

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Finance Committee

Meeting held 13 June 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Zahira Naz (Chair), Mike Levery (Deputy Chair), Mike Chaplin, Glynis Chapman, Marieanne Elliot, Mary Lea, Shaffaq Mohammed and Ibbby Ullah

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Toby Mallinson.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

2.1 It was noted that part 2 of the report at item 7 on the agenda 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 made at the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

1. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 22 March 2023 and the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 May 2023 be approved as a correct record;
2. That Councillor Mary Lea be appointed to serve on the Urgency Sub-Committee; and
3. That, as respects the appointment of Members to serve on the Urgency Sub-Committee or any other Sub-Committee of the Finance Committee, where vacancies exist or in cases of urgency to ensure quoracy or representation, the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the relevant political group whip, be authorised to appoint Members to serve on such Sub-Committees, as necessary, on the understanding that details of such appointments will be reported to the next or subsequent meetings of the Finance Committee.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 There were no public questions or petitions.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

6.1 The Committee received a report containing 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:-**

1. That 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; and
2. That 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. DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROVISIONS

7.1 The Committee noted the decision that had been taken under urgency provisions regarding the Fargate / High Street Property Acquisition. The Head of Regeneration and Property Services attended the meeting to answer Member's questions.

8. 2022/23 FINAL BUDGET OUTTURN

8.1 The Director of Finance and Commercial Services submitted a report bringing the Committee up to date with the Council's final budget outturn position for 2022/23 including General Fund revenue position, Housing Revenue Account, and Capital Programme Monitoring (Appendix 1). The report provided an update on the Council's Treasury Management activity in 2022/23 and set out expectations for the coming of the year (Appendix 2).

8.1 Officers agreed to provide Members with further information on the roofing replacement programme and an update on the level of vacant properties in the Housing Revenue Account after the next quarter.

8.3 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Finance Committee:-

- (a) note the updated information and management actions provided by this report on the 2022/23 Revenue Budget Outturn as described in this report;
- (b) note the updated information and management actions provided by this report on the 2022/23 Capital Programme Monitoring as described in Appendix 1;
- (c) note the annual Treasury Management Outturn report for 2022/23 as described in Appendix 2; and
- (d) approve the revenue budget carry forward requests for 4 items:

I. £239k Local Area Committee & Ward Pots;

II. £259k Displaced general fund carried forward as a result of Team Around the Person funding from ICB spent in 2022/23;

III. £200k Youth – this proportion relates to the amount underspent on the Voluntary Sector grants in 2022/23; and

IV. £300k in the Housing General Fund for Registration Regulation that was initially allocated in 21/22 to fund staff to undertake enforcement work in Private Sector Housing.

8.4 **Reasons for decisions**

8.4.1 To record formally changes to the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

8.5 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

8.5.1 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.

9. **CAPITAL APPROVALS FOR MONTH 1 2023/24**

9.1 The Finance Manager submitted a report that provided details of proposed changes to the existing Capital Programme as brought forward in Month 01 2023/24 and changes to the capital programme required as part of the year end close down process requiring formal ratification.

9.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Finance Committee:-

(a) approves the proposed additions and variations to the Capital Programme listed in Appendix 1;

(b) approves the budget adjustments required as part of the financial year end close down procedure as detailed in Appendix 2;

(c) approves the acceptance of grant funding as identified in Appendix 3; and

(d) approves the council entering into agreements to provide funding to third parties as identified in Appendix 4.

9.3 **Reasons for decisions**

9.3.1 The proposed changes to the Capital Programme will improve the services to the people of Sheffield.

9.3.2 To formally record changes to the Capital Programme and gain Member approval for changes in line with Financial Regulations and to reset the capital programme in line with latest information.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 9.4.1 A number of alternative courses of action are considered as part of the process undertaken by Officers before decisions are recommended to Members. The recommendations made to Members represent what Officers believe to be the best options available to the Council, in line with Council priorities, given the constraints on funding and the use to which funding is put within the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

10. **SYMCA FOOD POVERTY FUNDING ALLOCATION**

- 10.1 The Health Improvement Principal submitted a report seeking approval to allocate funding from South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) to accelerate the implementation of the Food Access Plan. SYMCA had made £150,000 available to Sheffield City Council with the requirement that it must be spent directly on sustainable food provision.

The funding would be used to develop sustainable local food sourcing infrastructure by:

1. Investing in S6 food bank to give them capacity to purchase food at scale on behalf of other food banks and food initiatives in the city. This would benefit the food projects who took part by reducing the cost of the food they required and reducing the time they must spend sourcing food. In turn this would increase the resilience of the emergency food relief system.
2. Investing in Food Works to enable them to scale up their surplus food sourcing and develop a pantry model. Food Works pantries would be rolled out in multiple locations across the city in partnership with community organisations. This would increase the number of people in the most disadvantaged communities that were able to access affordable nutritious food.

- 10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Finance Committee approves the proposed funding allocations as set out in paragraph 1.16 of the report.

10.3 **Reasons for decisions**

- 10.3.1 Supporting food purchasing in bulk will build the resilience of the emergency food system in Sheffield saving food banks time and money.
- 10.3.2 The expansion of Food Works pantries allows us to deliver on the commitments of the Food Access Plan to stimulate a more diverse range of food provision and support. Delivery of food pantries via Food Works rather than a national operator means that we are investing in local infrastructure and resilience. It also means that the model can be developed responsively and collaboratively, taking into account the needs of the community partner organisations who will host the pantries.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 10.4.1 Provide funding to The Bread and Butter Thing to implement 5 mobile pantries across Sheffield. Whilst it was noted that the initiative has many positive attributes and would bring benefits to communities it was felt that investing in local infrastructure and developing models of support that respond to the needs of local food relief initiatives would bring greater long term benefit.
- 10.4.2 Continue the emergency food store that is currently being hosted by S6 food bank on behalf of Sheffield City Council. This would not meet the SYMCA requirement for the development of sustainable food provision as it would mean purchasing food on a one off basis rather than investing in capability and infrastructure.
- 10.4.3 Divide the funding amongst existing food banks This would not meet the SYMCA requirement for the development of sustainable food provision as would likely be utilised for food and ongoing running costs. There will be other grants schemes in the near future that could be used in this way and we will ensure food banks are supported to submit applications.

11. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE URGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE

- 11.1 The Committee noted the Minutes the Finance Urgency Sub-Committee held on 2 May 2023.