

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Monday 20 November 2023 by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee.

Item No

9. SAFEGUARDING PEOPLE - ANNUAL REPORTS

(a) Domestic and Sexual Abuse Annual Report

9.1a The Director of Public Health submitted a report proposing that the first Annual Report of work on Addressing Domestic and Sexual Abuse / Violence Against Women and Girls is accepted and endorsed.

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

(a) that the Annual Report on Addressing Domestic and Sexual Abuse / Violence Against Women and Girls 2022/23 be noted and endorsed; and

(b) that the Annual Report's recommendations be considered during the development of the new Domestic and Sexual Abuse / Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for the city which will be developed in consultation with partners and stakeholders over the coming year.

9.3a Reasons for Decision

9.3.1a This is the first annual report produced on the work undertaken on addressing domestic and sexual abuse / violence against women and girls. The report illustrates the range of initiatives and commissioned services that are in place. It highlights the outcomes of commissioned providers, the work undertaken in relation to statutory duties and strategic achievements. It also illustrates the findings of an independent assessment of the city's responses to domestic abuse.

9.3.2a The report describes how services are under pressure and that demand is likely to grow as public awareness increases. It proposes that limited resources mean that innovative solutions to meeting needs must be identified and suggests that the development of guided self help resources and a network of community champions may help to mitigate the resource gaps evident. It also recommends the ongoing commitment to campaigns such as White Ribbon as a framework for addressing violence against women and girls and achieving lasting change in attitudes and behaviour across the city.

9.3.3a It also recommends that business cases are developed for further investment various support elements that are currently under pressure:

- support for children and young people to recover from the impact of abuse
- therapeutic support to aid the recovery of adults such as counselling services
- behaviour change programmes for perpetrators
- community based domestic abuse support for adults

9.3.4a It is recommended that these issues are considered during the development of the new Domestic and Sexual Abuse / Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for the city which will be developed in consultation with partners and stakeholders over the coming year.

9.4a **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

9.4.1a The alternative would be not to have completed an annual report.

(b) Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 21/22 & 22/23

9.1b The Director of Children's Services submitted a report presenting the Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership Annual Reports for 21/22 and 22/23, outlining the continuing progress in the multi-agency work to protect and safeguard children and young people at risk in Sheffield.

Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP) is made up of the following three local safeguarding partners:

- Sheffield City Council: represented by the Director of Children's Services
- NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board: represented by the Chief Nurse
- South Yorkshire Police: represented by the Chief Superintendent District Commander.

The three partners must publish a yearly report setting out the work they have undertaken that year. The attached Annual Reports covers the periods from April 2021 through to March 2022 and April 2022 through to March 2023.

Both annual reports set out how the SCSP have reviewed the partnership's ambition, strategy and key business priorities over the 12-month reporting period.

Both reports provide details of the following areas:

- Priorities, progress and impact
- Dissemination and embedding of learning.
- Conclusion and next steps

The key priorities for 2021-22 were identified as far back as 2019/20 and over the last two years against a background of the Covid 19 pandemic these have continued to roll forward. As outlined in the SCSP 22-23 Annual Report, there has been a huge amount of work undertaken across the city and progress made with regards to meeting the key priority areas.

It was noted that the reports had already been considered by the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee.

9.2b **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee notes the contents of the annual reports (appendices 1-3).

9.3b **Reasons for Decision**

9.3.1b It is important that the Committee are aware of the work of the Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Partnership and the content of the Annual Reports.

9.4b **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

9.4.1b None. Under Working Together 2018 – paragraphs 21-46, all safeguarding partners must publish a report at least once in every 12-month period.

(c) Adults Safeguarding Annual Report 22/23

9.1c The Director of Adult Wellbeing and Care submitted a report providing the Sheffield Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2022/23 for endorsement by Committee.

The Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership (SASP) is a strategic, multi-agency partnership that brings together statutory and non-statutory organisations to actively promote effective working relationships between different agencies and professionals to address the issue of abuse and harm. The Safeguarding Adults Executive leads and holds individual agencies to account, to ensure adults in Sheffield are supported and protected from abuse and neglect.

It was noted that the report had already been considered by the Adult, Health and Social Care Policy Committee.

9.2c **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee notes the Sheffield Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2022/23.

9.3c **Reasons for Decision**

9.3.1c An endorsed Annual Report gives the public assurance that the Partnership is delivering upon its commitment to protect people from abuse and harm. It will also provide greater accountability and transparency of how will do this.

9.3.2c Asking for the Annual report to be considered at Strategy and Resources Committee will keep the Committee, wider stakeholders, and the public the ability to support increased awareness and understanding of Safeguarding.

9.4c **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

9.4.1c This is an update on previously endorsed delivery plan in line with recommendations approved at Committee. No alternatives options are available due to this.

10. COMMUNITY RE-USE OF STEEL CONTAINERS

10.1 The Executive Director Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on the future use of the steel containers from the former Fargate Container park project for approval, in line with the decision made at Strategy and Resources Committee on 24 January 2023.

This report sets out the process used to determine their future use. It describes how individual organisations bidding for their use have been selected as preferred recipients of the eight containers, and notes that the Executive Director for Neighbourhood Services will, following approval of the uses, proceed to confirm those recipients.

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

(a) notes and approves the future uses of the containers, described in the report; and

(b) notes that the Executive Director for Neighbourhood Services enter into agreements to provide containers for reuse, with:

- Friends of Glen Howe Park
- Hallam and Redmire Rangers FC
- Hillsborough Arena
- Sheffield Wednesday Football Club Community Programme
- St Wilfred's Centre
- Wisewood Juniors FC

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

10.3.1 An assessment panel made up of professional officers with experience in dealing with community and construction projects, as well as Councillors from the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee, came to the conclusion that the six preferred projects most closely met the desired outcomes defined by the published criteria. The six projects chosen will help support the community organisations develop and grow their offers for the local community. All the preferred projects will be deliverable construction projects that can be funded by the organisations bidding for them. Overall, the risk of the container projects not being successful was low.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

10.4.1 There were five expressions of interest that weren't selected. The overall scoring for the six preferred projects was higher. Selecting the lower scoring projects would have resulted in an unfair process and a perception the Council weren't being transparent in their decision making.

10.4.2 If the preferred uses are not deemed suitable by the committee, the council could choose to re-run the expression of interest process with a different set of criteria, however it is unknown whether this would generate any different outcomes to the type of projects which have come forward already, as the distribution of the opportunities was extensively communicated.

11. **ESTABLISHING A NEW PARTNER CITY POLICY**

11.1 The Executive Director City Futures submitted a report in respect of the establishment of a new Partner City Policy.

Sheffield City Council does not currently have any formal Policy in place in respect of responding to approaches to establish new international relationships through such mechanisms as Twinning (sometimes referred to as Sister City agreements), through to entering into such things as Friendship or Collaborative agreements.

The Council regularly receives approaches to forge new relationships, whether this is to enter into specific agreements or simply to host a visiting delegation.

There is a need for clear objectives and decision-making criteria for entering into any Twinning / Sister City agreements or developing new less formal international links; identifying outputs and outcomes and the potential to link with key partners to help achieve wider benefits for the city and its residents.

With limited time and resources, deciding on what opportunities to pursue, requires transparent and consistent decision-making criteria. Such criteria should provide quantifiable value to the City and its residents, and be kept under review. Whilst we may choose to maintain existing relationships, new opportunities for city partnership working will inevitably arise. Given Sheffield's broad range of existing international links, with a variety of terminology in place, the purpose of this report is to propose the creation of a clear Partner City Policy, so called to ensure consideration of each of these different types of arrangements, and to provide a framework.

11.2 RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

(a) approves the proposals for a Partner City Policy, as set out within Appendix 1 of the report now submitted; and

(b) authorises the General Counsel and Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Executive Director City Futures to finalise the policy based upon the proposals (as currently set out within Appendix 1) and any observations made by the Committee.

11.3 Reasons for Decision

11.3.1 Implementation of a Partner City Policy, once approved, would seek to address a current gap within the Council's procedures, ensuring that there is a degree of rigour in our assessment of new approaches and that decisions are taken that are fully informed.

11.3.2 Intended outcomes are such that where Sheffield chooses to enter into new international partnerships, the new relationship will have been thoroughly considered in respect of such aspects as: existing synergies; the potential benefits to each party; resource requirements; reputational aspects and potential alignment to key stakeholder activities and strategies.

11.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

11.4.1 The alternative option is to retain the status quo and not have any form of stated policy. For the reasons outlined elsewhere in this report, this is not considered be an appropriate position to continue with, either for the Council, nor for any potential

cities that may wish to consider entering into a formal relationship with the City.

12. THE SHEFFIELD PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT

12.1 The Director of Public Health submitted a report describing how the ring-fenced Public Health Grant is allocated; outlining the purpose, scope, and progress of the Public Health Grant Review; and seeking approval of a recommended approach to grant expenditure in relation to contract spend and inflation, particularly in relation to staffing costs.

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

(a) notes the current allocation of Public Health Grant, the uplift in the Public Health Grant for 2023/2024 and the accompanying technical guidance and note the progress of Public Health Grant Review;

(b) approves the principle that, as set out in this report and in accordance with the principles set out in the technical guidance, some of the uplifted grant should be used to increase payments for services commissioned from NHS bodies from the Public Health Grant, wherever contractual arrangements allow, by 3.5%; and

(c) approves the principle that, as set out in this report, some of the uplifted grant should be used to increase payments for services commissioned from VCF bodies from the Public Health Grant, wherever contractual arrangements allow, by 3.5%

12.3 Reasons for Decision

12.3.1 The recommendations are consistent with the technical guidance issued by the Department for Health and Social Care alongside the grant settlement. They also ensure parity of treatment between different providers delivering services funded from the Public Health Grant.

12.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

12.4.1 Strategy and Resources Policy Committee could decide to provide a 3.5% increase only to the NHS in line with technical guidance. This is not recommended.

13. COUNCIL'S CONSENT FOR THE POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER POWERS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE MAYOR

13.1 The Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement presented a report setting out details of a proposal from the Mayor of South Yorkshire that the powers of the Police and Crime Commissioner ("PCC") should be held by the Mayor following the conclusion of the current PCC's term of office in May 2024.

This transfer of powers requires secondary legislation to be made by Parliament and the consent of all four constituent Councils within the Mayoral Combined Authority, of which Sheffield is one. This report seeks the consent of Sheffield City Council to the transfer of powers, resulting in the abolition of the role of the Police

and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire from May 2024.

This change would also give the Council's consent to the alignment of the Mayoral election cycle with the current PCC election cycle. This would result in the next Mayoral election taking place in May 2024 (and thereby reducing the Mayoral term of office by two years,) with the Mayor holding the PCC powers from that point.

13.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee gives Sheffield City Council's consent to:-

(a) the making of an order to provide for the Mayor of South Yorkshire to exercise functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner ("PCC") in relation to South Yorkshire with effect from May 2024; and

(b) the reduction of the current Mayoral term by two years so as to align with the PCC election cycle in May 2024.

13.3 **Reasons for Decision**

13.3.1 It is recommended that Sheffield City Council provides its support for the transfer of PCC powers to the South Yorkshire Mayor as this will secure the following benefits for the people and communities of Sheffield:

- Create one single accountable, elected politician to represent the interests of communities on South Yorkshire wide issues, whilst also strengthening the opportunities to improve political scrutiny in line with the recently published English Devolution Accountability Framework.
- Deepen collaborative working to further address issues including substance misuse, mental ill health crisis, serious violence – to include gender-based violence, economic crime, anti-social behaviour, road safety and re-offending.
- Realise efficiencies from shared corporate support services and joint business planning to release enhanced funding for frontline policing delivery.

13.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

13.4.1 The only alternative option is for Sheffield City Council to withhold its consent. This was dismissed as it would not secure the benefits of integrating the PCC and mayoral powers as set out in paragraphs 2.4 to 2.6 of the report now submitted.