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

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

## **8.5 Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

8.5.1 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.

## **9. LOCAL AUTHORITY CAPITAL FLEXIBILITIES CONSULTATION**

9.1 The Director of Finance and Commercial Services submitted a report that provided a draft consultation response to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and

Communities (DLUHC) call for views on new local authority capital flexibilities.

9.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Finance Committee approves the proposed response to the call for views on new local authority flexibilities for submission to DLUHC.

9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

9.3.1 The content of this consultation represents a significant change in Government policy and, in accordance with the Council Constitution, members are asked to approve the consultation response.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

9.4.1 The Council is not required to submit a response to this consultation. An alternative option to the recommendation would be to not submit a response. The proposal from DLUHC includes significant changes to the capital financing regime that the Council operates within and this alternative option was rejected so that the views of the Council can be submitted to Government.

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