

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee

Meeting held 13 March 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Richard Williams (Chair), Paul Wood (Deputy Chair), Marieanne Elliot (Group Spokesperson), Sue Alston, Tony Downing, Alan Hooper, Bernard Little, Karen McGowan and Peter Price

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 No apologies were received.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on **6 February 2023** were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 There were no public questions or petitions received.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

6.1 The Principal Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which contained the Committee's work programme for consideration and discussion. The aim of the work programme was to show all known, substantive agenda items for forthcoming meetings of the Committee, to enable this committee, other committees, officers, partners, and the public to plan their work with and for the committee.

6.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That:-

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

for inclusion in Part 2 of Appendix 1 of the next work programme report, for potential addition to the work programme.

7. BEREAVEMENT FEES AND CHARGES

- 7.1 The Head of Service for Coronial and Bereavement Services introduced the item which outlined the Bereavement Services team proposal to increase fees by 4% for burials, cremations and memorials from 1st April 2023, with some exceptions (as outlined within the report).

The purpose of the report was to provide detail on, and seek agreement for, the proposed price increases.

- 7.2 An amendment was proposed, seconded and discussed by the Committee to add the following text following the word "report" and before the full stop: "with the exception that the additional fee for coffins at 600mm – 7600mm shall not be applied". This proposed amendment was not passed. The result of the vote on the proposal to amend the substantive recommendation was **FOR** - 5 Members; **AGAINST** - 5 Members; **ABSTENTIONS** – 0 Members

- 7.3 A vote was then taken on the substantive recommendation unamended which was passed. The result of the vote was **FOR** - 5 Members; **AGAINST** - 1 Member; **ABSTENTIONS** – 3 Members.

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

1. Agree a general 4% increase (rounded up) to all Bereavement Services fees and charges from 1st April 2023, alongside the specific changes listed within the report.

7.5 Reasons for Decision

- 7.5.1 Raising fees as outlined is recommended in order to minimise the impact delivery cost increases will have on the service delivered to customers.

7.6 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

- 7.6.1 Not increasing fees would lead to a significant reduction in the quality of services provided.

- 7.6.2 Increasing fees by more than 4% to match inflation would be beneficial for the development and delivery of the service but would provide an additional financial burden on bereaved customers when accessing this essential service at a time when cost of living is already increasing significantly.

8. LIBRARY THEATRE FEES

- 8.1 The Service Manager introduced the report which sought approval for the proposed increase in hire fees for the use of the Library Theatre, to reflect increasing cost pressures and the need to ensure financial sustainability for the future.

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

1. Approve the proposed Scale of Charges for the Library Theatre to take effect from June 2023 set out at paragraph 1.6 of the Report.

8.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 8.3.1 It is recommended that Committee approve proposed increase to Library Theatre Hire Fees.
- 8.3.2 It is recommended that this increase comes into effect 3 months after Committee make their decision.

8.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 8.4.1 The option of keeping fees at their current level was considered. However, this would put the Library Theatre in a situation where it will cease to cover its running costs and will no longer be financially viable. Removing the Library Theatre as a venue would reduce the options for lower priced venues and have a particular impact on amateur dramatic and community group performances.
- 8.4.2 The Library Theatre's bar prices have been increased to raise revenue and reflect increasing costs of stocking the bar. However, this is not a viable alternative option for the longer term, as the bar cannot generate sufficient revenue on its own to cover the wider increased running costs.

9. **BIODIVERSITY WORKING TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

- 9.1 The Head of Parks and Countryside introduced the report which sought approval to appoint a Task and Finish Group to oversee work to respond to the declaration of a Nature Emergency in Sheffield. Membership will be drawn initially from the Communities, Parks, and Leisure Policy Committee. The Terms of Reference of the Group were appended to the report.
- 9.2 Some discussion and suggestions took place around policy development, timings around establishing the group membership, measurable improvements, nature emergency, work already undertaken, next steps, working with community groups, ecology team expertise, involvement of LACs and other policy committees, green and open spaces forum.
- 9.3 It was suggested that the Task and Finish group will roll into the next cycle of committees but that preparatory work can be begin immediately. It was noted that there may be a change to the date stated in the recommendation in consultation with the Chair.
- 9.4 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the **Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee:-**

1. Approve the appointment of a Task and Finish Group on the terms of reference at Appendix A to oversee work to respond to the Nature

Emergency declared by Sheffield City Council on 16th June 2021.

9.5 Reasons for Decision

9.5.1 The Task and Finish Group will bring together a small, focused group of members to examine key challenges around the nature emergency and provide clear advice and direction to officers developing an action plan for the Council and city. Cross party representation will mean that political agreement is reached at an early stage of the process allowing the strategy to progress. The group will feed back advice given, and progress on the work programme to the Policy Committee, so the Committee can make informed decisions on any future actions.

9.6 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

9.6.1 An alternative would be to deliver a series of Knowledge Briefings for the Policy Committee. This was rejected as it would not enable constructive debate and advice to be provided to officers.

10. CITY GOALS BRIEFING

10.1 The Director of Economy, Skills and Culture gave a presentation which provided the Committee with information on why City Goals are needed, what City Goals could do for Sheffield, what would be different, principles, what the goals could look like, what other places are doing, process to date, Member engagement, project overview and what is needed from Members.

10.2 Members gave comments and asked questions. Responses were provided around makeup of the City Partnership Board, collaborative working, presentation to LAC chairs and accessible language.

10.3 It was explained that the work is about partners coming together collaboratively and it was clarified that there is an invitation to shape the City Goals. A future detailed briefing on the City Partnership Board was offered to provide further information to Members and it was agreed to distribute some information about this too.

10.4 Clarification was sought on when LAC Chairs were presented to. It was explained that the exact dates this took place would be reported back.

11. YOUTH STRATEGY UPDATE

11.1 The Head of Youth Services gave a presentation which gave the Committee a 'Year One Update' on Youth Services. The presentation provided information on the new structure and its benefits to young residents, Sheffielders shape services, thriving and resilient young Sheffielders, ambitious, relevant and connected leadership, confident, skilled and contemporary workforce and lastly, additional success.

11.2 Members gave comments and asked questions. Responses were provided around working with communities, lead officers assigned to LAC's, achievements to date, opportunities and youth worker sessions.

12. COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATE

- 12.1 The Head of Communities gave a presentation which gave the Committee information on Team Around the Person (TAP), what it is, the Vision for TAP, TAP referrals, key statistics, risk factors, adult social care, demographics, benefits, overview, aims and objectives, gathering the TAP members, successful outcomes and personal outcomes.
- 12.2 Members gave comments and asked questions. Responses were provided around interventions for vulnerable people, partnership work, referrals, agency support, timings of interventions and how the TAP way of working is driven forwards.

13. LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES UPDATE

- 13.1 The Service Manager introduced the update paper which provided the Committee with an interim update on the feedback from customers and residents on the proposed changes to Library opening times planned from 01 April 2023.
- 13.2 Members gave comments and asked questions. Responses were provided around a start date for the change, reviewing, footfall, tracking of borrowing of books and next stages of planned implementation.
- 13.3 It was explained that further information would be reported back in forthcoming months.