

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Strategy and Resources Policy Committee

Meeting held 13 December 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Tom Hunt (Chair), Angela Argenzio, Penny Baker, Dawn Dale, Dianne Hurst (Group Spokesperson), Douglas Johnson (Group Spokesperson), Ben Miskell, Shaffaq Mohammed (Group Spokesperson), Zahira Naz, Joe Otten, Martin Smith, Richard Williams and Minesh Parekh (Substitute Member)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fran Belbin.

2. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

2.1 It was noted that the appendix to the report at item 13 was not available to the public or press because it contained exempt information. If Members wished to discuss the exempt information, the Committee would ask the members of the public and press to kindly leave for that part of the meeting and the webcast would be paused.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the previous meetings held on 20 November 2023 were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 Russell Johnson attended to present the following questions that he had submitted:
The Plaque: At May FC and June S&RPC, as part of the Lowcock response, SCC agreed to the installation of a plaque in the Town Hall entrance which would be, in the words of the Officer who authored the Report: ‘... in recognition of those who fought for our environmental heritage and were vindicated, and to serve as a reminder to all elected members that this failure of leadership will never happen again,’ This, the Committee Report stated, is expected by March 2024

(a) Please would Cllr Hunt provide today a progress report of the procurement, costings, consultations on wording and expected installation date for the promised plaque, and account for any anticipated failure to meet the time scale.

(b) Please would the Leader share with interested members of the public any plans or preparations for the unveiling ceremony of the Plaque, including consulting citizens and Elected Members on this matter?

Answer: We are on schedule to unveil the plaque on the 6th March. The detail of the unveiling ceremony is still to be confirmed and we will make the public aware of the details

We have a design completed by our Capital Delivery Service which we have shared for informal feedback with key stakeholders, including Sheffield Street Tree Partnership, Sheffield Tree Action Groups and Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee members. Further work is now underway with Sheffield Tree Action Groups to develop the plaque design, which will be taken through a public consultation process prior to sign off, ready for manufacture and installation by 6th March 2024. We are aiming for completion of the design in early January to then start public consultation, ready to manufacture in February. Until the designs have been agreed we are unable to provide the actual cost however we will be within the original budget agreed by S&R Committee. Other than officer time no costs have been incurred so far.

The Lowcock Actions: At the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee on 19 June of this year, the Council agreed that: 'the Committee should agree a budget of up to £50,000 to support the work set out above.' (the 'suite of actions').

Please would the Leader, without of course revealing any names, and in the interests of transparency in accounting for public monies, put on record the breakdown of expenditures from that allocation to date? Does the Leader anticipate requesting authority for an additional amount, as previously suggested may be required?

Answer: The report considered by Strategy and Resources Committee in June 2023 made provision for a sum of up to £50,000 to be used specifically to support actions arising from the apology process and for the costs of the installation of the Town Hall plaque. That report noted that the costs associated with the reimbursement of those who had paid their financial court orders was accounted for within the costs that had previously been set aside for the running of the inquiry and therefore did not need to be found from the £50,000 allocated by the committee in June.

To date, the apology process itself has incurred no costs other than officer time, and the work on the plaque has not yet reached a point where costs are due. As described in the answer to question 1, the plaque is due to be manufactured and installed during the first part of 2024 (following consultation) and therefore costs will fall due at that point. We will make public a summary of these costs once known. There will be some external spend on using independent investigators resulting from complaints made arising from the issues raised in the Inquiry Report. When finalised those costs will be made public.

The Personal Apologies - There are a number of people who have not received the promised apologies as a result of the wrong actions of Members and Officers during the scandalous destruction of 5000 street trees as described by Sir Mark Lowcock.

- (a) Is this because of a reluctance to use contact emails already held for the likely recipients?
- (b) If so, has SCC asked their chosen 'representative' organisation of Tree

Defenders ('STAG') to contact their members seeking requests for apologies and permission to use email addresses? If not, why not?

(c) Is Cllr Hunt and the Senior Officer cadre aware that many people in the City are understandably sceptical of the Council's new 'core value' - 'openness and honesty are important to us', suspecting that this, and perhaps the two other 'values' as well, are little more than window-dressing?

(d) Do they recognise that such views are amplified by, for example, the apparent absence of accountability associated with the recent 'Containergate' debacle, the inexplicable 'Rose Garden Café' saga and continuing extraordinary delays in FOIR and complaints handling?

Answer to a and b: Strategy and Resources Committee agreed at their 19 June meeting as part of their consideration of the Lowcock report that the apology process would work on the basis of "self-identification".

This means that anyone who wished to receive an apology, who wasn't included in one of the categories specified in the Lowcock report, would be asked to come forward to request an apology rather than the Council coming to its own judgement about whether or not an apology would be welcomed. This was done for both the practical reason that the Council does not hold contact details for everyone who may wish an apology and because self-identification also mitigates the risk of contacting people who do not wish to hear from the Council and would find the contact upsetting or inappropriate. The process followed was set out in detail at Appendix C of the paper considered by the committee in June.

Answer to c: The Council's values were developed neither by Elected Members nor by senior officers. They were developed by staff from right across the council and reflect the behaviours and ways of working that we expect from everyone in the organisation. Our values are fundamental to the sort of organisation we want to be for the future. We are proud of them, have taken steps to embed them with staff right across SCC, and we are already beginning to see changes in the way in which we work – for example, our work on developing the city goals has been done in partnership with local people and communities, which is fundamentally different to how we might have conducted such a piece of work in the past. In addition, in this meeting we are to consider the draft Council Plan called Together we get things Done, one of the Council's values. As we acknowledge in today's report, that culture change - of which the values are one part - will take time to embed, but it is a process that we have started and which we are committed to. The alternative to having a value explicitly focused around openness and honesty would be not to have one and that would, in our view, have sent entirely the wrong signal about the sort of organisation that we wish to be and that the people of Sheffield expect us to be.

Answer to d: No. For each of the issues named in the question, we have sought to ensure that as much information as possible is made available publicly and that stakeholders and the general public are aware of the progress that is being made, in line with our values. Where things haven't gone as anticipated we have re-planned, taken action to mitigate issues and been open and honest about challenges. It is vitally important that, as stewards of public money, we are accountable when mistakes are made. The recent Audit and Standards report on the containers issue

demonstrates that. We are also unafraid to open ourselves up to external scrutiny. Over the summer, in line with the recommendations from the Lowcock report, we asked the Information Commissioner's Office to provide a consensual audit of our FOI processes and approach. That audit gave reasonable assurance about those processes. But it made some recommendations, two of which were urgent, and we are making sure that we action those. We know that timescales for responding to FOIs are too long and that was confirmed by the ICO. The reasons for that are complex but work is under way to improve our approach.

At the ECM on 10 May 2023, a Motion was passed that included the following:

12. [this Council] believes that for individuals who were council Cabinet members in the civic years 2015/16 to 2017/18, resignation from public office would be an appropriate indication of acceptance of responsibility for the harms caused.

(a) Is the Council satisfied that everything possible has been done to comply with that resolution?

(b) Are there any further attempts being planned or considered to give that Resolution, and the Leader's Party apparatus, some reality and credibility?

Answer: There is nothing that the council can do to compel Members to resign.

Elected Members can be disqualified from being a councillor but that is for a defined set of criteria set out in law (for example a criminal conviction leading to a prison sentence of at least 3 months, failure to attend any meetings of the authority for 6 months or taking up employment with the authority). Neither the Monitoring Officer nor the Council as a body has the power to compel an Elected Member to resign their seat. It is also not a binding decision the Council can make and those are not matters it could lawfully decide as enforceable. The motion that was passed is an expression of opinion. That is why the wording states this Council believes.

- 5.2 Russell Johnson attended to present the following question that had been submitted by Justin Buxton: At the Strategy and Resources Committee on the 19 June 2023 the Council accepted in full the recommendations of a report by the Chief Executive that included at para 18 a statement that the Council would apologise to the Courts.

On the 27th September Paul Brooke submitted a Freedom of Information request asking the council to confirm whether an apology to the courts had been made by The Council. On the 30th October the Council apologised that they had missed the deadline for providing this requested information. Paul Brooke then chased this now overdue Information request on the 13th November. No response was received.

On the 1st December Paul Brooke chased this now very overdue Freedom of Information request yet again. This time the council deigned to respond; stating "Thank you for your email of 1 December 2023 giving us a deadline of 6 December 2023. Please grant us another 24 hours to make a reply to you." SCC failed to respond within 24hrs as promised. Have the Council apologised to court yet and will the apology to court be made public without redaction? If not why not?"

Answer: The apology to the court has not yet been sent. We need to make sure that the apology properly reflects the findings in the report of Sir Mark Lowcock. The

Inquiry was independent and received its own legal advice on the matters it has said the Council should apologise for. The Council was not a party to that advice so has had to consider the legal points raised. The Council also wanted to be sure itself, through examining the cases, that it concurs with the Inquiry finding that the misleading impression the court had from a document did not make a difference to the outcomes in the hearings. This has taken longer to determine than hoped. I have been assured that the apology will be sent to the court before the end of this month. This will be made public and I have asked officers to notify you when this takes place.

- 5.3 The Leader reported that Ruth Hubbard had requested in respect of the Cost of Living Strategy Item, for clarity and information, please could you talk through each of the items listed in Table A at para. 1.14 as to what they are and how/why they arise in these kinds of amounts.

It was stated that the response involves a lot of complex information and that a written response would be provided.

- 5.4 Calvin Payne attended to present the following questions that he had submitted: I would like to clarify the content of Councillor Hunt's response to Councillor Johnson's written members question last week. The reply references complaints, possibly in regard to the 'undertakers', and the subsequent delay to apologies. Please be clear as to which apologies are to be delayed due to these long running complaints and why.

Answer: The apologies which have been delayed are the apologies to those who provided undertakings. The apologies are delayed for all of this group, whether individuals within the group have made a complaint or not. This is because the subject matter of the complaint is common across these individuals and the outcome of the complaint may determine the final content of the apology beyond matters explicitly dealt with in the Inquiry report. You will appreciate that I cannot go into the specific details of the complaint here today.

On June 19th 2023 the Leader and Chief Executive made a number of pledges in a report to this committee. In relation to the people who were subject to committal proceedings they said they would, "...work with them to do everything possible to mitigate any ongoing impact. This could include...providing letters of explanation should they need to explain the reasons for suspended prison sentences when job seeking...". None of the proposed mitigation actions have been carried out and there are real life consequences as a result. It should have been a matter of urgency to put in motion those mitigation actions, however the council has merely delayed and delayed with no explanation, doing further damage to the lives of those already affected by their 'misguided' and 'mistaken' court proceedings. Will the Leader acknowledge, and apologise for, the failure to so far carry out the promised mitigation process?

Answer: Officers have informed me that so far you are the only person who has requested such assistance. I know that in discussions, officers have said that they can provide a general letter but have also said that if any specific occasion arises, they would be happy to provide a specific letter setting out the context of the

hearings. They have also said that they would be happy to speak to a prospective employer or contractor, should this be requested. While I am informed that you have not received the general letter yet, I feel sure that if you had any specific need of assistance to date, that this assistance would have been provided. I have been assured that you will receive the general letter very soon and before the end of January at the very latest. We have not assumed that everyone who was subject to court action wants such assistance. If anyone does then they can get in touch.

6. PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR CARE EXPERIENCED PEOPLE

- 6.1 The Strategic Director of Children's Services submitted a report to support detailed consideration of the motion agreed by Full Council of 1st November 2023, that 'Care Experienced' is recognised as a protected characteristic by Sheffield City Council.

Belinda Omorodion, Rae Sloan, Jake Adam Schuett and Wilster Mafoti, Voice & influence Workers attended the meeting and gave a presentation outlining their lived experience, in particular focusing on the issues of housing, loneliness, treatment in the criminal justice system and employment.

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

(a) notes the resolution of Full Council on 1st November 2023 regarding Care Experienced People and the context to that resolution as set out in this Report;

(b) endorses the principles set out in the resolution and confirm that the Council will regard Care Experience as a protected characteristic whilst noting that further work will be required on the implementation of those principles/changes; and

(c) agrees that further detail should be provided in the forthcoming report "Equality Framework Equality Is Everybody's Business".

6.3 Reasons for Decision

- 6.3.1 As corporate parent, the Council has a responsibility to provide the best possible care and safeguard children who are looked after by us as an Authority. It demonstrates Sheffield City Councils commitment as a Corporate Parent to ending the disparity and inequality faced by care experienced young people by going beyond our statutory requirements and ensuring that the needs of care experienced young people are at the heart of all our decision-making alongside other groups who formally share a Protected Characteristic.

- 6.3.2 By formally recognising care leavers as a protected characteristic the Committee are acknowledging those with care experience can face discrimination, stigma, and prejudice. The recognition demonstrates Committee's commitment to advancing equality of opportunity between those with care experience and those without. By making 'care experience' a protected characteristic SCC are demonstrating its commitment to Care Leavers now as opposed to waiting for national reform to impose these changes on our behalf.

6.3.3 Councillors should be champions of our looked after children and young people and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exist; and The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to have due regard to the need to:-

(A) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;

(B) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

(C) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

6.3.4 The decision to treat care experience as a tenth protected characteristic would further cement the Council's existing strong track record as a corporate parent. Performance and outcomes for care leavers are an important proxy for the overall effectiveness of the children's social care system and the experience of children in care. It is not possible to achieve good outcomes for care leavers unless the right children come into care, for the right reasons and they are supported effectively to reach their best potential during the time they are in care.

6.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

6.4.1 Future national reform may introduce care experience as a characteristic under the Equalities Act in the future. This was a key recommendation from the Care Review and is currently being implemented by 55 Local Authorities nationally.

7. **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

7.1 There were no Members' questions.

8. **RETIREMENT OF STAFF**

8.1 The Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement submitted a report on Council staff retirements.

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

(a) places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by the following staff in the Directorates below:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Years' Service</u>
<u>Adults Wellbeing and Care Services</u>		
Adel Arnaut	Support Worker	25
<u>Children's Services</u>		
Patricia Greaves	Teaching Assistant	Level 1, 26

	Halfway Junior School	
Rose Hackworth	SEN Outreach Support Assistant, Halfway Junior School	29
Janice Lightowler	Service Manager	20
Darrol Lindley	Catering Sheffield Inclusion Centre	Manager, 24
Nadine Taylor	Senior Teaching Assistant Level 3, Beighton Nursery and Infant School	24

Neighbourhood Services

Stephen Lonnia	Chief Licensing Officer	42
Janet Thompson	Neighbourhood Officer	41
Terence Wison	Site Support and Logistics Technician	39

(b) extends to them its best wishes for the future and a long and happy retirement; and

(c) directs that an appropriate extract of the resolution now made, under the Common Seal of the Council, be forwarded to those staff with over 20 years' service.

9. WORK PROGRAMME

9.1 The Committee received a report containing the Committee's Work Programme for consideration and discussion. The aim of the Work Programme is 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. It was highlighted that this is a live document and Members input to it was invaluable.

It was reported that, in addition to the items detailed in the report, it was proposed that an additional item on Major Event Hosting Opportunity should be added to the Work programme for consideration at the January meeting.

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

(a) that the priority issues for the Committee, as agreed at the meeting on 28 June 2023, and presented at Appendix 1 be noted;

(b) that the Committee's work programme, as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed, including the addition of the item now reported in respect of Major Event Hosting Opportunity;

(c) that approval be given to the consideration of cross cutting issues as detailed in appendix 1 of the report; and

(d) that the referrals from Council (petition and resolutions) detailed in Section 2 of the report be noted and the proposed responses set out be agreed.

10. DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2024-28

10.1 The Chief Executive submitted a report setting out an ambitious four-year draft Council Plan for Sheffield City Council and draft Performance Framework which will align to our new four-year Medium Term Financial Strategy. The draft Council Plan (Appendix 1) sets out a new mission for the organisation – ‘together we get things done’ – which is underpinned by five new strategic outcomes. It demonstrates how we will put the people of Sheffield at the heart of everything we do and prioritise the long-term prosperity of the city, leading the transition to net zero economy while protecting and investing in our treasured local environment.

The draft Plan offers a positive vision for the role that the whole organisation can play in contributing to the city’s success and helping achieve Sheffield’s new City Goals.

The draft Council Performance Framework (PMF) (Appendix 2) is a vital companion to the Council Plan, enabling us to take a rigorous approach to delivering our outcomes for the city. The PMF ensures that we can drive continuous improvement and that the people of Sheffield can hold us to account for achieving our commitments.

It is proposed that the draft Council Plan will be considered as part of the forthcoming Budget Conversation for 2024/25 (launches 21st December) and then be considered by S&R Committee as a revised final draft in February 2024 with the intention of it being presented to Full Council in March 2024 alongside the proposed Budget for 2024/25.

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

(a) endorses the draft Council Plan, as set out in Appendix 1:

(b) agrees to enable citizens to give their views on the draft outcomes as part of the budget conversation from the 21st December 2023;

(c) agrees to receive a revised final draft of Council Plan at the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting in February 2024;

(d) agrees the Draft Corporate Performance Management Framework in Appendix 2;

(e) requests that officers prepare a new Outcomes Framework to support monitoring of performance against the draft Council Plan and provide the wider measures in the Performance Framework and present this to Strategy and Resources Committee in early 2024; and

(f) agrees to receive annual reports providing an overview of performance against

the proposed outcome framework once agreed.

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 10.3.1 The draft Council Plan provides a clear and positive statement of purpose and ambition for the whole council. It is aligned to our four year Medium Term Financial Strategy and the draft outcomes will increasingly become the focus for our budget and Directorate Plans over the coming year.
- 10.3.2 It is recommended that we seek citizen views on the new draft Plan alongside our budget proposals for the coming year so that citizens can see how we are seeking to invest in delivering our outcomes. We will then ensure that Strategy and Resources Committee and ultimately, Full Council, can consider the draft Plan alongside the proposed 2024/25 Budget in March 2024.
- 10.3.3 Similarly, the draft Council Performance Framework is a vital companion to the draft Council Plan. It will complement the new Plan, enabling citizens to hold us to account for achieving our outcomes and priorities.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 10.4.1 (a) do nothing – rejected – as set out in the Strategic Framework 2023/24, we are committed to developing and agreeing a medium term plan for the council that sets out what we want to achieve for the city in the coming years and how we will contribute to the City Goals. The Council Plan is part of our Policy Framework and a critical step in our continued development as an organisation, connecting the ambitions and priorities of the administration to our Medium-Term Financial Strategy, workforce plans, Council Performance Framework, and Directorate Plans. It also ensures that we deliver on one of the key recommendations of the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge, further demonstrating our strategic development and maturity as an organisation.
- 10.4.2 (b) extend the Corporate Delivery Plan – rejected – the Corporate Delivery Plan has provided vital stability and focus for the organisation over the last year, building on the One Year Plan, and bringing clear focus onto a number of key challenges that citizens wanted to see improve. However, the Corporate Delivery Plan was deliberately short term and as recommended by the LGA Peer Team, it is important to bring medium-term focus for the Council so that citizens, staff and partners understand our priorities and ambitions.

11. **COST OF LIVING STRATEGY UPDATE**

- 11.1 The Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement submitted a report providing an update on the cross-city Cost of Living response, including the Winter Plan. It also provides an update on plans to spend a previously ringfenced fund from the Household Support Fund (delegated to the Director of Communities) and sets out the approach that responds to recent Full Council motions.
- 11.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

(a) notes the approach outlined in this report that responds to recent relevant Full Council motions;

(b) notes the report's update on amounts previously ringfenced from the Household Support Fund and the plan to allocate amounts that are now available to the application scheme; and

(c) approves the adjusted ring fenced spend, as detailed in the report, and notes it as being consistent with the delegation to the Director of Communities in the 12 July 2023 Strategy and Resources Committee report.

11.3 **Reasons for Decision**

11.3.1 The recommendations build on the commitments made by the Strategy and Resources Committee on 31 May 2022 and 5 June 2022 and 12 July 2023 to support Sheffielders through the Cost of Living crisis. Working with communities and partners across the city, the recommendations ensure that SCC will continue to play a leading role through the strategic and tactical incident-type response.

11.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

11.4.1 Allocate the ringfenced amount to another aspect of the response. This was dismissed as it would not address the risks associated with increased demand for the application scheme and it would not help us to meet the objectives of the Full Council motions.

11.4.2 Target the ringfenced amount to specific groups. Dismissed, as outlined above because we were unable to obtain information that would allow us to make the targeted payments and people in this group are able to make an application for the household support fund.

12. **COMMITTEE CLIMATE STATEMENTS**

12.1 The Executive Director of City Futures submitted a report that:

1. Responds to the Annual Climate Progress Report 2022/23 in a timely manner;

2. Restates the cross-party council commitment to taking what action we can to address the climate emergency, adapt our city and council for a changing climate and reduce emissions to achieve our ambition to be a net zero city and council by 2030; and

3. Increases understanding of the impact climate change will have on committees, the opportunities that tackling climate change offers, and the contribution to climate and net zero action each committee is currently making and needs to make moving forward.

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

(a) welcomes the Committee Climate Statements, as detailed in the report now submitted, and notes that these are work in progress and will evolve over time; and

(b) requests that each Policy Committee consider and, if not previously agreed, agree (with or without amendments) their respective statement to ensure that the proposed actions contained in such statement are reflected in their Work Programme.

12.3 Reasons for Decision

12.3.1 It is important that the response to the Annual Climate Progress Report is open and transparent in setting out the challenges which the local authority faces in making progress and clarifies future expectations on the part we all have to play in addressing climate change.

12.3.2 Committee do not currently have specific strategic goals for climate. The process required to develop these, and have the statements approved to be read at each committee meeting meant that option 5.2 in the report was not feasible with the available resource and timeframe.

12.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

12.4.1 Not providing committee climate statements considered due to the resource required to collate.

12.4.2 Providing more detailed Committee Climate Statements that provided an overview of strategic climate goals, with each Chair then reading the committees statement publicly at their respective committee meeting following release of the report

(NOTE: During the discussion of the above item the Committee agreed, in accordance with Council Procedure rules, that as the meeting was approaching the two hours and 30 minutes time limit, the meeting should be extended by a period of 30 minutes).

13. QUARTER 2 BUDGET MONITORING AND STRATEGY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE BUDGET OPTIONS

13.1 The Director of Finance and Commercial Services presented a report updating the Committee with the Council's revenue outturn position for 2023/24 as at Quarter 2.

The report also sets out new financial pressures facing the Strategy and Resources Committee in 2024/25, and budget options including savings, fees, grant and other income available to the Council to offset these pressures.

During consideration of this item of business, and in order for Members of the Committee to ask questions on the exempt appendix of the report, it was RESOLVED: That the public and press be excluded from the meeting and the webcast be paused before further discussion takes place on the grounds that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, if those persons were present,

there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as described in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

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

(a) notes the updated information and management actions provided on the 2023/24 Revenue Budget Outturn as described in this report;

(b) notes the budget proposals presented to the Policy Committee; and

(c) notes this Committees initial response for budget proposals set out in this report,
including savings set out in Part B of this report.

13.3 **Reasons for Decision**

13.3.1 To record formally changes to the Revenue Budget.

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.

(NOTE: During the discussion of the above item the Committee agreed, in accordance with Council Procedure rules, the meeting should be extended by a further period of 30 minutes).