

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Strategy and Resources Policy Committee

Meeting held 24 January 2024

PRESENT: Councillors Tom Hunt (Chair), Fran Belbin (Deputy 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 and Richard Williams

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

2. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

2.1 The public and press will be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on item 13 on the agenda on the grounds that, if the public and press were present during the transaction of such business, 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.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 The minutes of the previous meetings held on 13 and 21 December 2023 were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 Danny Allsebrook attended to present the following questions that he had submitted:

1. Is the Sheffield library building safe from demolition?

Answer: We have no plans to demolish the Central Library and Graves Gallery building. The Building is Grade II listed.

2. What is the correct estimate for repairs on the building?

Answer: The repair cost is currently estimated to be between £20m and £50m based on a Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) stage 1 assessment and the extent of the work that might take place. The lower cost of £20m would simply ensure that essential compliance issues are resolved. The higher figure would provide for an improved building, including improved access. As the

project progresses through the RIBA stages costs will become much clearer.

3. Would a friends group of the central library be a viable option to apply funding that would otherwise be unavailable to the council?

Answer: The feasibility work agreed for the Central Library and Graves Gallery, at the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee in December, will start to set out the information which we, or anyone interested in the building, would need to understand the possible business models open to us. At this time we could not advise if this would be a viable option, without having all the information required. However, I welcome this idea and want to emphasise that we want to hear the voices of all the users of the building.

5.2 Russell Johnson attended to present the following questions that he had submitted:

1. Contract Management Shortcomings. One of the Lowcock recommendations (6, p.15) states: ... the Council should consider whether it has the skills and capacity needed adequately to pursue its interests in managing the contract with Amey.

(a) Has SCC considered this and, if so, what conclusion has been drawn? Has any such consideration taken into account the continued prevalence of potholes and depressed utility chambers and the fact that some roads remain to be resurfaced eleven years into the 'Streets Ahead' contract?

(b) If SCC now believes it is competently managing Amey, what additional measures have been implemented since the earlier reported failings?

Answer: There is a comprehensive delivery plan in place in response to the Lowcock Inquiry. We have already carried out an internal review of our resources and those within the Sheffield Street Tree Parentship (SSTP) to ensure that we have the capacity and skills needed to manage the Streets Ahead contract and that funding for these resources will be factored into the budget setting process. This includes setting out the safe level of management for a contract of this size. We work closely with Central Government to review this and also use support from peer authorities who run similar projects.

To build capability we have already:

- split the role of Head of Highways and Waste to create a dedicated Assistant Director of Highways post;
- created two Service Manager posts; and
- increased the number of technical officers and the number of inspectors.

We have also recruited a Business Manager who provides some of their time to support Sheffield Street Tree Partnership. On a one year trial basis we are funding a new dedicated Partnership Manager to work wholly to and within Street Tree Partnership.

We are carrying out an external 'health check' to include consideration of how the Council can further build its own capacity, as well as set up flexible arrangements to enable access to experts, particularly for specialist legal, financial and commercial resource. A key part of this is that The Infrastructure

and Projects Authority (IPA) have been engaged to carry out an Operational Health Check of the contract which includes a full review of contract delivery. There have been some recent failings in performance in some areas, which have been raised via the Waste & Street Scene Policy Committee, and a recovery plan has been put in place, which Amey are well on the way to achieving. We continue to work in partnership with Amey to also look to constantly improve how we manage the highway infrastructure. There is a regular briefing on Highways Maintenance with Waste & Street Scene Policy Committee Members on contract performance. The Highways Maintenance Team and Commercial Services constantly work alongside Amey to strive to continue improving performance and the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods and Director of Street Scene & Regulations meet Amey on a regular basis to track performance.

Regarding previous failings on resurfacing, we have publicly committed to have designs completed for March for the remaining Core Investment Programme streets which were at the heart of the Street Tree protests. We are on track to complete designs for March as well as completing some consultations however some will run past April. The process includes consulting the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership first and then proceeding to public consultation. There is a further commitment to have the works done before March 2025.

2. Misleading the Courts. I welcome that SCC has, we are told, apologised last month to the Lord Chancellor for their misleading of the Courts during the 'dark period' of the Street Tree Scandal.

(a) Why did it take so long to send the apology since Lowcock published in March 2023?

(b) Notwithstanding the accepted need for courtesy when will the full apology be shared with citizens?

(c) Does the apology cover both the Judicial Review and Injunction hearings where Council lawyers and/or Officers are alleged to have misled the courts?

Answer: (a) The apology to the court, like all other apologies needed to be fully considered and properly made. To do so, that required consideration of the legal points raised in Sir Mark's report. As the Inquiry was independent, we had not seen the detail of that advice so needed our own consideration. Also, the General Counsel wanted to read the judgments in all cases taken by the Council to be sure that the Council agreed with the Inquiry view that the misleading document had no impact on the outcome of those cases.

(b) We intend to share the apology publicly on 31 January.

(c) The apology does cover both the Judicial Review taken and the injunction proceedings taken by the Council. I must however state that the Inquiry found no evidence that Council lawyers or other individual officers misled the courts. This was covered in some detail by Sir Mark and the findings were that:

'While the Council as an organisation collectively knew it to be false, the Inquiry has seen no evidence that suggests that any of the individuals giving witness statements in either case believed the Strategy to be false. Likewise, we have not seen evidence of recklessness in the case preparation, or evidence that an

individual lawyer knew the Strategy was false.'

He further adds: 'We have seen no evidence to indicate that individuals involved were aware of the errors brought into the case by this document and allowed them to pass. The fact that this cannot be attributed to an individual should not take away from the gravity of the court being misled by a document produced by the Council.'. This is what we have apologised for.

3. Accountability Failures. In the context of the recent shocking report on Child Sexual Exploitation in Lancashire, the Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham has stated that all public servants, including those who have retired or relocated, should have a legal a Duty of Candour, and he finds refusal to give evidence to a voluntary Inquiry to be unacceptable.

(a) Does Cllr Hunt agree with his Labour colleague on these general points?

(b) If he does, what steps will he take to remedy the remaining accountability shortcomings following the 'voluntary' and flawed Lowcock Inquiry?

(c) Does he share the widely held view that it is shocking that two key implicated Elected Members remain on this Council despite the damning evidence of the lack of effective leadership exposed by Sir Mark?

(d) Does Cllr Hunt agree with me that if a Council employed social worker or teacher were guilty of serious misconduct their professional bodies and any current employer must and would be informed?

(e) If so, why have the former members of the SCC legal Team who misled the courts apparently been immune from any consequences?

Answer: I do not accept the premise that the Lowcock inquiry was flawed and that there have been accountability failings. We will have to disagree on this point. Sheffield City Council invested over £800,000 in a year-long Inquiry which had full access to vast amounts of Council and Amey documentation, including digitally recovered material. The Inquiry was headed by Sir Mark Lowcock who delivered a detailed, comprehensive, and impactful Inquiry report. In that report he makes clear that he spoke with over 150 people and that the vast majority of those approached engaged willingly. The Inquiry had access to detailed information, digital and hardcopy records, and personal and organisational testimonies. There is no evidence to suggest that the Inquiry missed any areas which would have been revealed had it had the power to compel attendance at public hearings. Neither the Monitoring officer or the Council has the power to compel an elected Member to resign there seat. Elected Members are held accountable at the ballot box.

The Council does of course take misconduct seriously and follows proper safeguarding procedures. I will take this opportunity to remind you that the Lowcock inquiry found that: 'we have not seen evidence of recklessness in the case preparation, or evidence that an individual lawyer knew the Strategy was false.'

4. Punching at/below/above Our Weight? Cllr Hunt may have seen the very recent Now Then piece which unfavourably compares the ambition of Sheffield with six other councils, all on different grounds. These include, amongst others, climate action, landlord licensing, social housing on Council owned land, and

Mr Burnham's 'Housing First'

(a) What is Cllr Hunt's take on the article or, if not yet read, the suggestion that SCC's 'ambition' or performance is, or has been, very disappointing?

(b) If he broadly agrees that my City has a recent history of gross underperformance is he confident of a bright new dawn under the regime he now leads? Would, in his view, any of the initiatives cited in the article be appropriate for Sheffield?

Answer: I am proud that the Council is now setting out an ambitious vision for our city, looking upwards and outwards. Undeniably the city has faced challenges over recent years but I am optimistic that we have a better and brighter future to look forward to. Thank you for drawing our attention to the examples of excellent work in other Councils which we are keen to learn from, as with any best practice.

At the last Strategy and Resources Committee in December we agreed a new draft Council Plan, which we have called 'Together We Get Things Done'. This is an ambitious plan for the council and the city which sets out how we will take the bold decisions which will drive the city's long-term prosperity, ensuring that we are a global leader in the climate transition, capitalising on the path to net zero to grow our economy, improve lives and protect our beautiful natural environment. We should take time to highlight some of the big ambitious decision the Council will take forward over the lifetime of the Council Plan – these are ambitious projects of the type that were highlighted in the Now Then article – expanding the tram train, creating new, sustainable liveable neighbourhoods at Neepsend and Attercliffe Waterside, transforming the city centre at Castlegate and at the Station Quarter, and transforming our cultural offer. What is clear is that Sheffield is a city making big strides, that is ambitious for the future and that is not afraid to talk itself up.

- 5.3 Isabel OLeary attended to present the following questions that she had submitted: Thank you for listening to campaigners and re-thinking the deadline and process for commissioning a plaque to be installed in the entrance of the Town Hall alongside the Kinder Scout mass trespass plaque. The provision of this plaque was agreed in the Resolution passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting on 10th May 2023 and is to be,
“ 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.”

The representation of these ideas in a plaque obviously needs to be carefully conceived, and the process of commissioning the plaque needs to demonstrate that the culture and practices of Sheffield City Council are changing, as I believe they are. The principle of co-production and co-ownership as described in the City Goals is a good one but is obviously difficult in practice if it's not clear who the parties are in this co-production and co-ownership.

At present the task of driving the Plaque project has been given to an Officer. This may not be the best plan.

Will Cllr Hunt agree that overall leadership should come from himself to demonstrate learning from Sir Mark Lowcock's finding that the responsibility for the "serious and sustained failure of strategic leadership... ultimately rests with the political leadership.."?

Answer: I'm pleased to inform you that the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership (SSTP) have offered to facilitate wider discussions to find an appropriate method of commemorating the campaign, the Council is a key partner in SSTP and so will be involved but recognises that there is value in trying a different approach. The SSTP will organise opportunities to discuss what people feel would be the best way to commemorate the campaign, including but not limited to the installation of a plaque on the Town Hall, and how best to then commission the work. SSTP aim to discuss this process at the next Partnership Meeting on the 30th January and then start the formal process mid-February.

This will lead to a delay from the originally envisaged timescales in the response to the Lowcock report, but we recognise that a different approach is required to get this right. As Leader of the Council, I am keen that we demonstrate learning from the Lowcock Inquiry, in particular that this is not the Council doing things to the people of Sheffield but with the people of Sheffield. In this case, facilitating the discussions with the STTP is a demonstratable step. The learning is about more than me, it is about the whole Council, cross party, all members making sure we are all involved in implementing the findings of Sir Mark's report and that we have learned the lessons from it.

(Note: There was a short adjournment during the above item due to a technical fault with the audio visual equipment).

6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

6.1 There were no Members' questions.

7. RETIREMENT OF STAFF

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

7.2 **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>		

Angela Berry	Adult Social Care Practitioner	21
Julie Cooper	Practice Development Co-ordinator	38
Jacqueline Homer	Social Worker	42
Lynda Oelklaus	Adult Social Care Practitioner	35

Children's Services

Terence Bothamley	Site Manager, Lowfield Primary School	24
Suzanne Broadhead	Teacher, Greystones Primary School	31
Kate Dudley	Quality and Access Officer	22
Christopher French	Chief Executive Officer, Mercia Learning Trust	25
Hazel Singer	Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Prince Edward Primary School	27
Tracy Tucker	Senior Fieldwork Manager	35

City Futures

Yunus Ahmed	City Centre Team Manager	42
Paul Gordon	Planning Officer	45

Neighbourhood Services

Janet Wood	Neighbourhood Officer	41
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(b) extend 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.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

- 8.1 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.

In particular, it was noted that approval was being sought for the following items to be considered by Finance Committee:

- Long Term Empty and Second Homes Premiums; and
- Advertising and Sponsorship Policy; and

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

(a) the Committee's work programme, as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed, including the additions and amendments identified in Part 1 of the report;

(b) 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;

(c) that approval be given to the consideration of cross cutting issues as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and that the following items be considered by Finance Committee:

- Long Term Empty and Second Homes Premiums; and
- Advertising and Sponsorship Policy; and; and

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

9. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUSINESS PLAN AND HRA BUDGET 2024/25

9.1 The Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services submitted a report setting out the 2024/25 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan. Each year the HRA Business Plan is reviewed and updated to set budgets and charges for the year ahead and to provide an updated 5-year plan and 30-year affordability profile.

The report provided the Strategy & Resources Policy Committee with an update on the current national and local housing context, regulatory requirements, the priorities for Committee action alongside capital and revenue spending plans for 2024/25 and indicated that the Housing Policy Committee will then be responsible for overseeing the scrutiny and, delivery of those plans on behalf of the Council housing tenants of Sheffield.

The HRA Business Plan had also been considered by the Housing Policy Committee at its meeting on 14th December 2023.

In addition to the recommendations contained in the report, the meeting received details of an additional recommendation in respect of rents for

temporary accommodation, details of which were set out in paragraph 2.16 of the report.

9.2 **RESOLVED:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee recommends to the meeting of Full Council on 7 February 2024 that:-

(a) the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan report for 2024/25 and the HRA Business Plan priorities for 2024/25, as set out in the Financial Appendix to this report are approved;

(b) the HRA Revenue budget 2024/25, as set out in the Financial Appendix to the report is approved;

(c) notes that once adopted by the City Council, monitoring the delivery of HRA Business Plan priorities will be within the remit of Housing Policy Committee and a regular performance reporting schedule will be approved;

(d) rents for council dwellings are increased by 7.7% from April 2024 in line with the Regulator of Social Housing's Rent Standard;

(e) garage rents for garage plots and sites are increased by 7.7% from April 2024;

(f) the sheltered housing charge is increased by 6.7% from April 2024;

(g) the burglar alarm charge is increased by 6.7% from April 2024;

(h) the furnished accommodation charge is increased by 6.7% from April 2024;

(i) there is no increase to the community heating charge at this time; and

(j) rents for temporary accommodation are increased by 7.7% for 2024/25.

9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

9.3.1 The report and its recommendations, sets out the scale of the challenge ahead, the limited resources available and the difficult decisions that now need to be taken to deliver a balanced HRA budget for 2024/25 and for the overall 30-year viability. The delivery of a balanced HRA budget is dependent on setting a 7.7% rent increase for Council tenants as set out in this report

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

9.4.1 The Council is required to both set a balanced in year HRA budget and to ensure that in-year income and expenditure are balanced over 30 years. No other alternatives were considered.

(NOTE: The result of the vote on the resolution was FOR - 12 Members; AGAINST - 1 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members.

10. CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL RESOLUTION RELATING TO ADOPTING THE ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP (APPG) ON BRITISH MUSLIMS' DEFINITION OF ISLAMOPHOBIA

10.1 The Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement presented a report proposing that the All-Party Parliamentary Group's (APPG) definition of Islamophobia and the associated guidance statements be adopted by Sheffield City Council, and requesting that the Strategy and Resources Committee consider particular actions to target Islamophobia as part of its forthcoming consideration of the Equality Framework and action plans.

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

(a) formally adopt the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia, as described in the report, but in doing so agrees that the definition does not and will not be interpreted in such a way as to impinge on protected free-speech rights of any person, and that the term "anti-Muslim hatred" is used in any context where there is the potential for any uncertainty in the intended impact;

(b) formally adopts the associated guidance statements as developed by the Coalition Against Islamophobia; and

(c) request that as part of the action planning process being undertaken to support the Council's Equality Framework, that specific actions be identified that focus on eliminating Islamophobia.

10.3 Reasons for Decision

10.3.1 In adopting the APPG definition, the council will be taking a first step in allowing it to identify how anti-Muslim hatred manifests itself and functions and therefore, devise meaningful strategies to tackle it. Furthermore, adopting the APPG definition of Islamophobia would signal to British Muslim communities that Sheffield City Council recognises the specific issues that they face, and reassure them that combatting Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred is a priority, in line with our recently adopted race equality commitments and draft equality goals.

10.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

10.4.1 Two alternative options were considered:

The first is for Sheffield City Council (SCC) not to adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia. This was dismissed as it would not support our commitment to become an anti-racist organisation and city, and would not be in line with our Council Plan and Equality Framework commitments.

The second option considered was for SCC to adopt a bespoke definition of Islamophobia or anti-Muslim hatred. This was dismissed because such a

definition would not be widely known or understood and would mean that Sheffield was using a different definition than other places that have adopted the APPG definition

11. PROPOSED CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2024/25 FOR THE STRATEGY AND RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE

- 11.1 The Executive Director Neighbourhood Services submitted a report setting out the key priority areas for capital investment for the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee relating to Essential Compliance and Maintenance and provides an overview of potential projects and priorities for the years 2024 to 2029, together with an overview of anticipated developments and challenges up to 2052.

The Committee is asked to endorse the general approach to inform the Council's overarching Capital Strategy (which will be brought to Full Council for approval in March 2024)

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

(a) endorses the proposals set out in the report now submitted; and

(b) notes that the proposals will now be included in the draft Capital Strategy to be submitted to Full Council for approval in March 2024 and, if approved:

(1) Officers will work with Members to consult with relevant stakeholders (including with partners, staff, trades unions [if required] and in respect of equalities and climate change) on the proposals in this report to inform final project proposals;

(2) Officers will work to develop any necessary detailed implementation plans for the proposals in this report so that the proposals can be implemented as planned; and

(3) Approval for detailed proposals will be sought as part of the monthly capital approval cycle by the Finance Committee.

11.3 Reasons for Decision

- 11.3.1 Members are asked to note the unsustainable financial position highlighted by the medium-term financial analysis presented to Strategy and Resources Committee in September 2023. This report and its recommendations set out how capital projects can continue to be developed and delivered, despite the limited resources available and continue to deliver quality infrastructure for the people of Sheffield.

11.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

- 11.4.1 The Council is required to both set a balanced budget and to ensure that in-

year income and expenditure are balanced. Committee is invited to comment upon and endorse the current proposals to form part of the Council's wider Capital Strategy for 2024/25.

12. SHEFFIELD CITY GOALS

12.1 The Chief Executive and Angela Foulkes, Chief Executive and Principal at The Sheffield College and Chair of the City Goals Working Group, presented a report detailing the development of Sheffield City Goals, a joint project led between partners across the City of Sheffield. The report provides (i) an overview of the process behind developing the Goals, (ii) presents the finalised City Goals for endorsement and (iii) highlights ongoing work with partners to develop a delivery structure with new partnership arrangements which will assist organisations and people across the city to work together to achieve the Goals.

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

(a) notes the process by which the City Goals have been developed, including extensive community engagement and involvement across two separate phases in 2023;

(b) endorses the finalised set of City Goals, subject to potential minor amendments based on discussions with Sheffield City Partnership Board taking place at their Board meeting on Friday 19th January;

(c) notes the strategic links between the City Goals and future Council strategies and plans, particularly the current draft Council Plan;

(d) notes the intention to continue ongoing work with partners to develop a delivery structure with new partnership arrangements which will enable people and organisations across the city to work together to achieve the City Goals; and

(e) notes that officers will provide an update to Strategy and Resources Policy Committee on progress and next steps for the City Goals in 6 month's time.

12.3 Reasons for Decision

12.3.1 The City Goals are the strategic link between Sheffield City Council (SCC) activity (as outlined in the draft Council Plan) and the wider ambitions of the city. As Sheffield's civic leader, SCC is one partner but has a significant role to play in the delivery of the City Goals, connecting our democratic and community leadership to the shared vision for the future. The recommendations for Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to endorse the City Goals are therefore a vital statement to citizens and partners of our commitment to supporting a new shared vision for the city

12.3.2 SCC's support for and involvement in the City Goals work also ensures that we are delivering against the commitments made in the LGA Peer Challenge Action Plan.

12.3.3 The driving principle behind the City Goals, which has galvanised thousands of people to be involved in their development, is that as a city we are more than the sum of our parts. The aim of the Sheffield City Goals is to ensure that all organisations and groups can work towards the same vision for Sheffield. As well as aligning our efforts, the Goals provide a way to better coordinate the city's time, energy and resources, and to collaborate effectively to create a city to be proud of.

12.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

12.4.1 Now the City Goals are finalised, the alternative is for SCC not to endorse them - enabling partners to continue the work but without SCC support. This option was rejected as we are the civic leader of place, we are ambitious for our city and our determination to deliver a bright future for Sheffield can only be achieved with and alongside our communities and our partners.

Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: That the public and press be excluded from the meeting and the webcast be stopped before further discussion takes place on the following item of business 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. MAJOR EVENT HOSTING OPPORTUNITY

13.1 The Executive Director City Futures submitted a report containing details of opportunities for Sheffield to bid to host two sporting events. The purpose of the report is to brief the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee on the event hosting opportunities and to obtain approval for the financial and resource contribution required from the Council to support these Events.

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

(a) notes that Sheffield has been selected as the host City should the UKs bid for the events named in the report be successful;

(b) approves Sheffield to bid in conjunction with the relevant Associations to host the events referred to in the report;

(c) notes the financial contributions in section 1.1.5 and 1.2.5 of the report, towards the staging costs for the respective events and that by proceeding the Council is committing to those sums should the bids be successful;

(d) agrees that as the financial implications arise in future years they should be factored into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy; and

(e) notes that the proposed venues are currently operated by Sheffield City Trust who will be involved in preparing the bid, and that arrangements are in place via the Leisure procurement for the commitments to pass to the new operator of the venues from 1st January 2025.

13.3 Reasons for Decision

13.3.1 Recommendations are made on the basis that that these events provide a number of positive outcomes for the people and city of Sheffield as follows:

- provides economic benefit and worldwide exposure for the city
- will drive footfall and increase dwell time in the city in support of local businesses (economic benefit)
- raise the profile of Sheffield as a major event hosting destination (brand exposure)
- will provide for community and civic engagement across the legacy development initiatives for both events

13.3.2 A further report will be brought back to members by way of update after the outcome of the bids are known.

13.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

13.4.1 The option not to host the Events has been considered, however in the context of the contributions set out in section 2 of the report, and subject to contractual agreements, it would feel like an opportunity missed for the City to not support these events.