

POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Monday 14 November 2022 by the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee.

Item No

8. ASYLUM DISPERSAL GRANT

8.1 The government have made provision for an Asylum Dispersal Grant to be paid to Local Authorities, along with additional funding to 'recognise the existing contribution and longstanding support' of local authorities accommodating asylum seekers.

The purpose of the report sought endorsement by the committee of the proposed allocation of funding from the grant to support development of capacity to promote strong city leadership, a stepping-stone towards growth within the VCFS and strategic work to ensure a good quality, consistent and effective response to those seeking asylum and refuge in the city

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

1. Endorses the use of the Asylum Dispersal Grant and Asylum Dispersal funding to be utilised as detailed in this report, with the purpose of:
 - Providing funding for the continuation of the current Communities Asylum & Migration team function to continue beyond March 2023.
 - Supporting identified partners to provide strategically important, good quality services known to benefit those seeking asylum and sanctuary.
 - Provide an Open Grant Pot for bids from a broad range of organisations working for the benefit of the asylum and refugee community.

2. Approves the Council acting as accountable body for this purpose.

8.3 Reasons for Decision

8.3.1 Given what we know about current numbers in the national, and local asylum estate, retention of refugees in the city and the importance of developing support for refugees to achieve socio-economic success, it is vital that we look beyond short-term demand regarding placement and care of asylum seekers in the city.

8.3.2 This funding is an opportunity to think not only operationally, but strategically to maximise impact for the city in the longer term.

8.3.3 This funding will be significant to enable systemic change and an important step

in placing the foundations for an integrated, prosperous, inclusive city.

- 8.3.4 The recommendation will support development of capacity to promote strong city leadership, a stepping-stone towards growth within the VCFS and strategic work to ensure a good quality, consistent and effective response to those seeking asylum and refuge in the city.

8.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 8.4.1 The Asylum Dispersal Grant will enable Sheffield to begin to address systemic inequality between asylum seekers and those who have sought refugee status and sanctuary via other routes of entry, including provision of wrap support for this vulnerable group. Given the clear benefit, other potential action e.g. to decline the funding, was rejected.

9. **BUDGET POSITION FOR YEAR 2023/2024**

- 9.1 The report updated the Policy Committee on the progress of the 2023/24 budget process.

The appendix contained specific budget proposals that the Committee were asked to endorse.

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

1. Note the update on the Council's 2023/24 budget position.
2. Endorse the budget proposals set out in Appendix 1.

9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 9.3.1 The Council is required by law to set a balanced budget each year. This report is pursuant to that objective and is in line with the process and timetable agreed by the Strategy and Resources Committee on 31 May 2022 and 5 July 2022.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 9.4.1 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.

10. **PLAYZONES FUNDING APPLICATION SITE SELECTION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT APPROACH**

- 10.1 The report sought approval of a site selection and community engagement approach for the PlayZones funding programme.

A PlayZones funding stream was launched by the Football Foundation in 2022, the funding is used to create safe, inclusive, and accessible outdoor sports facilities that bring communities together through recreational forms of football and a range of other sports and physical activities. The fund will enable the refurbishment and creation of multi use games areas across the City.

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

1. Approve the proposed approach to:
 - a. site selection as set out in the report.
 - b. community engagement outlined in the report.

2. Notes:
 - a. the proposed consortium approach to the development of the funding application.
 - b. that a final list of sites will be reported to the Communities, Parks and Leisure Committee.
 - c. that if secured, any capital funding associated with this funding will be presented to the Strategy and Resources Committee for approval.

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 10.3.1 The Football Foundation Playzones Programme provides an opportunity for us to increase the quality and usability of a significant number of multi-use games areas across the city.
- 10.3.2 The PlayZones programme will enable us to provide facilities and activities for communities and target groups who currently face barriers to getting active. This will enable us to tackle inequalities.
- 10.3.3 The site selection and community engagement approach outlined in the above report is required to ensure we identify the most feasible sites that can reach our target groups; are supported by local communities; are able to be effectively activated via our partner organisations and can pass the through planning and design phase successfully.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 10.4.1 The option of not applying for the PlayZones programme has been considered. This has been rejected as it would mean we do not secure a significant amount of investment into Sheffield outdoor sport facilities, which is a key priority in our Sport and Leisure Strategy. The condition of multi-use games areas would not be improved, gaps in provision could not be resolved and those communities who most need these facilities and their activation would miss out on this opportunity.

11. **UPDATE ON SPORT/LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT COMMISSIONING**

- 11.1 The report provided an update to members of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Committee on progress made towards implementing the outcomes of the Leisure Review Report which was approved by the Co-operative Executive in November 2021. Including progress towards appointing a new operator for

Sport, Leisure and Entertainment Venues from September 2024.

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

1. That members of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Committee note the content of the report, including the envisaged approach to procurement and the inclusion of social outcome requirements within the Specification for Services.

11.3 **Reasons for Decision**

11.3.1 It is expected that development of the Procurement Strategy and detailed Specification for Services will help to enhance the offer to customers and communities. An improved offer will attract and retain increased participation and usage of venues.

11.3.2 The Leisure Review approved in November 2021 has shown that the procurement of an external partner from 2024 is the most financially advantageous and returns the highest level of income to the Council.

11.3.3 The external procurement exercise will also provide a greater level of financial certainty as a management fee will be set as part of the contract procurement and financial risk can be transferred to the external partner.

11.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

11.4.1 The Council has reviewed three possible options for the future management of facilities. This included in house, a Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) and appointment of an external partner. The in house and LATC options were not selected as they are more expensive and present a greater level of financial uncertainty and risk to the Council.

12. **PROPOSAL FOR 2024/2025 ALLOTMENT RENTS**

12.1 The report sought approval for an increase in allotment rent and water charges for 2024/2025 by 5.5% (an increase below current inflation).

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

1. That the rent for allotments in 2024/2025 is increased by 5.5%
2. That this increase is at a below-inflation increase for 2024/2025 only, due to the current cost of living crisis.

12.3 **Reasons for Decision**

12.3.1 The recommendation to increase the rents by 5.5% in 2024/25 protects the delivery of the service to a degree, whilst taking account of the results of consultation.

12.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

12.4.1 Rents could be left at the same level. However due to inflation this would effectively be akin to a reduction in budget; quite a significant one due to the current high level of inflation. This was rejected because the current allotment budget is not felt to be larger than needed. A significant reduction in budget would decrease the level of service and site improvements.

12.4.2 An increase of 9.4% in line with inflation was initially considered, however this was rejected following the outcomes of consultation.

12.4.3 Rents could be increased by a larger amount, but this would go against the outcomes of the consultation. Considering the results of the consultation questionnaire in January 2018, discussions at the Allotment Advisory Group, the survey of October 2022 and the need to deliver the service, an increase of 5.5% (below inflation) has emerged as the overall preferred option.

13. **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - MONTH 6**

13.1 This report brought the Committee up to date with the Council's financial position as at Month 6 2022/23.

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

1. Note the Council's financial position as at the end of September 2022 (month 6).

13.3 **Reasons for Decision**

13.3.1 The paper is to brought the committee up to date with the Council's current financial position as at Month 6 2022/23.

13.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

13.4.1 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.