

Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee

Meeting held 12 December 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Richard Williams (Chair), Marieanne Elliot (Deputy Chair), Janet Ridler (Group Spokesperson), Tony Downing, Alan Hooper, Karen McGowan, Robert Reiss and Garry Weatherall

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bernard Little

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

2.1 RESOLVED: That the public and press be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on the appendix to **item 12** of the agenda on the grounds that, if the public and press were present during the transaction of such business, there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as described in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on **13 November 2023** were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 There were no public questions or petitions received.

6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

5.1 A schedule of questions to the Chair, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16, and which contained written answers, was circulated.

5.2 Supplementary questions, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.4, were asked and the Chair promised a response.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 The Principal Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which contained 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 Suggestions were made in regard to adding the ASB order to a future meeting.

7.3 a. **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That:-

1. The Committee's work programme, as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed, including any additions and amendments identified in Part 1;
2. Consideration be given to the further additions or adjustments to the work programme presented at Part 2 of Appendix 1; and
3. Members give 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.

8. 2023/24 Q2 BUDGET MONITORING

8.1 The Head of accounting introduced the report which brought the Committee up to date with the Council's General Fund Revenue outturn position for 2023/24 as at Quarter 2.

8.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the **Communities, Parks and Leisure** Policy Committee:-

1. Note the updated information and management actions on the 2023/24 Revenue Budget Outturn as described in this report.

8.3 Reasons for Decision

8.3.1 To record formally changes to the Revenue Budget.

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. UPDATE ON THE ROSE GARDEN CAFÉ PROJECT

9.1 The Head of Parks and Countryside provided a verbal update to the committee which brought the committee up to date with Partnership work in regard to the Rose Garden Cafe Project.

9.2 It was outlined that meetings had taken place with an architect and a surveyor to look at the front wall and ways to resolve the issue.

9.3 Members gave comments and asked questions. Responses were provided surrounding finances, budget gap and funding availability.

10. CENTRAL LIBRARY UPDATE ON GOVERNANCE AND PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

10.1 The Head of Libraries, Archives and Information Services introduced the report

which provided a briefing to the Communities, Parks and Leisure Committee regarding the process being proposed to Strategy and Resources Committee in December 2023 for the timeline and requirement for feasibility funding to develop a solution for the Graves Buildings, which hosts the Central Library and Graves Gallery.

10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the **Communities, Parks and Leisure** Policy Committee:-

1. Note the contents of the report.
2. Note that further updates and decisions (where required) on the future role of the library service and Central Library offer will be brought to the CPL committee for approval.
3. Note that decisions regarding the Graves Building, including financial decisions will be made by the Strategy and Resources Committee.

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 10.3.1 The recommendation approved set out a process and indicative timescale for gaining the in-depth information needed to inform future decisions on the Central Library/Graves Gallery.

Without this additional information, Members will not be able to make a well-grounded decision.

There is real urgency for the future of this Sheffield landmark to be secured, with the potential for exciting options for future gallery and library development.

However, the financial, operational and service-provision implications need to be fully understood.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 10.4.1 Other options have been considered but are not recommended:

1. Do nothing – which would have consequences for health and safety, would lead to the building's closure, and would incur costs in keeping the building secure.
2. Take a decision without the feasibility work.
3. Members have already made clear that they do not wish to vacate the building and market it as a development opportunity

- 10.4.2 By commissioning additional information and survey work to inform the long-term development of the Central Library/Graves Gallery, Members will have the best opportunity to make a sound choice on the future of the building. Without this additional information it will be difficult to make an appropriate choice; therefore, an alternative option is not being considered.

11. **COMMUNITIES PARKS AND LEISURE CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

- 11.1 The Director of Parks Leisure and Libraries introduced the report which set out the CPL key priority areas for capital investment and provides an overview of

potential projects and priorities for the years 2024 to 2029, together with an overview of anticipated developments and challenges up to 2052. The Committee was asked to endorse the general approach to inform the Council's overarching Capital Strategy (which will be brought to Full Council for approval in March 2024).

11.2 RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the **Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee:-**

1. Endorse the proposals set out in this report.
2. Note that the proposals will now be included in the draft Capital Strategy to be submitted to Council for approval in March 2024 and, if approved,
 - a. Officers will work with Members to consult with relevant stakeholders (including with partners, staff, trades unions and in respect of equalities and climate change) on the proposals in this report to inform final project proposals;
 - b. Officers will work to develop any necessary detailed implementation plans for the proposals in this report so that the proposals can be implemented as planned; and
 - c. Approval for detailed proposals will be sought as part of the monthly capital approval cycle by the Finance Committee.

11.3 Reasons for Decision

11.3.1 Members are asked to note the unsustainable financial position highlighted by the medium-term financial analysis presented to Strategy and Resources Committee in September 2023. This report and its recommendations, sets out how capital projects can continue to be developed and delivered, despite the limited resources available and continue to deliver quality community facilities for the people of Sheffield and surrounding areas.

11.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

11.4.1 The Council is required to both set a balanced budget and to ensure that in-year income and expenditure are balanced. Committee is invited to comment upon and endorse the current proposals to form part of the Council's wider Capital Strategy for 2024.

12. COMMUNITIES PARKS AND LEISURE 2024/25 BUDGET SAVINGS

12.1 The Director of Parks Leisure and Libraries introduced the report which was subsequent from the report discussed and agreed by the Committee on 13th November 2023. The purpose of the report was to further update the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee (CPL) on the proposed savings for 2024/25 in order for this Committee to achieve a balanced budget.

12.2 RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the **Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee:-**

1. Acknowledges the recommendation approved at the Strategy and

Resources Committee on 7th September 2023 that “Policy Committees will be asked to develop savings / additional income options that cover their own pressures – in effect cash standstill” and to “require Policy Committees to report at their meetings in November on how they can balance their budgets”.

2. Notes, as this Committee's response to the Strategy and Resources Committee's request, the set of budget proposals set out in the closed Part B to this report.
3. Notes that Officers will now work with Members to consult with relevant stakeholders (including with partners, staff, trades unions and in respect of equalities and climate change) on the proposals in this report to inform final budget proposals.
4. Notes that Officers will work to develop any necessary detailed implementation plans for the proposals in this report so that the proposals can be implemented as planned before or during the 2024/25 financial year.

12.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 12.3.1 Members are asked to note the unsustainable financial position highlighted by the medium-term financial analysis presented to Strategy and Resources Committee in September 2023. This report and its recommendations, sets out the scale of the challenge ahead, the limited resources available and some of the difficult decisions that will need to be taken.

12.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 12.4.1 The Council is required to both set a balanced budget and to ensure that in-year income and expenditure are balanced. The options presented in this paper, if accepted, will negate the need to make any staff or resource cuts to the respective services and therefore, should allow the continuation of good quality customer services.

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