

# Agenda Item 4

## SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

### Strategy and Resources Policy Committee

Meeting held 16 October 2024

**PRESENT:** Councillors Tom Hunt (Chair), Fran Belbin (Deputy Chair), Angela Argenzio, Kurtis Crossland, Dawn Dale, Dianne Hurst (Group Spokesperson), Douglas Johnson (Group Spokesperson), Ben Miskell, Shaffaq Mohammed (Group Spokesperson), Joe Otten, Martin Smith and David Barker (Substitute Member)

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#### **53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

53.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Abdul Khayum.

#### **54. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

#### **55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

55.1 Councillor Angela Argenzio declared a personal interest in relation to item 10 on the agenda as an employee of City of Sanctuary.

#### **56. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

56.1 The minutes of the previous meetings held on 25 September 2024 were approved as a correct record.

#### **57. PUBLIC PETITIONS, QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS**

57.1 There were no public questions or petitions.

#### **58. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

58.1 There were no Members' questions.

#### **59. RETIREMENT OF STAFF**

59.1 The Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement submitted a report on Council staff retirements.

59.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-  
(a) places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by the following staff in the Directorates below:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Years' Service</u>
<b><u>Neighbourhood Services</u></b>		
Peter Lamb	Driver/Plant Operative HGV	54

(b) extend to them its best wishes for the future and a long and happy retirement; and

(c) directs that an appropriate extract of the resolution now made, under the Common Seal of the Council, be forwarded to those staff with over 20 years' service.

## **60. WORK PROGRAMME**

60.1 The Committee received a report containing the Committee's Work Programme for consideration and discussion. The aim of the Work Programme is 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. It was highlighted that this is a live document and Members input to it was invaluable.

60.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

(a) that the Committee's work programme, as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed, including the additions and amendments identified in Paragraph 4 of the report; and

(b) the referrals from Council (petition and resolutions) detailed in Paragraph 2 of the report be noted and the proposed responses set out be agreed.

## **61. SHEFFIELD HOUSING STRATEGY**

61.1 The Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services submitted a report seeking approval for a new 10-year Housing Strategy. The report summarises the key content of the Strategy, along with the public consultation results that have been part of its development.

61.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee approves the adoption of the a new 10 year Housing Strategy, attached as appendix 1 (Housing Strategy 2024 – 2034) to the report now submitted.

### **61.3 Reasons for Decision**

61.3.1 It is important that a city like Sheffield has a long-term strategic plan for how it will meet the housing needs of our community, now and in years to come. Our current Strategy is out of date and so a new Housing Strategy is needed. It is therefore recommended that the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee

consider and approve the adoption of a new 10-year Housing Strategy, as set out in Appendix 1.

#### 61.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

##### 61.4.1 Alternative Option: Do not develop a Housing Strategy

The development of a Housing Strategy is not a statutory duty. The Council is not, therefore required to produce one, and other strategies, such as the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy, are produced to consider specific issues. However, this option was rejected on the grounds that a long-term, strategic document is seen as critical to guide planning, development/investment and policy over the next decade, and this is a keystone strategy for the city. A Housing Strategy is produced by local authorities in comparable cities to set their strategic vision and ambition for housing. The approach of not having a Housing Strategy is therefore not recommended.

#### 62. **RENEWING OUR APPROACH TO WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITIES OF SHEFFIELD**

##### 62.1 The Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement and Director of Customer Experience and Communities submitted a joint report proposing that over the coming year, we work with communities and our Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector to co-create a collective, long-term ambition for communities in Sheffield that helps to deliver our City Goals.

Further, the report provides an initial reflection on the city's response to the violent racially motivated disorder that affected many parts of the country in the summer of 2024 (Appendix 1); and a response to the Full Council resolution on "reaffirming Sheffield as a city of sanctuary" and to agree to seek reaccreditation as a Local Authority of Sanctuary (Appendix 2).

In noting the information contained in Appendix 2 of the report responding to the Full Council resolution, views were expressed that the numerous calls made on Government, contained in the resolution had not been responded to appropriately. Officers indicated that the proposed responses aimed to reflect the evolving government position but that they would liaise with Members and ensure that these points would be reflected in the Council's discussions with the Home Office.

With regards to the role of Member Champions, the Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement agreed to liaise with Group Whips on the most appropriate way for such Member Champions to feedback details of activity to other Council Members.

##### 62.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

(a) requests officers to initiate the development of a new Communities Strategy in collaboration with communities and other partners, with a draft to be

presented to the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee in early summer 2025 and a final version of the strategy following formal consultation to be presented to the committee in September 2025;

(b) approves the establishment of a cross-party Member reference group to support the development of the work;

(c) notes the response of the city's communities and the council to the violent disorder that affected many parts of the country in the summer of 2024; and

(d) notes the information contained in Appendix 2 of the report which responds to the Full Council resolution on "reaffirming Sheffield as a city of sanctuary" and agrees to seek reaccreditation as a Local Authority of Sanctuary.

### **62.3 Reasons for Decision**

62.3.1 To take steps to ensure that Sheffield has an ambitious vision for communities in the city, which is co-created and owned by communities and sets long-term direction for the Council and its relationship with people and partners.

62.3.2 To respond positively to the Full Council motion on "reaffirming Sheffield as a city of sanctuary" and to provide Elected Members with an update on the city's response to the violent, racist and Islamophobic disorder that was seen over the summer.

### **62.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

62.4.1 Alternative Option 1: Do nothing

We could choose to continue without a Communities Strategy but as detailed above, having a shared vision and set of ambitions with communities is a critical part of the Council Plan and city council's transformation into a community and customer focused council.

62.4.2 Alternative Option 2: Produce a strategy more quickly

Recognising the gap in our Strategic Framework, we could choose to develop the new Communities Strategy more quickly. However, this would significantly limit the extent of community and VCFSE involvement in the co-creation of the strategy and risk the resulting vision and ambitions not being shared by the people of Sheffield.