

Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Wednesday 9 April 2014 at 4.30 pm

**To be held at the Town Hall, Pinstone
Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH**

The Press and Public are Welcome to Attend

Membership

Councillors Cate McDonald (Chair), Ian Auckland (Deputy Chair), Trevor Bagshaw, Alison Brelsford, Jayne Dunn, Terry Fox, Keith Hill, Ibrar Hussain, Steve Jones, George Lindars-Hammond, Alf Meade, Tim Rippon and Steve Wilson

Substitute Members

In accordance with the Constitution, Substitute Members may be provided for the above Committee Members as and when required.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING

The Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Committee exercises an overview and scrutiny function in respect of the planning, development and monitoring of service performance and other issues in respect of the area of Council activity relating to planning and economic development, wider environmental issues, culture, leisure, skills and training, and the quality of life in the City.

A copy of the agenda and reports is available on the Council's website at www.sheffield.gov.uk. You can also see the reports to be discussed at the meeting if you call at the First Point Reception, Town Hall, Pinstone Street entrance. The Reception is open between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Thursday and between 9.00 am and 4.45 pm. on Friday. You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain confidential information. These items are usually marked * on the agenda.

Members of the public have the right to ask questions or submit petitions to Scrutiny Committee meetings and recording is allowed under the direction of the Chair. Please see the website or contact Democratic Services for further information regarding public questions and petitions and details of the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at council meetings.

Scrutiny Committee meetings are normally open to the public but sometimes the Committee may have to discuss an item in private. If this happens, you will be asked to leave. Any private items are normally left until last. If you would like to attend the meeting please report to the First Point Reception desk where you will be directed to the meeting room.

If you require any further information about this Scrutiny Committee, please contact Matthew Borland, Policy and Improvement Officer on 0114 27 35065 or email.matthew.borland@sheffield.gov.uk

FACILITIES

There are public toilets available, with wheelchair access, on the ground floor of the Town Hall. Induction loop facilities are available in meeting rooms.

Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

**ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL WELLBEING SCRUTINY AND POLICY
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA
9 APRIL 2014**

Order of Business

- 1. Welcome and Housekeeping Arrangements**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Exclusion of Public and Press**
To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public
- 4. Declarations of Interest** (Pages 1 - 4)
Members to declare any interests they have in the business to be considered at the meeting
- 5. Minutes of Previous Meetings** (Pages 5 - 24)
To approve the minutes of meetings of (a) the Committee held on 12th February, 2014 and (b) the special meeting of the Committee held on 18th February, 2014
- 6. Public Questions and Petitions**
To receive any questions or petitions from members of the public
- 7. City Centre Vibrancy** (Pages 25 - 38)
Report of the Executive Director, Place
- 8. Streets Ahead - Performance Management and Street Lighting** (Pages 39 - 44)
Report of the Head of Highway Maintenance
- 9. Work Programme**
The Chair to report
- 10. Date of Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the Committee will be held on a date to be arranged

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ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

If you are present at a meeting of the Council, of its executive or any committee of the executive, or of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of the authority, and you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)** relating to any business that will be considered at the meeting, you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

You **must**:

- leave the room (in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct)
- make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of any DPI at any meeting at which you are present at which an item of business which affects or relates to the subject matter of that interest is under consideration, at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.
- declare it to the meeting and notify the Council's Monitoring Officer within 28 days, if the DPI is not already registered.

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your **disclosable pecuniary interests** under the new national rules. You have a pecuniary interest if you, or your spouse or civil partner, have a pecuniary interest.

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner undertakes.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period* in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

*The relevant period is the 12 months ending on the day when you tell the Monitoring Officer about your disclosable pecuniary interests.

- Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority –
 - under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
 - which has not been fully discharged.

- Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.
- Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) –
 - the landlord is your council or authority; and
 - the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -
 - (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
 - (b) either -
 - the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

If you attend a meeting at which any item of business is to be considered and you are aware that you have a **personal interest** in the matter which does not amount to a DPI, you must make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of that interest at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. You should leave the room if your continued presence is incompatible with the 7 Principles of Public Life (selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership).

You have a personal interest where –

- a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing (including interests in land and easements over land) of you or a member of your family or a person or an organisation with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council Tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Authority's administrative area, or
- it relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests that are defined as DPIs but are in respect of a member of your family (other than a partner) or a person with whom you have a close association.

Guidance on declarations of interest, incorporating regulations published by the Government in relation to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, has been circulated to you previously.

You should identify any potential interest you may have relating to business to be considered at the meeting. This will help you and anyone that you ask for advice to fully consider all the circumstances before deciding what action you should take.

In certain circumstances the Council may grant a **dispensation** to permit a Member to take part in the business of the Authority even if the member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest relating to that business.

To obtain a dispensation, you must write to the Monitoring Officer at least 48 hours before the meeting in question, explaining why a dispensation is sought and desirable, and specifying the period of time for which it is sought. The Monitoring Officer may consult with the Independent Person or the Council's Standards Committee in relation to a request for dispensation.

Further advice can be obtained from Gillian Duckworth, Interim Director of Legal and Governance on 0114 2734018 or email gillian.duckworth@sheffield.gov.uk.

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**Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development
Committee**

Meeting held 12 February 2014

PRESENT: Councillors Cate McDonald (Chair), Ian Auckland (Deputy Chair), Trevor Bagshaw, Alison Brelsford, Jayne Dunn, Terry Fox, Ibrar Hussain, Steve Jones, George Lindars-Hammond, Tim Rippon and Steve Wilson

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 No apologies for absence were received.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

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 11th December, 2013, were approved as a correct record and, arising therefrom, the Policy and Improvement Officer, Matthew Borland, confirmed that he had circulated a report on the outcome of the Committee's discussion on Cobnar Road Cottage, at its meeting held on 4th October, 2013, which had been submitted to the Cabinet at its meeting on 16th October, 2013, together with the Cabinet's recommendations.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 Peter Hartley submitted a number of questions relating to both issues and questions he had raised at previous meetings, and to which he had not yet received responses, together with a number of new questions, as follows:-

(a) What is the business rate for the massage parlour at 271 Chesterfield Road, Sheffield S8 0RT?; and

(b) The staff who work at the massage parlour at 271 Chesterfield Road also live there – do they have to pay ordinary Council tax, as well as business tax?

5.2 The Policy and Improvement Officer stated that he would forward these questions to relevant officers and request that they provide written responses to Mr. Hartley.

5.3 With regard to the issues and questions raised at previous meetings, it was reported that:-

- (a) Whilst there had been a delay in drafting a response in this case, for which an apology was given, a response to the question raised in connection with the motion at the Council meeting on 2nd October, 2013, relating to Health and Social Care Funding, would be provided by Councillor Mary Lea, Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Independent Living, within seven to 10 working days; and
- (b) The Policy and Improvement Officer would investigate the position regarding (i) the five questions raised relating to the Libraries Review, at the Cabinet meeting on 15th January, 2014, (ii) the seven questions raised relating to the World Student Games 1992, at the Cabinet meeting held on 15th January, 2014 and (iii) the letter sent to an Enforcement Officer on 6th January, 2014, relating to the massage parlour at 271 Chesterfield Road, in an attempt to ensure that written responses to all the questions were provided to Mr. Hartley.

6. SHEFFIELD FOOD STRATEGY

6.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Place, containing the draft Sheffield Food Strategy. A previous draft version of the Strategy had been presented to the Committee at its meeting held on 9th October, 2013, and Members had requested that an updated version, containing the comments made at that meeting, be submitted to a future meeting. The latest draft also contained comments and views following public consultation on the Strategy following the Committee's meeting on 9th October, 2013.

6.2 In attendance for this item were Jessica Wilson, Health Improvement Principal, and Jill Lancaster, Health Improvement Practitioner Advanced, Business Strategy and Regulation, Place.

6.3 Jessica Wilson referred to the aims of the Sheffield Food Strategy, and to the main priorities required to achieve such aims.

6.4 Members of the Committee raised questions and the following responses were provided:-

- The issues and concerns raised relating to the increasing number and standard of, and quality of food in, hot food takeaways, would be picked up by the Implementation Plan, following discussion with the Planning Service. A number of local authorities had issued planning guidance on this issue, which had included the introduction of exclusion zones, work with schools in connection with healthy eating and requiring owners of takeaways to sign up to Charters regarding healthy eating.
- The Public Health Team were aware of the Community Shop in Goldthorpe, near Barnsley, which offered shoppers on the verge of poverty

the chance to buy food and drink for up to 70% less than normal high street prices, but had not yet discussed the possibility of replicating the pilot in Sheffield.

- In terms of the governance arrangements regarding the Strategy, the majority of the day-to-day activity was undertaken by the Place Public Health Team, in conjunction with the Sheffield Food Executive Group.
- It was important that the Action Plans linked to the Sheffield Food Strategy and the Move More Strategy, as well as any other similar strategies, complemented each other. As well as work commencing in terms of the drafting of an implementation plan, attempts were being made to link in with local businesses to work on Sustainability Plans.
- It was accepted that some of the statistics in the Strategy, specifically those relating to the numbers of people currently living in food poverty, were based on extrapolation. It was accepted that there was a need for wider discussion on this, and it was hoped that this issue could be addressed as part of the Implementation Plan.
- The Place Public Health Team had received a small amount of Public Health funding to link the work being undertaken as part of the Strategy with community groups and other organisations, such as schools and businesses. Consideration would be given to the possibility of contracting this element of work under the Strategy to a voluntary sector group.
- Whilst it was accepted that there was a need for national lobbying to try and get better outcomes in terms of healthy eating, such as the ASH campaign against smoking, there was a need for further discussion as to how this should be referenced in the Strategy.
- Information was available nationally in terms of publicising, in a simple and easy to understand format, details of healthy meals people could eat, including the calorific values of such meals. Officers were working with colleagues in Communications to look at producing such information, and publicising it in an appropriate format.
- Whilst it was accepted that there was only minimal detail in the Strategy regarding efforts by schools to encourage healthy eating as part of cookery lessons, considerable work was being undertaken within the Children, Young People and Families Portfolio, relating to a range of activities and initiatives to encourage healthy eating in schools.
- Whilst there was no detail in the Strategy relating to targets based on hard data at present, this information would be obtained and used to develop an evaluation framework for the Strategy.
- Whilst there was no reference in the Strategy to the eating habits of students, who were considered to comprise the largest transitory population in the City, there were plans to link in with the City's two

Universities to look at what could be done in terms of monitoring students' eating habits and encouraging more healthy options.

6.5 In terms of additional comments, Members considered that there was a need for the Public Health Team to use more practical and straightforward methods in order to inform people and publicise the benefits of healthy eating. It was considered that there was a need for more work in connection with helping to prevent the onset of diabetes at an early age, by warning young people of the dangers of an unhealthy diet, which would be beneficial to people's health, as well as making potential savings on future NHS funding. Members also considered that there was a need for clarity in terms of exactly who the Strategy should be targeted at, on the basis that, if it was targeted at the right people, there was a potential for it to have a major beneficial impact.

6.6 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the draft Sheffield Food Strategy now submitted, together with the responses to the questions raised and comments made; and
- (b) (i) thanks Jessica Wilson and Jill Lancaster for attending the meeting and responding to the questions raised and (ii) requests that they consider the issues now raised and comments made, for incorporation into the draft Strategy.

7. INQUIRY ON CYCLING IN SHEFFIELD - UPDATE

7.1 The Committee considered a report on the Cycling Inquiry Task and Finish Group providing an update on the work of the Group, and setting out draft recommendations in terms of the outcome of the Inquiry.

7.2 The Policy and Improvement Officer referred to the vision in terms of the Cycling Inquiry, and the recommendations under the three headings set out in the report – Getting the Right Infrastructure in Place, Getting People Cycling and Strong Leadership. He circulated a paper containing suggested amendments to the wording of the vision and the recommendations, and Members considered the paper, making comments and raising a number of suggested amendments to the wording, as follows:-

- Consider rewording the reference in the Vision to the “whole of Sheffield” as some people were unable to cycle.
- Amend the Vision to include reference to cycling playing its part in a fully integrated transport network that would encourage reduced car usage, alleviate congestion and ease pollution across the whole of the City.
- The Integrated Transport Authority changes to become part of the Combined Authority from 1st April, 2014.
- Amend the “Integrating Cycling with Public Transport” section to include

“priority should be given to trials on the Supertram network”. The Committee strongly recommended that this was undertaken within the next 12 months.

- In the “Integrating Cycling with Public Transport” section, amend the reference to “long-term” to “medium-term”.
- The sections on “Tour de France” and “Tourism” require more detail and could be combined into one section.
- The section on “Tourism” could make reference to specific areas, eg. Parkwood Springs, but should be done as an example of a wider point.
- The section on “Political Leadership” should be at the start of the recommendations.

7.3 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the report now submitted, together with the comments now made;
- (b) agrees the recommendations set out in the report, subject to the amendments made at this meeting;
- (c) delegates authority to the Task and Finish Group, through the Chair, the task of compiling the final report;
- (d) requests that the final report on the Inquiry on Cycling in Sheffield be circulated to all Members of the Committee for information, as well as other relevant individuals, groups and organisations, particularly those who had taken part in the Inquiry; and
- (e) thanks Mick Nott, Chair of Cycle Sheffield, for the valuable work he had undertaken as part of the Cycling Inquiry Task and Finish Group.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

8.1 The Policy and Improvement Officer submitted a paper containing the Committee’s Work Programme 2013/14.

8.2 In connection with the update on the Streets Ahead Project planned for the meeting on 9th April, 2014, the Chair referred to continuing performance issues from Northern Power Grid in connection with the street lights, and indicating that, further to the decision of the Committee on 10th July, 2013, she would be writing to the Company, requesting the attendance of a senior representative at the meeting on 9th April, 2014, to report on the Company’s performance.

8.3 RESOLVED: That the Committee notes and approves its Work Programme 2013/14, together with the information now reported.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 9.1 It was noted that (a) there would be a special meeting of the Committee on Tuesday, 18th February, 2014, at 5.30 p.m., in the Town Hall and (b) the next scheduled meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday, 9th April, 2014, at 4.30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

**Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development
Committee**

Meeting held 18 February 2014

PRESENT: Councillors Cate McDonald (Chair), Ian Auckland (Deputy Chair), Trevor Bagshaw, Jayne Dunn, Terry Fox, Ibrar Hussain, Steve Jones, George Lindars-Hammond, Tim Rippon, Pat Midgley (Substitute Member), Diana Stimely (Substitute Member) and David Baker (Substitute Member)

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received and substitutes attended the meeting as follows:-

Apology

Substitute

Councillor Alison Brelsford
Councillor Keith Hill
Councillor Steve Wilson

Councillor David Baker
Councillor Diana Stimely
Councillor Pat Midgley

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 Councillor Pat Midgley declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 – The Future of Sheffield’s Library Services – as a member of Park Community Action, who had submitted a Business Case to run Park Library as a co-delivered library.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

4.1 Petitions

The Committee received a joint paper and electronic petition from Ruth Woodhouse, containing 304 signatures, requesting the City Council and Park Community Action to protect its librarians at Park Library, in their Council posts, and call on the Council to acknowledge the essential service that Park Library provides for local residents, and to pledge finances beyond two years.

Ms Woodhouse stated that, in her opinion, there were a number of omissions and errors in the consultation report appended to the report to be submitted to the Cabinet on 19th February 2014. She made reference to flaws in the

consultation process, specifically regarding the lack of opportunity for children, who comprised a large percentage of library users, to comment. Ms Woodhouse considered that the proposed model did not fit adequately for the City, both financially or ethically.

The Committee noted the receipt of the petition, which would be taken into consideration as part of its determination to be made at this meeting.

4.2 Petitions Submitted to the Council Meeting on 8th January 2014

The following, who were either lead petitioners of, or speakers to, petitions objecting to either the closure of individual libraries or the closure of libraries in the City in general, were invited, at the request of the Committee, to provide any information, over and above what had been reported at the Council meeting, as follows:-

4.2.1 Will Hiorns (Park)

Mr Hiorns referred to the likelihood of the eventual closure of 40% of the City's libraries, therefore resulting in an immediate loss of 40% of staff. He focused on the City Council's legal duty to provide an efficient and comprehensive library service, referring specifically to the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 and to the views of Mr Francis Bennion, a distinguished Barrister and retired law lecturer at Oxford, and who was widely regarded as Britain's leading writer on all aspects of statute law. Mr Hiorns stated that the Council's proposals were illegal based on Mr Bennion's legal interpretation, details of which were circulated to Members of the Committee.

4.2.2 Mike Davis (Greenhill)

Mike Davis referred to the rigorous campaign by local residents to retain Greenhill Library, which was the area's only civic building, and stated that he would like to see all the City's libraries kept open, and led by professional librarians, with support from volunteers. He stated that the current proposals did not appear to bear any relation to the outcomes following the original consultation undertaken in 2012. In support of this, he referred to the fact that 60% of people who had responded as part of the consultation in 2012, had indicated that they would not like to see any library closures, and stated that despite this, such support had not appeared to have informed the present proposals. He concluded by referring to his request that the consultation exercise should not be simply a 'tick box' exercise, pointing out that he had been promised this would not be the case.

4.2.3 Kate Elliott (Walkley)

Ms Elliott stated that the Walkley Library building was handed to the City for the benefit of the public. The library was well-used and well-run, which she considered was due to the exceptional service provided by the library staff. Ms Elliott considered that the current proposals were not suitable on the basis

that if Walkley, and the two nearest libraries were to be closed, either now or in the future, the nearest hub library was Hillsborough, which was too far away. She concluded by stating that she, along with many others, were not happy with the short-term, funding proposals in connection with the independent libraries, indicating that it was simply a case of prolonging their closure.

4.2.4 Andy Shallice (City Wide Closures)

Mr Shallice referred to the results of the latest consultation exercise, indicating that, whilst it stated that 39% of survey respondents answered with 'Yes' or 'Yes with reservations' that the proposals, as a whole, were fair and reasonable, it did not state that 61% of respondents were against the proposals. He also made the point that those respondents who were most affected by the proposals were the least positive in their overall responses, with such groups including older people, children and young people, people with disabilities and people from ethnic minority groups. In terms of volunteers, Mr Shallice stated that, as part of the consultation in 2012, a high number of respondents had indicated that they were in favour of volunteers supporting full-time library staff, whereas in the current proposals, it was evident that such volunteers would be replacing full-time staff. He concluded by referring to the human resource implications of the proposals, expressing concern at the fact that there was very little emphasis in the report in terms of how such a high number of volunteers would be supported.

4.3 Public Questions

Questions were received from members of the public, as follows:-

4.3.1 Peter Hartley

- (a) How many more people of Sheffield have to object, on top of the 22,000 plus that have already objected, to the proposed cuts to the library budget before this Committee changes its policy instead of blindly following the party line?
- (b) How can you justify calling yourself a Scrutiny Committee, when I suspect you will just note the report on the libraries report before you? (A proper Scrutiny Committee would call before them experts in the field of Sheffield libraries themselves, as well as the people who use these libraries).

Mr Hartley requested a written response to his questions.

4.3.2 Annette Hobson

Considering the political affiliation of some members of this Committee, including the Chair, can we really expect that the proposals put forward by Sheffield City Council will be fully scrutinized and that the decisions being

made will be made with what is best for the people of Sheffield?

4.3.3 Marcus O'Hagan

- (a) Had the Council assessed the costs of the proposed change and the eventual possible library closures? Why are these questions not being answered when all the issues should have been considered by the Council as part of the process? Doesn't this show the process was ill-managed and has failed? How can the consultation be considered complete when valid questions from citizens who are concerned at the loss of important facilities have not been answered?
- (b) The Council is required to act in a fair manner, is committed to fairness and required by law to provide an efficient and comprehensive library service. How can a service be fulfilling that requirement when the entire north west quadrant may be stripped of its libraries?
- (c) What consideration and provision has been made for the possibility that an independent library may fail? Will such a library return to Council control or will it close?
- (d) Is it the duty of the Scrutiny Committee to ensure the Council is acting fairly and is not risking costly legal action? If the answer is yes, then should this Committee not require the departments involved to complete a genuine consultation before a decision is made? Don't the minor modifications made which in no way answer the overwhelming opposition to the original proposals show clearly that the consultation is a sham?
- (e) As key stakeholders, library professionals should be playing a key role in this process. How have this group been involved?

4.3.4 Will Hiorns

- (a) Can the Council move to a more fair model that spreads the pain, and pledge to revive the service in future when resources allow?
- (b) In what real, practical ways has feedback from children informed and shaped the proposal at any stage of the review and how does it respect their particular needs?
- (c) The survey in 2012 showed that many people said that activities should concentrate on activities for children and young people, supporting homework and encouraging reading and educational attainment. How does this square with the proposal where children will be so heavily hit by closures of their local libraries? How can the proposals contain such lack of basic logic?

- (d) Will the Committee please strongly recommend that the Council be honest with the public in all future communications on public services?
- (e) Does this Committee believe that a week is long enough for us to read the revised proposal, due to the size of the report, and then have an informed debate with a Council, who won't even answer our questions when given months of time? Is this adequate consultation and does it meet the requirements of the Gunning principles?

4.3.5 Patrick Coghlan

Could the Council find the resources to second a professional librarian to help for the first year or two?

4.3.6 Hugh Cotton

- (a) Does the Committee consider the proposals a fair and efficient use of resources?
- (b) After the Committee's decision, is the Council prepared to agree to keep looking with flexibility and fairness at the issue of where paid professional staff are placed so that independent and co-delivered libraries can also have the benefit of them?

4.3.7 Irene Harrison

What will the volunteers actually be actually volunteering for, how will they be trained and who will arrange the training for them over the next three years and thereafter? Will personal information be available to volunteers, and will it be possible to hold them to a confidentiality agreement as with paid library staff, bearing in mind there is likely to be quite a high turnover of people wanting to do this work initially, but very likely to drop as time goes on?

4.3.8 Katharine Harbord

- (a) How are the hub libraries going to be linked to the other non-hub libraries? If they are receiving the bulk of funding and staffing, will they be providing the extra service for the users in areas deprived of their present library service? If the hub libraries are not to have more users and groups, why should they receive so much more of the limited resources?
- (b) How will the Council review its stance and ensure that all the threatened libraries are creatively resourced with support from qualified librarians by, for example, running every library on a co-delivered basis?

4.3.9 Natasha Watkinson

Does the Council think one volunteer co-ordinator is sufficient to train the expected number of volunteers or could the Council provide interim professional library staff for each independent library in the first transitional year?

4.3.10 Pauline Rosser

What provision will you make for the support of experienced, professional library staff for the proposed volunteer-run libraries?

4.3.11 Kathy Whittaker

- (a) Are the Council officers aware that the planned hub network leaves an area comprising around a quarter of the City without a library and could they explain how this constitutes a comprehensive service for all those who want to use it?
- (b) Which hub library will Broomhill be relating to as an independent, and what kind of impact can we expect?

4.3.12 Richard Bradley

What evidence has the Council got that community libraries work in the long-term, say in 10-20 years?

4.3.13 Mark Parnell

- (a) The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and literacy components of the Needs Assessment uses the average IMD from the Super Output Areas which intersect each library. However, the Office for National Statistics guidance warns against doing this type of analysis (because of the transformations that have been applied to the data). How can the Council justify using an incorrect method to calculate IMD for these two demographic needs variables?
- (b) The ranking for the BME and low attaining pupils data sets are incorrectly ranked. Has the Council addressed these issues, as it appears that it can lead to a change in the 11 hub libraries on the list?
- (c) The Council uses visits as a use of the performance measure, but does not take any account of the actual opening hours, therefore how can it compare the number of visitors that Stannington or Tinsley libraries have (open 21 hours per week) with Ecclesall library (open for 43 hours per week)?
- (d) The Needs Assessment users proximity as a multiplier, but this has no resemblance to the actual travel times by bus to the nearest library. Is the Council aware of this discrepancy?

4.3.14 Katy Cossham

In view of the acknowledged (Council's Equality Impact Assessment) negative impact to all library users and, in particular, protected groups, such as disabled people and young people, would the Council consider keeping libraries open and bringing in other Council services under the same roof?

4.3.15 Ruth Woodhouse

- (a) Can Councillors please note my request on behalf of campaigners for more time to digest and respond to the lengthy proposals published last week?
- (b) The Equality Act 2010 states that 'a public authority must eliminate discrimination' and 'advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it'. It is clear from the surveys and the report that this will not be possible with this model. How would the Council manage to achieve this within the three-tier system?
- (c) How are school visits to continue City-wide without staff, and what measures will the Council take to avoid the loss of this essential service across the City?
- (d) Many Sheffield libraries now manage on a 21 hour week which, whilst not ideal, by cutting opening hours elsewhere, a library service for all would be retained, which could be extended again in the future. Is it not time to explore this alternative model, so we share staff and the burden of cuts, and support vulnerable groups across the City?

4.3.16 Caroline Waudby

If the Council cuts ties with Walkley Library and the other local libraries earmarked for 'independence', will it move to review the situation in one year, with a view to taking these libraries back under Council control?

4.3.17 John Chapman

What contingency plans are in place if the independent libraries fail, both within the first three years and after this period?

4.3.18 Chris Reece

Has the Council made contingency plans with one or more commercial companies to take over the libraries if the independent groups decide to withdraw their business plans?

4.3.19 Alan Wellings

- (a) Does the Authority accept responsibility for providing a comprehensive and efficient library service? If so, what minimum provision does it judge necessary to satisfy this?
- (b) What does the Authority plan to do if any volunteer-run library proves unsustainable?

4.3.20 Michael Stern

One of the proposed hub libraries – Woodseats – has been described as ‘dilapidated’, with a leaking roof which prevents computers from being used in wet weather. Has the Council given consideration to the physical state of the proposed hub libraries?

4.3.21 Mel Smart

- (a) How can Sheffield fulfil its statutory obligations to provide a library service to those people living in sparsely populated rural areas?
- (b) Would the Schools’ Library Service be able to offer additional support for Bradfield Dungworth School, as room to store an adequate variety of books for ages 4 to 11 is limited, maybe by visiting and changing the book stock more frequently?
- (c) Could Stannington Library be allocated extra funding to offer some help to all those who at present use the Mobile Library Service by becoming a rural hub for this vast area or through some kind of outreach service from Stannington?
- (d) Could the Home Library Service be extended to those who are housebound, not by infirmity, but by the sheer lack of any public transport in their area?

5. THE FUTURE OF SHEFFIELD'S LIBRARY SERVICES

5.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Communities, entitled “The Future of Sheffield’s Library Services”, containing proposals on a new operation model for the City’s community libraries, following an extensive consultation exercise. The Council, at its meeting held on 8th January, 2014, and at which 12 petitions objecting to the possible closure of libraries across the City were received and a debate on the library review was held, requested that a report on the outcome of the library review consultation be submitted to this Committee, prior to its consideration by the Cabinet. The Committee therefore gave consideration to the Cabinet report, which contained a number of appendices, including the Library Review Consultation Report.

5.2 Councillor Mazher Iqbal, Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion, reported briefly on the history and background in respect of the proposals as

detailed in the Cabinet report. The Libraries, Archives and Information Service review began with the establishment of a Members Task and Finish Group in July 2011, and concluded with the report now being considered, which was to be submitted to the Cabinet at its meeting held on 19th February 2014. He stated that the proposals contained in the report had not been informed solely by the recent Government budget cuts, although such cuts had played a major part in the proposals now being made. Since 2010, as a direct result of cuts to local authority budgets, approximately 400 libraries nationwide had been closed and, following the Government's recent budget cuts, this Council had been forced to make an additional £80 million of savings over the next few years. The Libraries, Archives and Information Service alone had been requested to identify savings of £1.6 million. As a result of the budget cuts, it had been determined that the Library Service, in its current format, could no longer continue, and that the Council was no longer able to provide an efficient library service. He stressed that no Members of the Council wanted to see libraries closed but, as a result of the budget cuts, they had been forced to make a number of very difficult decisions. The Council had arranged a detailed consultation exercise in terms of the proposals and, as part of this process, Councillor Iqbal and officers from the Libraries, Archives and Information Service had visited a number of libraries across the City to listen to the views of library users.

- 5.3 In response to the questions raised regarding the legality of the proposals, specifically with regard to the Council's duty to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service, Councillor Iqbal stated that although the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 required all Councils to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service, there were no criteria in terms of how such a service should be delivered and on this basis, the Council was of the opinion that, despite the Service being considerably reduced, it would still constitute a comprehensive and efficient service. The Council had given consideration to the Brent Council judgement and was confident that the proposals being put forward represented a viable option.
- 5.4 Steve Eccleston, Assistant Director, Legal Services, added that Members and officers were all aware that any changes proposed could only be made following a fair and objective assessment of what the public wanted in terms of a library service. The consultation process had provided a detailed insight in terms of informing the proposals being made. Mr Eccleston confirmed that the "Gunning criteria" set out what good consultation should include, and it was his view that these had been met. With reference to the legal arguments being put forward by Francis Bennion, Mr Eccleston stated that, in his opinion, he disagreed with Mr Bennion's interpretation, and his views were not implied by the statute in public law. He added that, as the City's needs changed, the Council was within its legal rights to change the Library Service.
- 5.5 In response to further questions from members of the public and Members of the Committee, Councillor Iqbal stated that, as part of the review process, he and a number of Council officers had visited a number of local authorities to look at examples of good practice in terms of the delivery of their library

services. It was evident that the interpretation of the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964, by the local authorities, differed considerably. He made specific reference to the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), attached as an appendix to the report, which assessed the impact of the proposals on a range of people with what were termed 'protected characteristics' under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, and also issues relating to poverty, deprivation and financial inclusion. He made reference to the legal action taken by local residents following library closures, which included action against Brent Council and the review in terms of Wirral MBC. A summary of the key points from the Wirral review had been presented to Councillors. The key learning from this was the importance of a Needs Assessment underpinning any changes to the library service.

5.6 In connection with the Needs Assessment, Councillor Iqbal stated that whilst it was accepted that some of the library buildings were in very poor condition, it had been decided that it would not be fair to use this as part of the criteria. As part of the Needs Assessment, the Council had taken into account the number of registered users, the number of books and materials issued, the number of People's Network sessions and the number of library visits. In addition, the assessment also considered the demographic needs of those people who lived, worked or studied in each library area, including the needs of older people, children and young people, people with a disability, people from minority ethnic backgrounds, people facing deprivation and people with literacy needs. Based on the principles of the Fairness Commission, demographic need had been weighted twice due to the huge inequalities across the City.

5.7 James Henderson, Director of Policy, Performance and Communications, elaborated on the Needs Assessment process, indicating that the Council had used two sets of indicators to come up with an overall score for each library. These indicator sets were "Use of Library Services" and "Demographic Needs". Mr Henderson confirmed that the demographic needs element had been given twice the weight in the light of the Authority's requirements to consider discrimination and equality issues. This overall score had been combined with information about the proximity of each library to its nearest neighbour, and the number of registered library users, to give the final rankings, which determined the 11 hub libraries. Although a few minor issues had been identified in terms of the data, following consultation, officers had checked these, which had resulted in there being no change to the overall list of 11 hub libraries. However, there had been some changes to the order of libraries within this list. Mr Henderson stated that the Council was therefore confident in the process used. Whilst it was accepted that there was no specific indicator of rurality as part of the Needs Assessment, this would have been considered as part of the distance criteria. Also, children and young people had been taken into consideration as part of the Needs Assessment, in terms of attainment levels and the education and skills domain of the indices of deprivation. Mr Henderson concluded by stating that the Council was confident that the data and statistics, as well as the process used as part of the Needs Assessment, represented a fair and robust

process in connection with how the libraries were prioritised in terms of their rankings.

- 5.8 In response to the issues raised by Mark Parnell, relating to the proximity criteria, as part of the Needs Assessment, specifically regarding how the Council had calculated the travel distances between the libraries, Councillor Iqbal stated that he and relevant Council officers had met with Mr Parnell to discuss his concerns, and had provided an explanation as to how the distances had been calculated. He explained that the distances had been based on the advice received from the bus/tram companies.
- 5.9 Further to the questions from members of the public and Members of the Committee on the consultation process, Councillor Iqbal referred to the summary of the consultation exercise undertaken in 2013/14, as well as the detailed consultation report set out in Appendix 'C' to the Cabinet report now submitted. He stated that the consultation had been detailed and fair, and had achieved the aim of ensuring as many people of Sheffield as possible were aware of the proposals for the future of the City's library services, and were able to have their say. He made reference to the budget cuts within both the Council's Libraries, Archives and Information and Community Services, and considered that the Council had done as much as it could in terms of consulting with the public, despite current financial restraints. He stated that the Council had relied considerably on the social media, as well as the excellent work of Members and officers. Kate Register, Quality and Improvement Development Manager, Communities, responded to the comments on the lack of consultation with children and young people, acknowledging that it was difficult to make consultation meaningful to school children, particularly young children. However, to overcome this, specific consultation work had been commissioned to ensure that children and young people were able to have a say. Sheffield Futures had also been commissioned to undertake engagement with young people of secondary school age, up to the age of 25, and the Children's Involvement Team had been commissioned to undertake work with children from primary school age. Information about the consultation had also been made available to all schools in the City. A number of schools had arranged for their pupils to write letters and draw pictures, and all of these had been read and included within the consultation results. In addition, the main survey included 12 free text boxes and many people had chosen to make comments there, about the impact on children and young people. Officers had analysed approximately 90,000 text boxes in all, and comments about children and libraries had been included in the consultation report. Councillor Iqbal made reference to the consultation undertaken in 2012, referring specifically to the efforts made to engage with non-library users. It was considered important that there was clear correlation between the results of the consultation undertaken in 2012 and the proposals now being made in respect of the future of the library service. Councillor Iqbal stated that mitigating actions had been included in the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), which was appended to the Cabinet report, to ensure that no-one would be adversely affected by the proposals. Details of the equality implications, including how the EIA assessed the

impact of the proposals on a range of people with what were termed 'protected characteristics' under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as well as issues relating to poverty, deprivation and financial inclusion, were detailed in the Cabinet report.

- 5.10 In response to a number of questions regarding the proposed model, Councillor Mazher Iqbal stated that, in response to the consultation, specifically relating to the co-delivered and independent libraries, the current proposals included a long-term lease arrangement to ensure that the libraries had a sound footing, the agreement to pay for utility and other bills for each library, from the additional £262,000 identified by the Council, and providing the libraries with an option to either opt in or out of the catalogue system. In addition to this, the Council had committed to providing funding to assist those community organisations who had, or were, in the process of submitting Business Plans in connection with the future operation of the libraries. Details of how the Council planned to provide additional support for the independent libraries were set out in the Cabinet report, which included information on the provision of development support, support to manage library buildings, support to run independent libraries and the provision of an allocation of funding for each independent library to access services. A number of workshops had been organised for those groups and organisations wishing to run an independent library, which had been attended by Members, officers and third sector partners, with further workshops planned in the future to assist the groups and organisations to take their proposals further. As part of the review process, Members and officers had looked at similar models in Wakefield and Doncaster.
- 5.11 In response to further questions, Councillor Iqbal clarified that there had been a 71% take-up in terms of the School Library Service, with service provision to each school being specifically tailored to meet their individual needs. This service would continue. He also gave assurances that volunteers would receive the support and guidance required, and full details of this work were set out in the Cabinet report. In terms of Ofsted's views on the proposals, Councillor Iqbal stated that Ofsted had nothing to do with the Library Service as it was the responsibility of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. With regard to the long-term sustainability of the co-delivered and independent libraries, Councillor Iqbal stated that he could not guarantee that funding would be available to enable the libraries to continue after three years if, in the unfortunate circumstances, they were unable to continue, on the basis that it was not possible to predict what the Council's financial position would be at that time. It was hoped that, by working with, and providing the relevant support and advice to, those community organisations wishing to run the co-delivered and independent libraries, they will prove to be sustainable in the long-term.
- 5.12 Councillor Iqbal confirmed that although it had been proposed that the Mobile Library Service would close, the Council was willing to consider any offer to run the Service on an independent basis, without on-going financial support from the Council, up to the point of closure. The decision for this was as a

result of low and declining usage, together with the high cost of providing such a service.

5.13 The Chair summed up the proceedings, indicating that she believed that Councillor Mazher Iqbal and Council officers had made every attempt to respond to the public questions and questions from Members of the Committee on the legal context, the Needs Assessment, the consultation process and the operating model.

5.14 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes (i) the contents of the report now submitted, (ii) the petition now submitted, (iii) the additional comments raised by the lead petitioners in terms of the petitions submitted to the Council meeting on 8th January 2014, and (iv) the responses provided to the questions raised by members of the public and the Committee;
- (b) thanks Councillor Mazher Iqbal, Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion, and officers, for the responses provided to the questions raised and furthermore, thanks all the questioners and petitioners for their contributions;
- (c) is satisfied that the proposals contained in the Cabinet report can be put forward to the Cabinet at its meeting to be held on 19th February 2014; and
- (d) requests that the Executive Director, Communities, submits a report on the progress made in implementing the proposals set out in the Cabinet report, to this Committee in 12 months' time.

(NOTE: Prior to the passing of the above resolution, an alternative resolution was moved by Councillor David Baker and seconded by Councillor Trevor Bagshaw as follows:-

“That this Committee:-

- (a) underlines the importance of local libraries to Sheffielders across the City;
- (b) emphasises its belief that library closures in the City are both avoidable and unnecessary;
- (c) thanks campaigners and community groups for the efforts to help save local libraries;
- (d) highlights concerns about the Council's consultation and inconsistencies in the Council's Needs Assessment;

- (e) welcomes the announcement of additional funding for independent libraries, but confirms that under this plan, 16 libraries remain under the threat of closure;
- (f) recognises that the Library Service needs to adapt and change in order to build a sustainable model for the future;
- (g) therefore, calls on the Council to investigate better use of volunteers, community groups and joint use of premises to significantly reduce the costs of running libraries; and
- (h) to this end, recommends that all 27 community libraries remain Council-maintained.”

The votes on the alternative resolution were ordered to be recorded and were as follows:-

For the Resolution (4) - Councillors Ian Auckland, Trevor Bagshaw, David Baker and Diana Stimely

Against the Resolution (8) - Councillors Jayne Dunn, Terry Fox, Ibrar Hussain, Steve Jones, George Lindars-Hammond, Cate McDonald, Pat Midgley and Tim Rippon).

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 6.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday, 9th April 2014, at 4.30 pm, in the Town Hall.



Report to Economic and Environmental Well Being Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Report of: Simon Green

Subject: City Centre Vibrancy

Author of Report: Brendan Moffett, Director – Marketing Sheffield (2232345)

Summary:

Sheffield retains a clear ambition, to maintain and grow a vibrant city centre, a key element of the Council's Competitive City strategic outcome.

Vibrancy is created by a combination of elements, from our cultural offer, festivals and events programme to a strong hospitality sector of bars and restaurants.

In order to facilitate the above, the city centre must have good accessibility and be well managed with an attractive public realm.

These are not insignificant challenges. There are long term plans in place (which have gathered significant momentum recently) to re-develop the retail offer, however the city must continue to work hard to maintain a strong programme of animation, content and meanwhile uses to keep the city buoyant and attractive to significant future investors.

Increasingly, in the light of budget reductions, Sheffield City Council will need other organisations from within the city to take shared responsibility for the city centre, utilising innovative new models such as Business Improvement Districts (BID) to fund activities where possible.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	x
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

The Committee is asked to consider the approach being taken to sustain city centre vibrancy and provide' views, comments and recommendations.

Background Papers:

Sheffield Economic Strategy (Creative Sheffield 2013).

Sheffield City Centre Masterplan (Draft 2013)

Beyond the High Street – Why our city centres really matter (Centre for Cities 2013)

Category of Report: OPEN

1. Introduction/Context

1.1- The last few years have been about weathering the storm of recession and trying to make progress in tough economic conditions. Although these economic realities remain – **opportunities are now emerging** and the city must position itself to take full advantage of them.

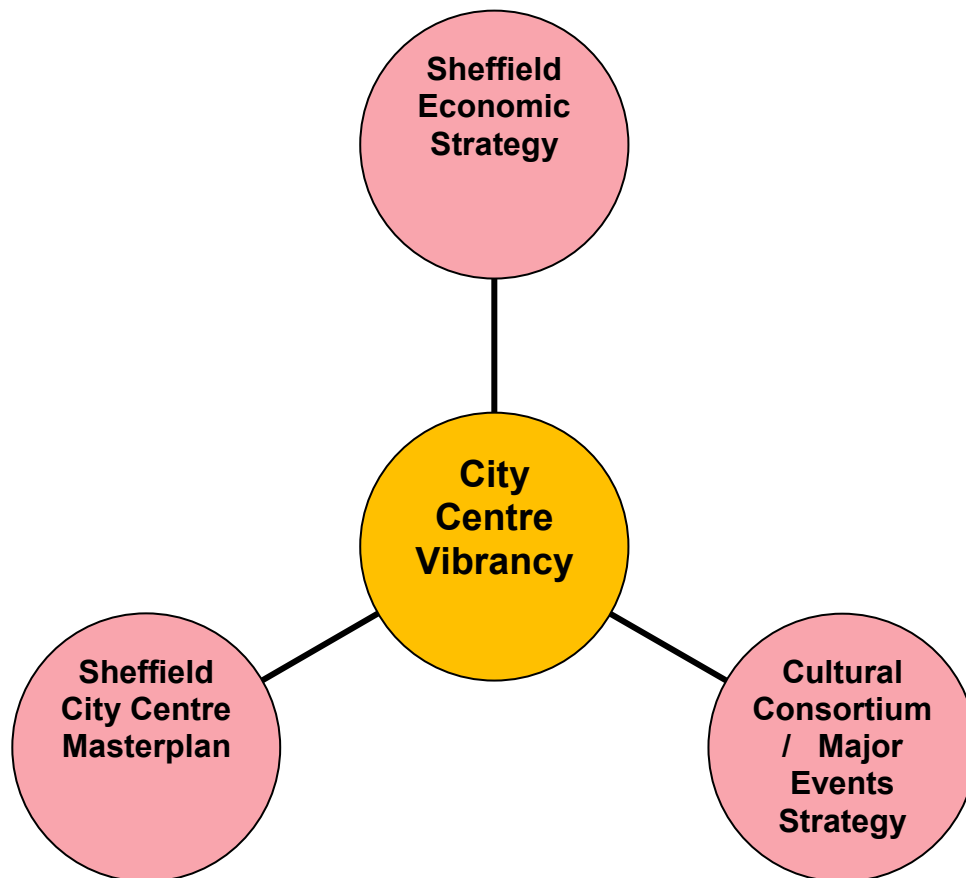
1.2 - A vibrant City Centre is integral to achieving our ambitions to be a **Competitive City**.

Our vision for Competitive City is:

*'Sheffield will be a sustainable city which stimulates and **incentivises business opportunity** in order to attract investment and growth, creating a competitive advantage that will provide more and better jobs, enhancing the quality of life and reputation to attract people to live, work and visit; a city of independence, authenticity and distinction.'*

1.3 - There are existing delivery plans that set out our aspirations and planned activity in detail. It is essential that these approaches and strategies work in a joined-up way to ensure maximum impact from our investment and efforts.

Figure 1 – Strategic Alignment



2. Main body of report, matters for consideration, etc

2.1 - Despite the rapid strides made in the last decade which transformed the feel of the city centre the over-whelming impact of the recession has been to reduce the confidence and capacity for further investment and regeneration. Whilst some stalled projects are now progressing this has inevitably had an impact on the vibrancy in Sheffield City Centre.

2.2 - As well as **long-term mainstream projects** we must remain open to **short term or experimental initiatives**. Some may have only a short term impact, but others may turn out to be valuable seedbeds for the next generation of new ideas and talent.

- 2.3 - The city centre population has increased significantly more than Doubling in recent and as well as residents, city-centre based workers remain a key requirement to create a critical mass of people using the centre daily that will attract further investment, like bars and restaurants.

In the report '**Beyond the High Street' Centre for Cities (2013)** it highlights:

*Future economic growth - many of the highest skilled and best paid industries – which have been critical sources of jobs growth in recent years - **prefer to locate in city centres**. This is because a city centre location offers advantages including access to more skilled labour because of transport connections) and opportunities to exchange information as a result of being close to clients, competitors and collaborators.*

- 2.4 - This confirms that Sheffield City Centre remains a key driver of the City Region economy and we need to focus our vision for the future. Major retail development and infrastructure projects such as HS2 will continue to contribute to vibrancy, but we also need a more holistic approach and to take action to make the City Centre a place with a well-rounded offer which people choose to come and enjoy using. This includes visitors, businesses and local residents.

- 2.5 Vibrancy is about people using and enjoying the City Centre. This means:

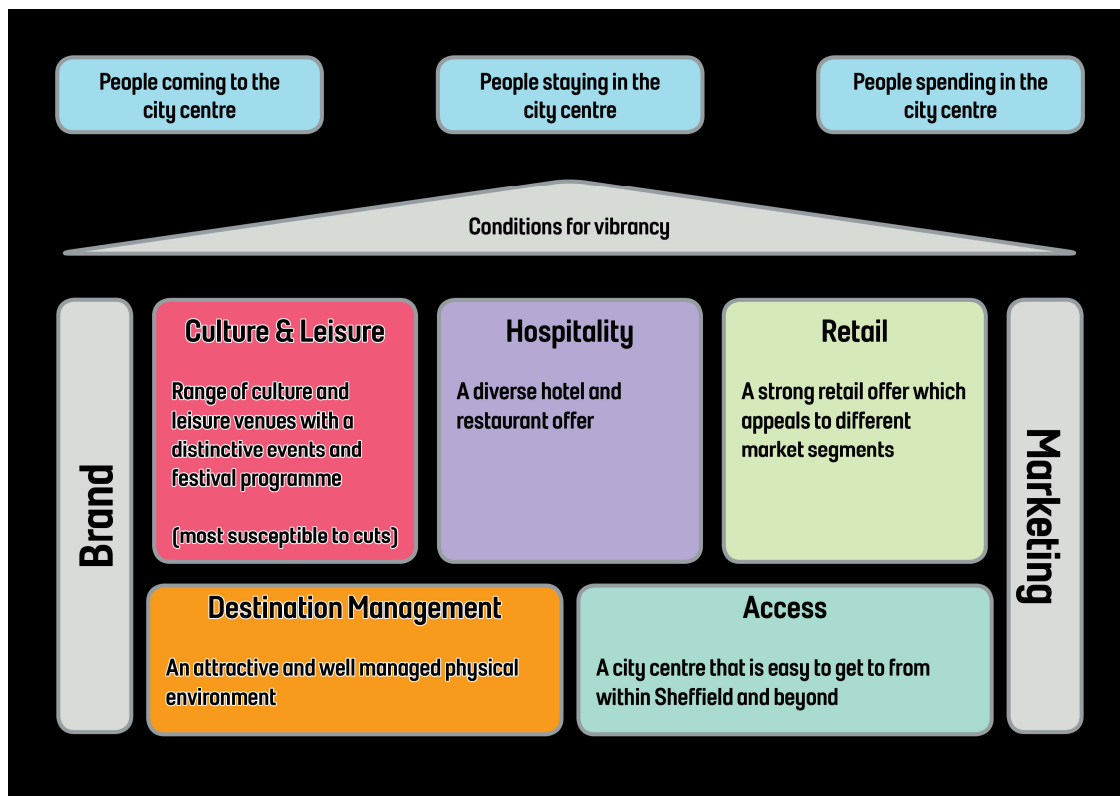
- **People are coming to the city centre,**
- **People are staying in the city centre, and**
- **People are spending money in the city centre.**

- 2.6 - A vibrant City Centre provides the services and facilities that businesses, customers, residents and visitors demand. It creates jobs, attracts investment, generates income and is a key contributor towards economic growth. Sheffield needs to be competitive with neighbouring towns and, importantly, other core cities.

- 2.7 We think this relies on:

- **A strong Culture and Leisure offer** – the scale and breadth of opportunities and things to do including events and animation and a quality evening / night-time offer.
- **Excellent Hospitality** – quality hotels and a mix of great restaurants and bars.
- **Retail** – with a wide range of shopping opportunities from the Big brands to small independent shops catering for niche markets.
- **Public realm** – including venues that people travel to visit, a Modern and well-connected urban landscape and a well maintained and safe place.
- **Access** – people being able to get into and out of the city centre, including ample parking.

Figure 2 – Vibrancy Model



3 Update on Progress

3.1 **Culture and Leisure** The Culture sector has become more cohesive and collaborative by the creation of the Cultural Consortium. This group, currently chaired by the CEO of Museums Sheffield has made significant strides to attract additional investment into the sector. The Consortium successfully bid into the Cultural Destinations Fund in late 2013 (a joint initiative between the Arts Council and Visit England). This funding of circa £270,000 over 3 years will help to sustain the city’s festivals programme and help the city develop a stronger proposition for cultural tourists.

Sheffield Theatres was once again voted regional theatre of the year with record ticket sales. March 2014 saw the launch of the Yorkshire Festival, 100 days of Art and Culture to correspond with the Tour de France – Grand Depart.

3.2 In February 2014, Scottish Widows Investment Property Partnership Trust (SWIPPT) confirmed that The Light will be the cinema operator in a major 200,000 sq feet retail and leisure development phase 2 of The Moor. The 9 screen cinema is due to be open late 2015 and will be accompanied by seven new restaurants.

3.3 New investment has also been attracted to the city in the hospitality sector. The Hampton by Hilton opened on West Bar Green in March 2014; this stylish modern brand adds in excess of 130 rooms to the city's stock.

Hotel Occupancy has been strong in the last year, with occupancy up 3% at 72% (STR Research). Smoke Barbecue, Cosmo Restaurant and Pizza Express have all opened in St Paul's Place in the last 18 months.

3.4 Retail remains the biggest challenge, but progress is now being made. In March 2014 Sheffield City Council announced its intention to create an innovative approach to the development of the planned 600,000 sq ft **Retail Quarter** in the City, the project will be led by a public/private fund. Launched at MIPIM, the fund has been well received by potential investors and developers. Summer 2013 saw the successful introduction of 'Summer Saturdays' which boosted city centre footfall in target areas by 12%. Future initiatives under consideration for meanwhile uses of empty shop premises have included a series of workshops with the creator of Re-New Newcastle, a highly successful meanwhile retail scheme in Australia. An action plan is being drawn up in April 2014 by key city centre stakeholders in Sheffield.

3.5 City Centre Footfall

To date, footfall across Fargate and Division St is down compared to the same period in 2013 however Pinstone Street and the Moor is up which shows a clear movement of foot flow from the traditional busy areas around High Street and Fargate to the Moor.

The table below shows the overall position for February 2014 which provides a snapshot of the ongoing position.

	Moving Average*	Annual % Change	Monthly % Change
Sheffield	▼ -4.7%	▼ -5.8%	▲ 14.1%
Regional City	▼ -1.1%	▼ -5.0%	▲ 5.9%
North & Yorkshire	▼ -2.2%	▼ -5.0%	▲ 7.9%
UK Towns & Cities	▼ -1.8%	▼ -5.3%	▲ 3.9%

Fig 3 – City Centre Footfall

*Moving Average-The average annual % change in pedestrian flows for the last twelve months.

Clearly Towns and City Centres are still being affected by ongoing declining footfall however Sheffield's 'moving average' position is worse due to a poor Spring and Autumn.

Initiatives such as 'Summer Saturdays' did have a positive impact and increased footfall on the Saturdays over the summer period by an average of 12%. There is no doubt that events, programmed animation and good marketing does have a positive impact on footfall but its critical to ensure the increased numbers of people are turned into spend within the city centre businesses.

Despite the issues with footfall, most of our retailers are managing to survive and are positive about the future which is highlighted by a recent survey carried out on our behalf by the Retail Group. Some of the headlines are below.

- ATV up from under £5 in 2012 to between £11-£15. However 47% said their ATV's were still below £15. A city of Sheffield should be around the £30-£40 area.
- 55% stated that turnover in in line/up year on year
- 50% said they are at least matching their regional trends
- Regular/local shopper and worker base dominates
- More than 50% stated that customer numbers had fallen

3.6 The Future

With the success of the new Moor Market, the imminent announcement of the NRQ revised plans and an increased number of new businesses opening, there are some signs of confidence returning.

Plans for events so far for this year include extending the **Food Festival** to the Moor, revised **Tramlines Festival** with higher profile artists, increased content on Sheffield by the Seaside and the **City Centre Hub as part of the Tour De France**. We are also working with partners on a new event to fill the gap that Fright Night has left.

Work on the City Centre Business Improvement District is progressing well with an expected ballot in November this year. If successful, the **BID** could generate in excess of £800k additional per year for the BID Company to spend on tangible improvements to the trading environment which will include events, animation and marketing.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 We are seeking views and comments from the Committee, to provide constructive challenge to our thinking to the approach being undertaken via the Competitive City Outcome to maintain City Centre Vibrancy.

5. Other relevant documents

5.1 Appendix 1: Vibrant City - Statement on Performance – November 2013

Appendix 1:

Vibrant City - Position Statement on Performance – November 2013

This provides an update on measures that show how vibrant our City Centre is including:

- Number of overnight visitors to Sheffield and spend (£ millions)
- CACI Retail Ranking
- City Centre Footfall
- Hotel Offer [Occupancy; Yield]
- University Popularity and Student Numbers

1. Overnight Visitors

Based on the number of trips by domestic overnight visitors to the top 20 English towns

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1	London	London	London	London	London	London	London
2	Manchester	Manchester	Manchester	Manchester	Manchester	Manchester	Manchester
3	Birmingham	Birmingham	Birmingham	Birmingham	Birmingham	Birmingham	Birmingham
4	Bristol	Blackpool	Bristol	Scarborough	Blackpool	Bristol	Scarborough
5	Blackpool	Bristol	Leeds	Bristol	Scarborough	Scarborough	Leeds
6	Leeds	Scarborough	Blackpool	Blackpool	Bristol	York	Bristol
7	Scarborough	Leeds	York	York	Leeds	Leeds	York
8	Newcastle	York	Scarborough	Leeds	York	Blackpool	Liverpool
9	Liverpool	Sheffield	Newcastle	Newcastle	Newcastle	Liverpool	Blackpool
10	York	Newcastle	Liverpool	Brighton	Liverpool	Newcastle	Newcastle
11	Nottingham	Bournemouth	Brighton	Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight	Sheffield	Sheffield
12	Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight	Bournemouth	Liverpool	Skegness	Brighton	Nottingham
13	Bournemouth	Brighton	Sheffield	Nottingham	Nottingham	Nottingham	Skegness
14	Brighton	Southampton	Isle of Wight	Sheffield	Bournemouth	Isle of Wight	Brighton
15	Skegness	Nottingham	Nottingham	Skegness	Brighton	Bournemouth	Isle of Wight
16	Sheffield	Liverpool	Skegness	Bournemouth	Norwich	Skegness	Bournemouth
17	Norwich	Torquay	Southampton	Southampton	Sheffield	Southampton	Portsmouth
18	Southampton	Norwich	Great Yarmouth	Great Yarmouth	Southampton	Norwich	Southampton
19	Torquay	Skegness	Oxford	Oxford	Bath	Cambridge	Oxford
20	Plymouth	Plymouth	Plymouth	Plymouth	Oxford	Plymouth	Norwich

Source – UK Tourism Survey (UKTS)

2 – Spend by overnight visitors

Domestic Overnight Stays (GBTS)	2011		2012	
	Trips	Spend	Trips	Spend
	('000s)	£m	('000s)	£m
1.London	11093	2398	12152	2784
2.Manchester	2613	523	3126	566
3.Birmingham	2251	344	2748	454
4.Scarborough	1645	308	1726	323
5.Leeds	1493	242	1548	269
6.Bristol	1828	264	1518	226
7.York	1615	331	1517	271
8.Liverpool	1428	251	1470	256
9.Blackpool	1478	263	1298	321
10.Newcastle	1303	247	1251	260
11.Sheffield	1293	114	1233	155

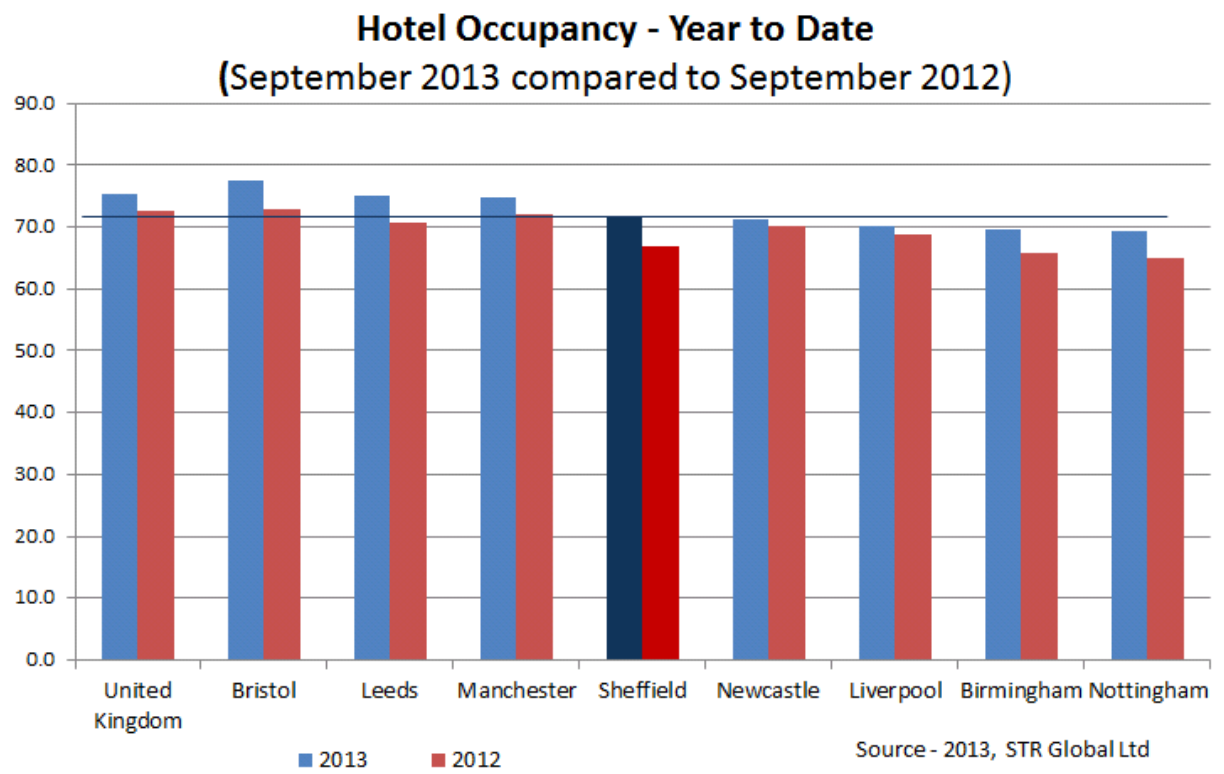
Source – UK Tourism Survey (UKTS)

3 Retail Rankings (CACI Data)

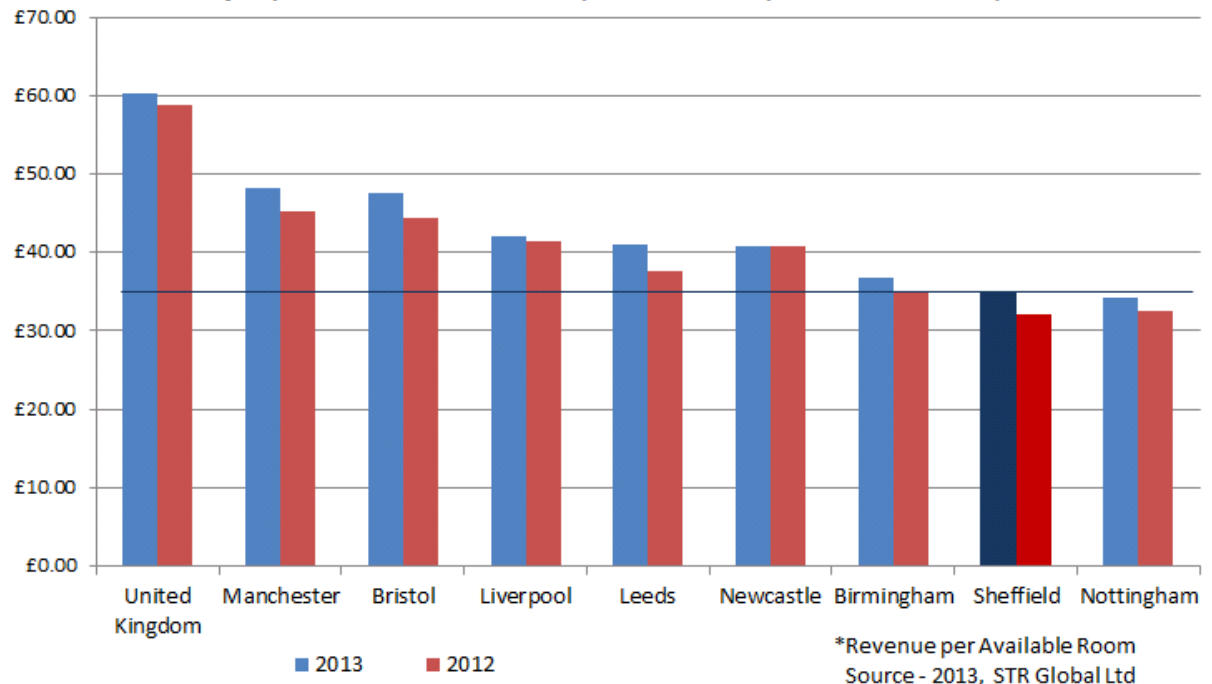
Rank	Name	Expenditure £m			Trend	Rank		
		2010	2011	2012		2010	2011	2012
1	London West End	£3,170	£3,270	£4,770		1	1	1
2	Glasgow	£2,550	£2,480	£1,940		2	2	2
3	Manchester	£2,320	£2,340	£1,800		4	4	3
4	Birmingham	£2,430	£2,430	£1,640		3	3	4
5	Liverpool	£1,960	£1,790	£1,370		5	5	5
6	Westfield, London	£1,370	£1,460	£1,250		8	8	6
7	Leeds	£1,520	£1,490	£1,180		7	7	7
8	Nottingham	£1,810	£1,730	£1,150		6	6	8
9	London - Knightsbridge			£1,150				8
10	Bluewater	£1,140	£1,140	£1,090		12	12	10
11	Westfield, London	£1,370	£1,460	£1,060		8	8	11
12	Edinburgh	£1,030	£1,090	£1,020		16	14	12
13	London - Covent Garden			£1,010				13
14	Meadowhall	£1,050	£1,080	£980		13	15	14
15	Newcastle	£1,230	£1,240	£970		10	10	15
16	Norwich	£1,180	£1,180	£970		11	11	15
17	Trafford Centre	£990	£960	£950		19	19	17
18	Milton Keynes	£1,020	£1,010	£940		18	18	18
19	Bristol	£1,040	£1,020	£910		14	16	19
20	Kingston upon Thames			£890				20
21	Leicester	£1,040	£1,100	£870		14	13	21
22	Brighton			£790				22
23	Reading	£960	£1,020	£780		21	16	23
24	Cardiff	£1,030	£920	£760		16	20	24
25	London - Kings Road			£700				25
26	Bath			£680				26
27	Aberdeen			£680				26
28	Sheffield	£970	£910	£670		20	21	28
29	Croydon			£660				29
30	Gateshead Metrocentre			£660				29

Source: CACI's Retail Footprint

2. Hotel Occupancy



Hotel RevPAR* - Year to Date (September 2013 compared to September 2012)



3. Visitor Attractions

Rank	Name of Attraction	Category	2011 Visitors	2012 Visitors	% Change
1	Museums Sheffield: Millennium Gallery	Museums & Art Galleries	869,410	849,360	-2.30%
2	National Railway Museum	Museums & Art Galleries	712,000	716,000	0.60%
3	National Media Museum	Museums & Art Galleries	481,000	504,000	4.80%
4	The Hepworth Wakefield	Museums & Art Galleries	351,163	387,840	10.40%
5	Sheffield Botanical Gardens	Gardens	300,000	300,000	0.00%
6	Museums Sheffield: Weston Park	Museums & Art Galleries	250,114	255,617	2.20%
7	Royal Armouries Museum	Museums & Art Galleries	222,461	224,400	0.90%
8	Whitby Lifeboat Museum (RNLI)	Museums & Art Galleries	200,000	200,000	0.00%
9	Castleton Visitor Centre	Visitor Centres	173,297	156,677	-9.60%
10	Ferens Art Gallery	Museums & Art Galleries	159,374	156,137	-2.00%
11	Kirkstall Abbey	Museums & Art Galleries	172,823	123,947	-28.30%
12	National Coal Mining Museum for England	Museums & Art Galleries	101,403	111,957	10.40%
13	Heeley City Farm	Farms	100,000	100,000	0.00%
14	The Moors National Park Centre	Visitor Centres	107,304	93,772	-12.60%
15	Sutton Bank National Park Centre	Visitor Centres	95,582	90,369	-5.50%
16	Streetlife Museum	Museums & Art Galleries	87,366	83,171	-4.80%
17	Maritime Museum	Museums & Art Galleries	66,934	79,751	19.10%
18	Cliffe Castle Museum	Museums & Art Galleries	74,683	74,973	0.40%
19	RSPB Bempton Cliffs Reserve	Wildlife	60,000	65,000	8.30%
20	Charlottes Jersey Ice Cream	Other	50,000	60,000	20.00%



Report to Economic & Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee 9 April 2014

Report of: Head of Highway Maintenance

Subject: Streets Ahead Project Update

Author of Report: Steve Robinson, Head of Highway Maintenance

Summary:

This brief report updates members on the progress and performance of the Streets Ahead contract

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	X

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

Consider the contents of the report and further information supplied at the Scrutiny meeting.

Background Papers:

Report to 10 July 2013 Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Category of Report: OPEN

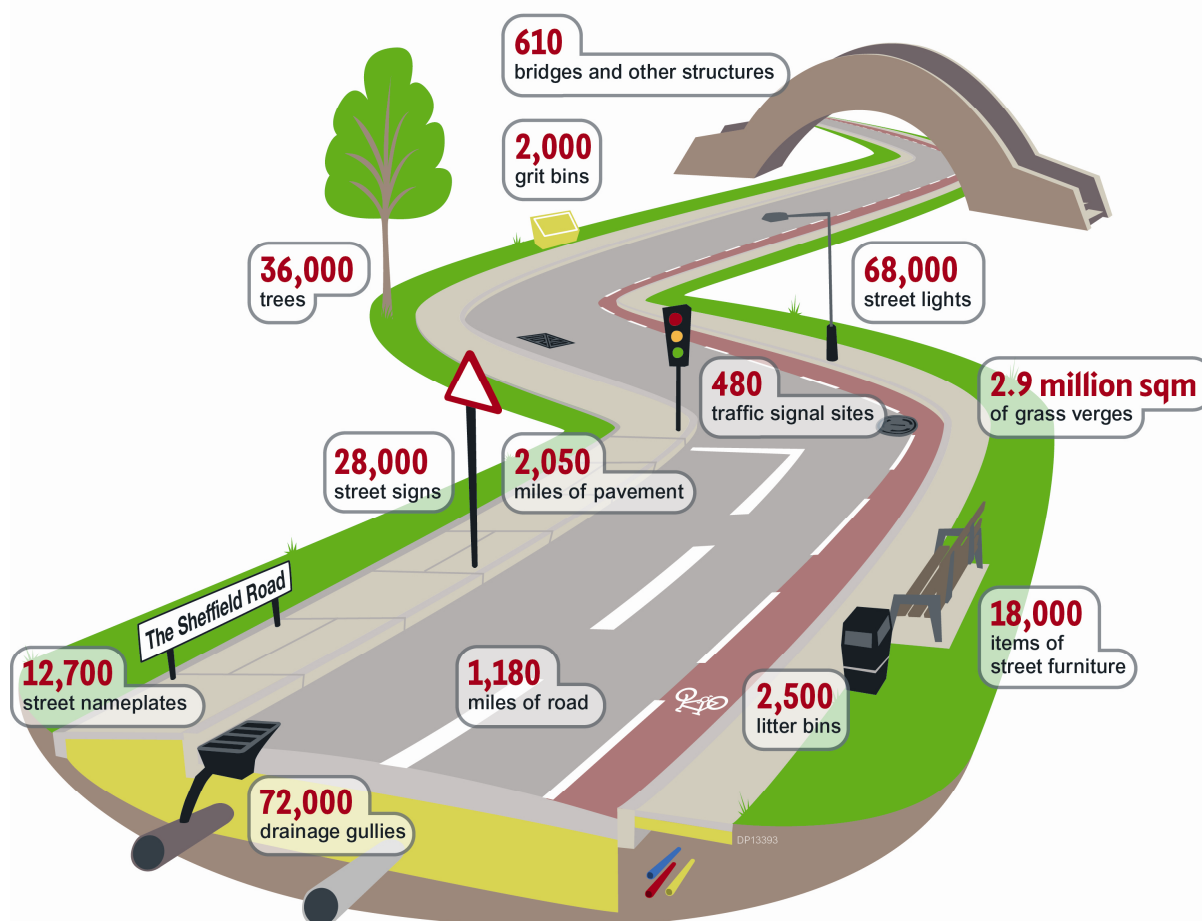
Report of the Head of Highway Maintenance Streets Ahead Update – April 2014

1. Introduction/Context

The Streets Ahead contract commenced on 20 August 2012. The Council appointed Amey as its service provider.

The contract will last for 25 years with most of the work being done in the first 5 years – called the Core Investment period (CIP) – this is when most of the infrastructure will be brought up to an acceptable standard at the end of the CIP. Amey will then be required to maintain that standard for the remaining 20 years.

The graphic below shows what is included in the contract.



2. Progress and Performance

Zone Works

A number of Zones have been completed so far which are:-

- A02 Wisewood Zone
- A04 Grimesthorpe
- B01 Ewden
- B05 Bradfield Dale
- B07 Loxley Chase

B19 Shiregreen
B26 Effingham
B29 Carbrook
B43 Highfield
B66 Manor Estate

Other zone works are being ongoing in:-

A05 Totley
A11 Mosborough
B08 Stannington
B12 High Green
B17 Parson Cross
B30 Tinsley
B33 Walkley
B41 South East Central
B46 Tapton Hill
B49 Greystones
B57 Meadowhead
B62 Gleadless Valley
B65 Wybourn
B74 Hackenthorpe
A06 Ecclesfield
B22 Wincobank
B59 Lowedges

Zones where the start has been delayed slightly:-

A07 City North
A08 Meadowhead
A09 Manor
A10 Darnall
B13 Chapelton North
B15 Ecclesfield
B39 Broomfield.

And there are a further 78 zones planned for the remainder of the 5 year Core Investment programme

The start and finish dates of zones is affected by many issues. The most challenging is to fit in other works at the same time which inevitably extends the durations. So sometimes the start or completion dates are delayed. We are currently adding into our zones the LTP programme (around £9m pa of works – originally this work was expected to be around £2m pa), several hundred schemes), Streets Ahead Opportunities works plus the extensive investment programmes by the utilities as they repair and replace their pipes and cables across the City and then flood schemes, watercourse reinstatements, Supertram track replacements and now the Tour de France. It is good news that the programme shifts to accommodate other work.

Performance Update

Most areas have performed well. The Council client staff have continued to be impressed by the responsiveness of Amey in dealing with defects. So when problems on the road network are raised Amey have worked very hard to repair any defects and give a good customer service.

We have identified a suite of key metrics that are published by the Council monthly. The figures for January 2014 are below and they show how well

Amey are performing. This information is now published monthly on the Councils web site at <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/business-economy/contracts/scc/major-contracts.html>

Monthly Metrics: January 2014

Service: Immediate Response	No. of Requests for Service	% Achievement within Contractual Timescales
Grounds Maintenance	16	100%
Highways	1169	100%
Street Lighting	57	96.49%
Structures	0	100%
Traffic Signals/ITS	142	100%
Street Cleaning	68	100%

Service: Non-Immediate Response	No. of Requests for Service	% Achievement within Contractual Timescales
Grounds Maintenance	40	100%
Highways	322	100%
Street Lighting	1,685	99.94%
Structures	2	50%
Traffic Signals/ITS	430	99.30%
Street Cleaning	1185	99.92%

Health and Safety

Amey has Health and Safety at the very top of its priorities and that is reflected in their performance. Accidents to staff and the public remain low and each incident and close call leads to a thorough investigation and lessons learnt. The Health and Safety Executive have worked with Amey and visited many of their sites across the City.

Trees

To engage with local MPs, Cllrs and the wider community there have been 2 tree events held in the Town Hall on 31 March and 3 April. Trees have proven to be an emotional topic with opinion divided between those who love the trees and those who hate them. The removal of trees has been objected to by some of the public but more often the public request further removals. The total number of trees removed so far is **980** and all of these have already been replaced. All removal requests are approved by Council staff.

Winter

This winter has been much milder than last seasons exceptionally poor weather. This has led to many more border line decisions on whether to precautionary salt or not and we are pleased to report that those decisions have so far proved to be correct. .

Street Cleaning

The high standard of cleaning in the city centre has been sustained throughout of late with cyclical works continuing, allowing reactive enquiries to be resolved within respective contractual timescales. Street washing has now been completed in many key areas in the City centre including before the opening of the new Moor market. We expect to launch a new Litter campaign very soon.

Street Lighting

To date over 5,500 columns had been installed. There are currently over 99% of the City's lights working which represents an increase from contract commencement.

Grass Cutting

The first cut of the season of the City's 2,900,000 sq m of grass verges has commenced early due to the milder weather with good feedback coming from the public

Complaints from the public

Some of the key issues are:

- Trees – as noted above the complaints are about either removing or not removing trees.
- Zone resurfacing – it has been difficult to deliver the works on the exact dates in the programme and that has understandably caused inconvenience to the public
- Street Lighting – the excavation holes have often taken longer to backfill than expected and that means the barriers protecting the holes are left in place for extended periods.

3 What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?

The Streets Ahead project is the biggest project to happen in the City and will affect every area. With an expected resurfacing of 70% of the City's roads in the first 5 years there will inevitably be some disruption. However at the end of this time the City's roads will have jumped from being one of the worst in the county to one of the best. The City's look and feel will be transformed and not only this there will be additional measurable benefits.

In the recent National Highways and Transportation survey Sheffield was the only Council that saw an improvement in the public satisfaction in the condition of the highways. The improvement was small but all other non-London authorities saw that indicator fall.

4. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to consider the contents of the note and invited to ask any questions at the Scrutiny meeting.

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