

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday 31 May 2023 by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee.

### Item No

#### 8. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2023/24

- 8.1 The Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement submitted a report stating that 2023/24 is a significant year for Sheffield and we have an unprecedented opportunity, alongside our communities and partners, to set out a new vision and plan for the future of our city. But to be an effective, collaborative and connected leader and partner, we need to continue our improvement journey as an organisation, learning from the recent independent reviews of SCC and delivering for the people of Sheffield.

This report sets out: 1. The progress made through our Corporate Delivery Plan and improvement journey in the last year, recognising that this has been the first phase and there is much still to do; 2. The need to develop and reset our Strategy Framework for the Council, connecting our developing City Goals with a new Corporate Plan and key cornerstone strategies which give Members, staff and the people of Sheffield a clear statement from our organisation of our values, what we want to achieve and how we will deliver; and 3. The key opportunities, issues and decisions that we will need to address in the coming year to continue our progress and deliver for our communities.

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

(a) notes the progress of the council's improvement journey, recognising that, in line with the Lowcock and LGA reviews, there is significant work for SCC to do;

(b) endorses the proposal to develop a new Corporate Plan by autumn 2023, in line with the decision made at Strategy and Resources Committee on 15th March 2023 committing to the recommendations set out in the LGA Peer Challenge Action Plan;

(c) agrees to work across Policy Committees to address the key issues and decisions identified in section 3 of the report, recognising the importance of these issues to our communities and to the city's success;

(d) notes the work that is underway on the Future Sheffield transformation programme, and that the Strategy and Resources Committee will be the lead committee for this work; and

(e) agrees to the establishment of a cross-party working group for Future Sheffield, led by the Deputy Leader.

### 8.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 8.3.1 The recommendations are critical steps in continuing the Council's strategic development and improvement and leading the change that we need to undertake as an organisation.

### 8.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 8.4.1 (a) Not writing a strategic framework paper – this was rejected because it would not have provided committee members with an overview of the key challenges and opportunities for the year ahead.
- 8.4.2 (b) Bringing forward a full Corporate Plan at this stage in place of the strategic framework – this option was rejected as it would have precluded the level of consultation and engagement needed to produce a credible corporate plan. As set out in this paper and in the LGA Peer Challenge report, a corporate plan remains essential for the organisation and it is proposed that this paper acts as a 'staging post' to producing a full corporate plan during the autumn.

## 9. **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT 2023**

- 9.1 To outline for Strategy and Resources Committee the near final version of the 2023 Director of Public Health Report for Sheffield.

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

(a) notes the 2023 Annual Report of Greg Fell, Director of Public Health, Sheffield and the COVID-19 Pandemic. What did we learn?, appended as part of this report;

(b) further notes that in the Annual Report The Director makes specific recommendations as below:

(1) Data saves lives - In advance of another pandemic, we need to have immediate data access permissions that we managed to establish over the course of COVID to avoid any delay in getting the vital data to be able to give information to decision makers what is happening and to direct both policy and operational response.

(2) the scope of planning for pandemics and exercising - When planning for, exercising for and responding in future pandemics, we need to think about how the whole of the city is impacted, particularly with reference to those with poorest health and every sector has a role in the planning and response. Pandemic planning should include planning for communication infrastructure, maintaining education systems, job retention, economic resilience, community engagement, ensuring robust sick pay policies, systems for distribution of food and medicines. These activities are as important as modelling, stockpiling of PPE and ventilators and NHS resilience.

(3) the response cannot ignore the structural determinants of how infection

spreads and poor outcomes - Planning, preparation, policy and operational response must not ignore the structural determinants of health that amplify and sustain chains of transmission, and thus outcomes;

(c) notes that the Council will publish the finalised report in due course; and

(d) requests that the Director of Public Health write to Central Government on behalf of the Committee to emphasise the need to have immediate data access permissions to avoid any delay in getting the vital data to be able to give information to decision makers what is happening and to direct both policy and operational response.

### 9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

9.3.1 As is traditional in DPH reports, an effort is made to focus on a small number of high level recommendations. There will be another global pandemic. It is impossible to predict when. It is thus important to learn from the covid pandemic. It was, to date, the preeminent emergency of our lifetimes. The learning and reflection exercise has been conducted in various ways both within individual service areas, across organisations in the city as a whole and across South Yorkshire.

### 9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

9.4.1 None.

## 10. **ALL AGE AUTISM STRATEGY**

10.1 Sheffield's All-Age Autism Strategy sets the scene for supporting Sheffield to become an Autism friendly city. It is positive, ambitious, and focussed on delivering change in partnership and collaboration. The Strategy will be underpinned by an annually updated delivery plan which will have clear objectives and outcomes anticipated. This will be a partnership document, and a range of organisations will continue together to the delivery of the Strategy's objectives.

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

(a) approves the All-Age Autism Strategy as detailed in the report now submitted; and

(b) requests that an update is brought to the Adult Health and Social Care and Education, Children & Families Policy Committees in six months' time, along with an update of progress made on delivery actions.

### 10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

10.3.1 The strategy is a positive development for the city and will enable partner organisations to work together to develop an Autism friendly city.

10.3.2 Approving the strategy demonstrates the Committee's commitment to partnership working across the City to improve citizens outcomes and experiences.

10.3.3 Approving the strategy also ensures the Council is fully compliant in its duties and responsibilities around Autism and is making a commitment to fulfil the priorities co-produced with local people to develop our approach to improving the quality of life and health outcomes for autistic people in Sheffield.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

10.4.1 Do Nothing: No alternative options have been considered as the Autism Strategy is a statutory requirement set out in the Autism Act 2009