

Cabinet

Meeting held 16 December 2020

PRESENT: Councillors Julie Dore (Chair), Jackie Drayton, Terry Fox, Bob Johnson, Mark Jones, Mary Lea, George Lindars-Hammond, Abtisam Mohamed and Paul Wood

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mazher Iqbal.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 18th November, 2020 were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 Public Questions Concerning Street Tree Archive

5.1.1 Justin Buxton commented, further to the council's promise to archive information relating to the scandalous street tree felling programme in Sheffield, can the Council confirm and categorically ensure that all information and data related to and associated with the Streetsahead contract and indeed the contract procurement project itself, is retained and not deleted prior to archiving, whether or not the information is considered suitable for public release?

5.1.2 Councillor Mark Jones commented that, as a result of the significance of the street tree archive and the information that will be included, the Council will be preserving data beyond the normal time frame requirements. He stated that the Council was eager to get the archive established as soon as possible and to cover the period outlined by the Ombudsman's report and then, once established we will add all pertinent information that we can, going further back, including information from the previous administration. He stated that legal advice will be taken in respect of whether information is considered suitable for public release and requested that details of any particular documents be forwarded on to him to check on their suitability for inclusion in the archive.

5.2 Public Questions Concerning Interpretation of Meaning of 'May' and 'Shall'

- 5.2.1 Justin Buxton commented, with respect to the Council's 'Standing Orders', sometimes referred to as rules. Please can the Council specify and explain in detail their interpretation of the word 'may' and furthermore also confirm or deny that in law the words 'may' and 'shall' have very different and distinct meanings?
- 5.2.2 Councillor Terry Fox commented that it is difficult to provide a precise answer without details of the full context but on face value "may" implies a discretion and "shall" implies an obligation, but you can often have a discretion as to how an obligation is actually implemented.

5.3 Public Questions Concerning Street Tree Felling

- 5.3.1 Justin Buxton commented, further to Councillor Dore's statement made at Cabinet on 18th November 2020. Can the Leader of the Council, Cllr Dore, confirm that all the decisions made, that resulted in the 'illegal' and very costly, in terms of both cash and reputation, pursuit of the street tree felling programme in Sheffield by Amey, pursuant to the Streets Ahead contract, were as a result taking officers advice? Why were pertinent questions not asked by the leader and Cabinet Members when it became clearly apparent something very wrong was happening and in turn avoid a less than positive legacy?
- 5.3.2 The Leader confirmed that no action taken had been deemed illegal and therefore, in the absence of the withdrawal of this aspect of the question, declined to allow the question. She reaffirmed that all decisions taken were based on officer advice.

5.4 Public Questions Concerning Forestry Commission Investigation

- 5.4.1 Justin Buxton commented that the Leader of the Council, Councillor Dore, has previously stated on record that the first she heard of the Forestry Commission investigating the legality of the street tree felling programme in Sheffield was from me on a Radio Sheffield 'phone in' no less than four months after officers were informed. Is this true? If so, is this acceptable? Was any review of officers concealing information commissioned by yourself or indeed any disciplinary action taken and if not, why not?
- 5.4.2 The Leader commented that, no doubt that Mr Buxton was aware of the Forestry Commission investigation before she was, as a result of his involvement with the campaign group that requested such investigation.

5.5 Public Questions Concerning Waggon & Horses Public House – Involvement Table

- 5.5.1 Mike Hodson commented, could Cllr Lea update us on the status of the Council's Involvement Table, published in 2016, and the Council's Guidance for Consultations; and comment on the conflict between those and the current consultation about the extension of the Waggon & Horses Public House into

Millhouses Park?

5.5.2 Councillor Mary Lea commented that there was no conflict between the Involvement Table and the Council's guidance on consultations with regards to the proposals for the Waggon & Horses development at Millhouses Park. Consultations are currently undertaken exclusively online because of the global pandemic and the desire and need to keep people safe.

5.6 Public Questions Concerning Waggon & Horses Public House - Consultations Received

5.6.1 Mike Hodson commented, could Cllr Lea inform us how many specific responses to this consultation have been received to date, and what if any further measures are being taken to inform the public, and local residents in particular, that this consultation is taking place?

5.6.2 Councillor Mary Lea commented that the Council had received 641 responses to the consultation so far. Such consultation has been widespread and includes posters which include QR codes linking directly to the consultation which have been displayed in Millhouses Park. Secondly the information was sent out in Parks and Countryside email bulletins, reaching about thirteen and a half thousand people. The consultation has also been promoted on the Parks and Countryside social media channels, reaching thousands of followers. She stated that the level of responses received so far is considered excellent for this kind of consultation.

5.7 Public Questions Concerning Tall Residential Blocks

5.7.1 Nigel Slack commented, with the news on Saturday that a Sheffield block of apartments has had its top four floors evacuated for fire regulation failures, affecting 35 residences, what steps will Council take to ensure that the current popularity within planning for very tall residential blocks are not putting residents at risk?

Will the Council also be undertaking reviews of previously accepted applications to ensure the builders and developers are meeting the exact conditions of the planning approvals, unlike the Hanover Tower situation?

5.7.2 Councillor Bob Johnson clarified that planning approval does not deal with construction or internal building safety issues, instead those issues are controlled at the construction stage under the building regulations. Developers have a choice now, whether they use our local authority building control or whether they use the private sector and that is their choice to use an approved building inspector. In the case of this site, it is understood that it was the latter route that the developer chose.

Subsequent maintenance of the building, in compliance with fire safety regulations, are the responsibility of the building owner. It is for the building owners to ensure that once completed and occupied safety regulations are adhered to. If matters come to the Council's attention whereby buildings are

subsequently altered by removal of key internal fire protection systems, then the Council will look at each case as it arises and take action where necessary with fire authority partners. The Private Sector Housing Team routinely inspect private sector buildings and regulate this. They collect all the data regarding the sector and risks are assessed and addressed through their powers. Post construction the Council has successfully taken enforcement action on a number of buildings in the City recently, where some building owners and management agents are not maintaining their buildings and not addressing fire safety breaches. For the buildings in the news recently, where prohibition notices have been served, we are reviewing what was installed at construction stage and how the block has been maintained in the following years to understand legal responsibilities and to ensure that leaseholders are not being over charged for works that should have been addressed prior to the completion stage.

The Council's priority is as ever with resident safety. We have a board of governance in place which is also attended by the fire service. The oversight of all existing building, all new buildings and those coming through the planning system will go through that process.

Councillor Wood commented that he would like to thank the staff that have been involved with this matter for their quick response. He stated that once we have any notification from South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue we act immediately. In this case, within an hour of the prohibition notice being introduced staff acted and within a number of hours everyone was rehoused. He stated that he had written to the government minister, resulting in a telephone conversation yesterday on how we can try and resolve this to get people back in their homes as quickly, but safely as possible. We are waiting for confirmation of details from government but if we get them, we will be able to get people returned soon. As a council we continue to make representations to government on building control issues, in particular that we feel the service should be back within the council. Representations have also been made with the Shadow Housing minister.

5.8 Public Questions Concerning Cabinet Membership

5.8.1 Nigel Slack commented, can the Council comment on whether there is any plan to re-shuffle the Cabinet following the installation of the new Leader and whether this is in the best interest of the city in the midst of the current crisis?

5.8.2 Councillor Bob Johnson stated that he was not in a position to comment on this matter right now.

5.9 Public Questions Concerning Alleged Wrist Injury

5.9.1 Russell Johnson commented, at a previous meeting, I asked when and how the Leader became aware of the alleged wrist injury suffered by a member of Amey/Servoca staff during the opposition to tree felling on Meersbrook Park Road.

If the Leader was not aware, did Mr Mothersole fail to inform her? The then Chief Executive told me of the incident in a private meeting. The question was passed

to Cabinet Member Cllr Jones, who said he would investigate.

Despite a reminder, no response has been forthcoming, either from Cllr Jones or from the Leader. Could the Leader please honestly answer the question now and have this minuted for the public record?

5.9.2 Councillor Mark Jones commented that he was liaising with officers on this matter and was carrying out ongoing investigations to enable him to get a fuller understanding of the position before providing a complete response.

5.10 Public Questions Concerning the Leader's Legacy

5.10.1 Russell Johnson commented, whilst wishing Cllr Dore well in her life post-SCC, I would like to ask whether, on balance, she believes her period as Leader will be seen as enhancing the reputation of my City, or will the well-known catalogue of embarrassing failures over the past decade or so overshadow any meagre achievements when people come to evaluate her legacy? Also, may I reserve a place in the queue for a signed copy of Cllr Dore's Memoir, should she decide to pen such a work?

5.10.2 The Leader commented that it was not just her legacy, but a joint, shared legacy under my leadership. She stated that it was important to note that her time in office as Leader coincided with the harshest central government cuts we've ever had to make. During that time, we have sought to give the greatest protection to council services, to the people in the greatest need and the most vulnerable in our City. Despite that austerity and the impact that it had we have done a number of things which made a difference to our City and our citizens: The introduction of the Fairness Commission; paying the living wage and becoming a living wage foundation accredited employer; insourcing a number of services back into the council, including the Council Housing Service, Repairs and Maintenance, Customer Services, Youth Services and others; and the regeneration of the city centre which is now taking hold - the Council's role in this and Heart of the City 2 has been significant.

We have projects such as the Outdoor City and the award-winning Grey to Green project. We negotiated the retention of World Snooker for a further ten years and the economic benefit that this brings to the City. We developed a major events programme with support for many award winning national and international events, including the amazing celebration of the 2012 Olympics.

Immediately on taking office we saved our museums and galleries from closure from our predecessors and I was the first Member representing Sheffield on the Arts Council England. We have overseen many award winning cultural and sporting venues and events. We have built new council housing and invested in our housing and neighbourhoods. We have had investment and management of our parks and our environment, including receiving a number of awards. I personally have planted numerous flowers, bulbs and trees. I have worked with the women of steel to create the award-winning statue in Barker's Pool. We have seen the successful development of the Olympic Legacy Park, including Sheffield's first three to 19 through school, technical college (with Sheffield being

the only city with two technical colleges), an advanced wellbeing centre, a food technology centre, alongside the stadium and youth stadium for rugby and football.

We have strengthened the advanced manufacturing sector in our City, including welcoming the likes of McLaren, Boeing and Rolls Royce. We have produced a new Local Plan which protects the green belt from development, despite the level of new house building targets imposed by central government. I have worked with other leaders of the core cities to put devolution on the agenda and have helped get the South Yorkshire devolution deal done and an elected Labour mayor. As a member of the HS2 taskforce and Transport for the North I have ensured that the route of HS2 brings high speed rail into our city centre. I was involved in the creation of Transport for the North, the only statutory transport body outside of London and the subsequent investment into the transport network across the North.

I have worked collectively and collaboratively with all our partners across the City Region at many levels, including South Yorkshire and City Region Leaders, Local Enterprise Partnership, Fairness Commission, Health and Well-being Board, Business Advisory Panel, Sheffield Strategic Advisory Group and most recently, on probably the most emotional and difficult thing that we've done is to support the City through the Covid pandemic. My only one disappointment is not seeing Sheffield Wednesday make it to the Premier League which I'll leave for my successor!

5.11 Public Questions Requesting Independent Inquiry

5.11.1 Russell Johnson commented, I wonder whether, as a positive parting gesture and as a step towards detoxifying the Sheffield Labour 'brand', Cllr Dore might advise her successor to initiate an Independent Inquiry or a meaningful Truth & Reconciliation process around the Street Tree Scandal? This could be achieved without loss of face as part of the transfer of leadership and be presented as a welcome 'new broom' approach, beginning the necessary rehabilitation of our City in the perception of people locally and nationally.

5.11.2 The Leader to respond in writing.

5.12 Public Questions Concerning the Climate Emergency

5.12.1 Russell Johnson commented, why, yet again, does Sheffield lag behind Leeds in innovative ideas to help address the Climate Emergency? For example, Leeds has the largest plant nursery in the country, the 'Arium', capable of growing over 5m plants each year and supplying community groups and the public. That forward-looking Authority is also planting millions of trees, embarking on educational programmes and other initiatives. Their Climate Action Network sets the gold standard for Local Authorities. What is Sheffield doing? A bit of greenwashing at best or something more profound?

5.12.2 Councillor Mark Jones commented that Sheffield was already globally recognised for the innovative work around the Grey to Green project, which will tackle some

of the climate change issues. With regards to tree planting there had been much activity by many people over many years, this city has approximately 21 to 22% of our area covered by trees, 18% of which is in the urban environment. As part of our tree strategy we will be planting 10,000 trees per year and, we have submitted two bids, one which has been successful and one where we are awaiting the outcome, which will hopefully double that, increasing the tree numbers that we are planting. He stated that it has to be noted that tree stocks across the nation face many challenges, including diseases and viruses. We in Sheffield are taking actions now to address those issues and make sure that the legacy of our tree stocks and the viability of our tree stocks continue into the future. We have also converted 20 hectares of unproductive forest to broadleaf forest to increase biodiversity, to somewhat address the challenges of climate change, which we are already witnessing.

He stated that, in terms of the street tree strategy that we are currently formulating, we hope to become an exemplar for Leeds and others to follow in terms of how we manage our trees. With the tree wardens initiative, we hope to be able to push forward the education elements of this.

He confirmed that the climate changes that we all face is something that we take very seriously. We have a comprehensive study ongoing at the moment that is being undertaken by consultants, who will be reporting via the Green City Partnership Board, a cross city and cross party board that we've established to ensure that all stakeholders in this city have an opportunity to input into our climate actions. We will be rolling out a comprehensive programme of education and engagement policies with the citizens of our city. The report, which will be public, will identify significant challenges and we will not shy away from that and we are determined to stick to our 2030 commitments. We will look to deliver everything that we can to tackle climate change, because it is happening now, it is something we recognise as being an issue we must tackle now for ourselves, our children and all future generations.

6. ITEMS CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY

6.1 It was noted that:-

(a) there had been no items called-in for scrutiny since the last meeting of the Cabinet; and

(b) the call in of the Cabinet decision of 21st October regarding the Sheffield COVID Business Recovery Plan was considered at the meeting of the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee on Tuesday 24th November and they:

- noted the contents of the report; and
- agreed to take no action in relation to the called-in decision, but requests that the Director of City Growth and the Interim Director of Sheffield Chamber of

Commerce and Industry be invited to a future meeting in March/April 2021, to provide an update on the progress of the Sheffield Covid Business Recovery Group, including information on how resources from the Covid Relief Fund had been allocated to date.

7. RETIREMENT OF STAFF

7.1 The Executive Director, Resources submitted a report on Council staff retirements.

7.2 **RESOLVED:** That this Cabinet :-

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Years' Service</u>
<u>People Portfolio</u>		
Mark Hinchliff	Headteacher, Brook House Junior School	21
Mandy Squire	Senior Teaching Assistant Level 3, Broomhall Nursery School	40
Lynne Walker	Senior Teaching Assistant Level 3, Broomhall Nursery School	42
<u>Place Portfolio</u>		
Simon Ogden	Programme Director	35

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

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

8. UPDATE ON COVID-19 TESTING AND VACCINATION STRATEGIES

8.1 The Director of Public Health submitted a report advising Cabinet of the current position regarding COVID-19 testing and vaccination strategies in Sheffield and seeking support to continue this work.

8.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

(a) supports the Sheffield testing strategy, which prioritises testing people with symptoms over people who are asymptomatic, as this has maximum impact on reducing disease transmission;

(b) notes that testing is only effective as part of a whole programme with all other

interventions in place and working well, such as contact tracing and the ability to isolate;

(c) agrees that the approach to identifying cohorts for asymptomatic targeted testing will be based on a clear rationale;

(d) supports the piloting of asymptomatic targeted cohort testing with winter resilience business critical staff;

(e) supports the decision not to pilot community (whole town) asymptomatic testing at the moment, based on evidence from the Liverpool pilot;

(f) notes the significant resource implications of doing asymptomatic targeted cohort testing;

(g) continues to seek funding and identify other means of support for people to self-isolate, recognising that increasing adherence to self-isolation is the key to successful transmission interruption;

(h) supports communications and engagement work about vaccination programmes including the need to continue to maintain other preventative measures; and

(i) supports continuing messages on the basic prevention measures such as social distancing, limiting contact with others, face coverings and handwashing, as these remain critical to controlling the disease over the next 4-6 months.

8.3 Reasons for Decision

8.3.1 As discussed in sections 2.4 and 2.5 of the report, asymptomatic testing needs to be done as part of an overall testing strategy, and as part of a comprehensive programme that includes contact tracing and self isolation. Asymptomatic testing can also do harm as well as having benefit, so in considering options we also took into account current evidence of the balance of benefit to harm, to resource required, to deliver an asymptomatic testing programme.

8.3.2 We discounted doing no asymptomatic testing, as the current evidence suggests there may be a favourable balance of benefit to harm to cost from doing frequent repeated testing in targeted cohorts of people.

8.3.3 We discounted doing community testing, as the current evidence, particularly from Liverpool, suggests the balance of benefit to harm to cost is not favourable. The evidence on Lateral Flow Devices does not support one-off use with large numbers of asymptomatic people, as it does not seem to have any meaningful impact on overall infection rates at a city level, and the potential to do harm (through false negatives, false positives, and widening inequalities) is too great.

8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

8.4.1 No alternative options were considered for the COVID-19 vaccination programme,

as this is being led by the NHS under direction of NHS England

8.4.2 Alternative options were considered for the asymptomatic testing strategy. These were:

- Doing no asymptomatic testing
- Doing community asymptomatic testing (eg like Liverpool)
- Doing targeted cohort testing (the recommended option).

9. COVID-19: COMF GRANT APPROVAL

9.1 The Director of Public Health and the Executive Director, Resources submitted a report (a) to inform Cabinet of additional funding received from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) towards expenditure incurred in relation to the mitigation and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19 for public health purposes to break the chain of transmission and protecting the most vulnerable from catching the virus; (b) seeking approval for the acceptance of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) and to seek authorisation for the Executive Director Resources, in consultation with the Director of Public Health, to expend the DHSC funding; and (c) seeking approval for the acceptance of future COMF Funding being received January to March 2021.

9.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

(a) notes that in October, November and December, Sheffield City Council (SCC) was allocated a number of grants known as the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) totalling over £8million, from DHSC towards expenditure incurred in relation to the mitigation against and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19;

(b) notes that £8.020m of COMF grant has already been received;

(c) approves the acceptance of the £8.020 COMF Grant;

(d) approves acceptance of up to £7.020m of COMF grant funding being received (Jan – Mar 2021);

(e) approves the expenditure of the COMF grant (up to £15.040m);

(f) delegate the authority to finalise future allocations of COMF grant to the Executive Director of Resources, in consultation with the Director of Public Health; and

(g) delegates authority to the Executive Director Resources, in consultation with the Director of Public Health, to make the final decisions regarding the use of this fund, in consultation with the Cabinet Member responsible for Public Health.

9.3 Reasons for Decision

9.3.1 The recommendations described in this report will enable Sheffield City Council to expend funds incurred in relation to the mitigation and management of local outbreaks of COVID-19 for public health purposes to break the chain of

transmission and protect the most vulnerable from catching the virus.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

9.4.1 This report describes what officers believe to be the best way of preventing, mitigating and controlling the virus in Sheffield. However, this will be kept under review and the approach described may need to change.

10. **MONTH 7 CAPITAL APPROVALS 2020/21**

10.1 The Executive Director, Resources, submitted a report providing details of proposed changes to the Capital Programme as brought forward in Month 7 2020/21.

10.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

(a) approves the proposed additions and variations to the Capital Programme listed in Appendix 1 of the report, including the procurement strategies and delegates authority to the Director of Finance and Commercial Services or nominated Officer, as appropriate, to award the necessary contracts; and

(b) approves the acceptance of grants as detailed at Appendix 2

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

10.3.1 The proposed changes to the Capital programme will improve the services to the people of Sheffield.

10.3.2 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.

10.3.3 To obtain the relevant delegations to allow projects to proceed.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

10.4.1 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.

11. **STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN FUND**

11.1 The Director of Legal and Governance, submitted a report seeking delegated authority for her, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business and Investment, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance and the Executive Director of Resources to submit the Stockbridge Town Investment Plan to secure up to £25M of Central Government Funding for the regeneration of

Stocksbridge.

11.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet delegates authority to the Director of Legal and Governance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business and Investment, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance and the Executive Director of Resources to submit the Stockbridge Town Investment Plan to secure up to £25M of Central Government Funding for the regeneration of Stocksbridge.

11.3 **Reasons for Decision**

11.3.1 The deadline for the submission of the Town investment Plan (TIP) is end of January 2021. Although the final agreed list of priority projects has not yet been agreed, it is apparent that there is an emerging consensus on the top priorities, reflecting both local residents aspirations as well as deliverability of the projects within the 4-5 year timescale.

11.3.2 There remain some issues regarding ownership and management of the “assets”, including associated risks and how that is addressed. However, this and other similar technical and legal issues will be addressed at the detailed planning and design stage when Members will have an opportunity to guide and ultimately take the final decision before committing on the ground.

11.3.3 Fundamentally this is a once in a generation opportunity to address some key infrastructure problems faced by Stocksbridge with its unique geography and challenges, compounded by the pandemic.

11.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

11.4.1 Do nothing – we could choose not to bid for the funding by not submitting a Town Investment Plan or bid for much reduced funding. There are no benefits under either option as it would simply mean a missed opportunity to regenerate one of the City’s neighbourhoods suffering from decline of the High Street and job losses

12. **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) - OMBUDSMAN REPORT**

12.1 The Executive Director, People Services, submitted a report setting out the outcome of the recent ombudsman report into Miss B and her son G in relation to fault regarding his education provision between 2014 and 2019, for Members’ consideration. He confirmed that the Council accepted all the recommendations of the Ombudsman report and had issued a sincere apology to Miss B and her son G in respect of the matter.

12.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet agrees the actions taken following publication of the Ombudsman report.

12.3 **Reasons for Decision**

12.3.1 Sheffield has a statutory and moral duty to provide appropriate education provision

for children with Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans.

12.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

12.4.1 No alternative options have been considered.

13. **PROCUREMENT OF A VACANT PROPERTY SECURITY AND CLEANING CONTRACT**

13.1 The Executive Director, Place, submitted a report seeking authority to procure the contracts for the supply of Vacant Property Security and Cleaning to support the in-house Repairs and Maintenance Services, in line with the contents of this report.

13.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

(a) approves the tendering of the contract for Vacant Property Security and Cleaning and related services, via a new Council framework following a tender exercise, as outlined in the report, to ensure the continuation of the ongoing support provision for the Vacant Property Security and Cleaning services, and associated work for the Repairs and Maintenance services to maintain our corporate, void and acquisitions properties; and

(b) delegates authority to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Commercial Services and the Director of Legal and Governance to:

1. decide the award of the new contracts to the successful suppliers chosen by the Council following the procurement; and

2. take all other decisions necessary in order to meet the aims, objectives and outcomes of this report which are not already covered by existing delegations in the Leader's Scheme of Delegation.

13.3 **Reasons for Decision**

13.3.1 The procurement will enable the Council to:

- Have a compliant and flexible mechanism in place to meet the service requirements, whilst allowing for a thorough review in the medium term to identify any further savings/efficiencies as part of the ongoing Repairs & Maintenance TOM (target operating model) project. In addition, other Council clients will have access to a compliant Framework without the need to source their own requirements with the added efficiencies this will drive.
- Harness any immediate savings and economies of scale that can be realised by re-engaging the market, with any savings realised that can be cashable in nature will contribute to the services' savings target.
- Realise the Council's Social Value ambitions by driving further value added

impact through this supply chain.

13.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

13.4.1 Alternative Option 1 – Do not Procure.

If the Council did not carry out this procurement then the Repairs and Maintenance (R&M) Service would not be able to maintain the Council's Housing Stock in as timely a manner and many properties would remain empty until the decent homes upgrade could be carried out. This impacts on the Council's ability to take rental income from these properties.

The Housing R&M service are however committed to more self-delivery with less reliance on third party contractors and service providers – this is a future aspiration and will take time to realise, in the interim the support will continue to be required.

We are bound by the Public Contracts Regulations and Council Governance to conduct a procurement where the level of financial spend indicates this, alternatives around the route to market will be options appraised, considered and benchmarked and fully documented in the Procurement Strategy.

13.4.2 Alternative Option 2 – Extend the contract with the current supplier.

The current contract will expire on the 31st March 2021 and there are no further extensions possible under the framework agreement.

13.4.3 Alternative Option 3 – procure via a fully compliant Framework

As stated, there are a number of fully compliant frameworks offering all the services we require – these are dominated by three companies one of which is our incumbent - Orbis.

ORBIS PROPERTY SERVICES – Wakefield, Manchester & Birmingham
SPECIALIST PROPERTY SERVICES – Leicester
VACANT PROPERTY SERVICES – Rotherham based service centre.

Whilst these are tried and tested suppliers and much of the due diligence around their appointment has been previously managed none are local and we feel there is a local market to tap into – there are a number of suppliers in the Sheffield area who could offer these services and by using a framework these potential suppliers would be excluded.

We require a reactive and responsive service on both the clear and clean services and the vacant property security services. In addition, we have extensive Health & Safety requirements and adherence to these needs to be evidenced via the tender, subsequent contract documentation and ongoing contract management.

Whilst the national Framework requirements can be tailored to meet our needs the Framework market is covered by three suppliers only and the market has many more which we would exclude via this route.

In addition to this narrow Framework market a number of other considerations have driven the decision namely the overarching lack of local competition, the work required making the Framework representative of our needs and broader health and safety compliance requirements are directing us to letting a fully compliant framework in our own right. This may lead to a more diverse and local supply chain, which will provide some additional Social Value benefits, and potentially a more flexible approach to service delivery.

The use of a Sheffield City Council Framework will offer the greatest flexibility for service delivery where peaks and troughs can be managed and third party support can be tailored to supplement the in house capability and flex with this as services move to more self-delivery over time.

14. THANKS TO COUNCILLOR DORE

- 14.1 Councillor Terry Fox commented that he would like to place on record the thanks of Cabinet Members, staff and the City of Sheffield to Councillor Dore for the work she has undertaken as Leader of the Council over many years. In particular he highlighted the way that she had skilfully and professionally navigated this Council through many years of severe austerity, enabling the Council to move forward positively as we prepare for next year's budget. On behalf of everyone he wished her well for the future.

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