

Strategy and Resources Policy Committee

Meeting held 5 December 2022

PRESENT: Councillors Terry Fox (Chair), Angela Argenzio, Douglas Johnson (Group Spokesperson), Bryan Lodge, Shaffaq Mohammed (Group Spokesperson), Joe Otten, Mick Rooney, Martin Smith, Richard Williams and Paul Wood

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Julie Grocutt.

2. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

2.1 It was noted that the appendix 4 to item 17 on the agenda is not available to the public or press because it contains exempt information. If Members wish to discuss the information in the appendices, the Committee will ask the members of the public and press to kindly leave for that part of the meeting and the webcast will be paused.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 Councillor Angela Argenzio declared a personal interest in relation to items 12 and 13 on the agenda as a Trustee of City of Sanctuary.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 The minutes of the previous meetings held on 12 October, and 15 November 2022 were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 Simon Ogden attended the meeting and asked the following questions to which the Chair responded:

The report suggests that several projects within the programme are now likely to be 'paused' due to budget limitations 'possibly leading to their demise' ;- a potentially fatal set-back for most - but does not reveal which ones they are or by what criteria they have been selected. However their identity could possibly be deduced as those not mentioned in Appendix 1 namely:

- Skills and Education Post 16 Hub
- Improved Access and Wayfinding
- Cycling and Walking Trails
- River Don Improvements

We think this committee and the public should be more fully informed on this significant decision, its rationale and implications.

a) Can officers clarify which projects may be put forward by them for pausing and possible abandonment as described in para 1.2.5 and why there has been no stakeholder engagement to explain or possibly avoid this situation through cost savings?

Answer: The Towns Fund Board are responsible for commissioning and prioritising the Towns Fund projects. The Council will provide information on costs, deliverability and outline implications for the programme of activity so that the Board can develop and implement an affordable delivery plan.

The Board are a stakeholders group and have involved both interested and impacted parties from Stocksbridge, along with interest groups from outside the Town, throughout the development stage of each project. When funding and approvals are confirmed the Board will need to determine how best to engage with the community and wider stakeholders should changes to the Programme need to be made.

b) What criteria will be used to assist the Towns Fund Board in deciding which projects are to be 'paused'? Will more recent public consultation results and Stakeholder views on these proposals be sought and reported to the December Board?

Answer: The Board will be provided with information in respect to costs, deliverability and benefit-cost ratios to help them make programme decisions. No further consultation is planned at this time but will take place in due course.

c) How for example has the Trails Project gone from 'within budget and locked down' (as reported by the Programme Manager in the June Stakeholder notes) to 'circa £1m over its budget, mainly due to the requirement to provide for long term maintenance' reported to the meeting in July without further explanation or dialogue? Can you share the makeup of the increased costs and any alleged 'scope creep' with stakeholders?

Answer: The funding submissions to Government earlier this year required the development of outline project specifications and cost estimates. More recent cost estimates been finalised that have identified cost pressures against a number of projects. The Towns Fund Board have been briefed throughout the process and will determine the engagement approach going forward.

d) If as we believe this increase is mainly due to the cost of a particular commuted sum relating to Holmes Farm Bridge, why has the option of omitting the bridge from the project scope not been considered as suggested by stakeholders? The bridge is already part of a long-established public footpath on the Councils Definitive Rights of Way Map. It also provides an occasional but essential operational vehicle access for Network Rail, Forestry England and Holmes Farm who should at least share any future maintenance costs?

As with all regeneration programmes changes to projects might have to be considered to manage budgets and outcomes. Any such removal changes for the

Trails project need to be considered by the Board in due course.

e) Have all the in principle wayleaves negotiated by the Trust with Wharnccliffe Estates, Liberty Steel and Forestry England been secured formally by the Council and if so why has this not been reported?

As the projects are awaiting funding confirmation and approval, they remain at concept stage. Therefore no agreements or works have progressed on any projects and won't until funding is confirmed and all approvals are achieved.

f) Has the possibility of additional funding for the Trails project from SYMCA or SUSTRANS been considered in light of its substantial contribution to active travel, road safety and the future visitor and tourist economy of Stocksbridge?

Answer: No additional funding for the trails project has been sought to-date.

g) Has an Outline Business Case been completed for the Trails project, will that be available to the December Towns Fund Board and can it also be shared with the Stakeholder Group in advance?

Answer: An Outline Business case has not been completed for the Trails project.

h) As the Accountable Authority for the funding should not the Council's Strategy and Resources Committee also have some more information and say in this critical decision process?

Answer: As Accountable Body the Council is responsible for the correct use of public funds and compliance with associated guidance issued by Government. As part of this role the Council will support the Board in making decisions in respect to its Programme. The Council has representation on the Board and has the ability to contribute to the decision making through this route.

6. RETIREMENT OF STAFF

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

6.2 **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 Portfolios below:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Years' Service</u>
<u>Operations</u>		
Malcolm Hobson	Team Leader	41
<u>People</u>		
Lisa Allen	Care Manager	38

Susan Barker	Social Worker Approved Mental Health Practitioner	41
Margaret Black	Social Worker Fostering	29
Angela Flynn	Senior Teaching Assistant Level 3, Lydgate Junior School	20
Stephanie Goddard	Senior Teaching Assistant Level 3, Springfield Primary School	26
Kim Kennedy	Support Worker	20
Kay Tabor-Hall	Senior Teaching Assistant Level 3, Watercliffe Meadow Community Primary School	39
Lorna Wild	Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Shortbrook Primary School	26

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

(c) direct 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.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 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.

7.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That:-

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;

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; and

3. 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.

8. STOCKSBRIDGE TOWNS FUND

- 8.1 The Executive Director City Futures submitted a report providing the context for a recommendation to accept the government grant from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities ('DLUHC') of £24.1m, as part of the Towns Fund, and for the Council to act as the accountable body for this grant. This will fund the Stocksbridge Programme through further feasibility, design and delivery.

The report seeks an approval for the proposed additions and variations in the Capital Programme for Stocksbridge projects listed in Appendix 1. The report also outlines the strategy for the Stocksbridge Programme, and provides an update on the programme's progress.

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

1. Accepts £24.1m Towns Fund grant from DLUHC and approves for the Council to act as the accountable body for this grant; takes note of the terms and conditions of this grant, and the financial implications of this decision included within the section 4.2 of the report;

2. Notes that an application for South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority ('SYMCA') Gainshare grant of up to £3m has been submitted for Manchester Road Placemaking (£2m) and Community Hub (£1m) projects of which £1.8m has been approved in principle to date (subject to a formal approval of Strategic Business Case in 2022/23 and Final Business Case by SYMCA Board in 2023/24). Section 4.2 sets out the risks if SYMCA Gainshare grant is not secured;

3. Approves the proposed additions and variations in the Capital Programme listed in the Appendix 1; and

4. Notes the strategy and delivery plans for the Stocksbridge Programme, included within the section 1.3.

8.3 Reasons for Decision

- 8.3.1 The Stocksbridge Town Deal provides a major opportunity to fund significant interventions to address current and future issues and challenges within the Town. The requirement on the Council to accept and manage the potential revenue implications of developing the new Library and Community Hub, and the ability to use CPO powers as a last resort, if negotiations cannot be concluded, are essential to deliver £24.1m investment programme in Stocksbridge.

8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

- 8.4.1 Do nothing The Council could choose not to accept the Towns Fund funding from DLUHC. This would be a missed opportunity to regenerate one of City's neighbourhoods. 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.

9. RACE EQUALITY REPORT – SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL’S RESPONSE

- 9.1 The Committee received a report of the Director of Policy, Performance and Communications setting out Sheffield City Council’s (SCC) proposed response including its action plan, to Sheffield’s Race Equality Commission’s recommendations (July 2022). This is part of a three-year improvement plan to help the Council, and more widely the city, to become an anti-racist city.

Over the next three years, SCC will commit to making continuous improvements, develop racial literacy and eradicate racial inequalities which exist within the Council and the services it delivers, across the diverse communities it serves. The report identifies advancements which will have to be realised internally and externally to improve life chances and outcomes for people of colour who either work for the Council and or live in the city of Sheffield.

The report outlines the urgent performance challenges that SCC will prioritise and focus on over the coming year, as well as identifying longer term goals for the Council’s work. It includes key areas which need rapid improvement within the infrastructure of the Council, so racial equality and equality more widely, can become embedded through our work. This in turn will benefit Black, Asian and Minoritised groups working and living within the city

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

1. Agrees Sheffield City Council’s proposed detailed response to the Race Equality Commission, including:

a. Committing all Members, Senior Leaders and staff to lead and contribute to SCC becoming an anti-racist and inclusive organisation through everything they do for the city and how they do it.

b. Committing to real actions that will eradicate racism within the Council’s practice rather than actions which are performative and unsustainable;

2. Acknowledges that Sheffield City Council has to improve practice for its employees and its communities if the goal of becoming an antiracist city is to be realised; and

3. Agrees that in our role as a Civic Leader we should work with anchor institutions, partners and communities to champion equality and lead the city in tackling racism and racial inequality as we work towards our goal of becoming an anti-racist city.

9.3 Reasons for Decision

- 9.3.1 As with many places in the UK, Sheffield continues to experience significant levels of inequality, poverty and discrimination and findings from the Sheffield Race Equality Commission (REC) in July 2022, indicate that Black, Asian or Minoritised

Ethnic Communities face additional racial prejudices, and racism which impacts on their health, wellbeing, life chances and outcomes stopping them from reaching their full potential.

9.3.2 The publication of the REC report is part of a journey for the whole city as well as for SCC as an organisation, as an employer, as a service provider and as a city leader. We will need to plan, sequence, and implement short term and long-term actions to make improvements and bring about powerful change thoughtfully and consistently. We need to do this with and alongside our communities, who rightly should hold us to account for achieving that change.

9.3.3 Although we are in a challenging financial time both within SCC and in communities following the impacts of the pandemic, now more than ever before it is essential to ensure the widest range of voices are heard in all we do to help shape the future of the city and its diverse communities.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

9.4.1 Do nothing. The do nothing option was discounted as the Commission's recommendations are actions to address the very entrenched inequalities around race, to not follow through on the work already undertaken by supporting the Commission will pose a reputational risk to SCC and further undermine trust and confidence

9.4.2 Embed the recommendations in wider EDI work. There is a possibility however that other protected characteristics with similar entrenched inequalities will not receive the same level of commitment and resource as a result of the specific time and focus on race. An alternative option is to embed the recommendations into the work the Council undertakes across equality and engagement more broadly and to address those areas specific to race only separately but combine the other actions, such as workforce diversity.

10. **PRIMARY CARE CAPITAL PROGRAMME - GP HUBS**

10.1 It was agreed that consideration of this item be deferred to the Extraordinary Strategy and Resources Policy Committee on 12 December 2022.

11. **GRANT AID PROGRAMME WITH VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PARTNERS 2023-2025**

11.1 The Head of Commissioning presented a report outlining that the Council has a strong history of grant investing in voluntary and community organisations (VCS). The report seeks to collate together in one place and provide an overview of much of that grant investment activity. It also seeks approval to continue this grant investment for a further period of time. The breadth of the investment is £3,507,436 per year with 56 VCS partners and over 20 lunch clubs. The grant agreements for the organisations listed in the report are due to expire in March 2023.

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

Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Aid Programme

1. Approves the continuation of the Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Aid Programme as detailed in this report at a cost of £1,467,104 per year for the next five years (2023-2028) including where required under the Constitution:

- I. the extension of the grant agreements currently funded from the Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Aid Fund, as detailed within this report, for five years until March 2028; and
- II. the grant funds detailed in this report.

2. Authorises the use of the Tackling Inequalities Fund and any underspend in the funding for the Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Aid Programme as a whole to support the impending Cost of Living Crisis which will include new approaches to community development and social eating and to the extent not already delegated by the Constitution delegate authority to the Director of Integrated Commissioning to determine any necessary eligibility criteria and award any necessary grants from this funding for this purpose;

People Keeping Well Programme

3. Approves the continuation of the People Keeping Well Programme as detailed in this report at a cost of £1,518,268.53 per year for the next five years (2023-2028) including the extension of the People Keeping Well grant agreements detailed within this report for five years until March 2028;

Equality Partnerships Programme

4. Approves the continuation of the Equality Partnerships Programme at a cost of £71,250 per year for the next three years (2023-2026) as detailed within this report including where required under the Constitution the extension of the Equality Partnerships Programme grant agreements detailed within this report for three years until March 2026;

Associate Libraries Programme

5. Approves the continuation of the Associate Libraries Programme enabling direct grants totalling £135,213 for the next year (2023-2024) as detailed within this report;

Supporting Vulnerable People Programme

6. Approves the continuation of the Supporting Vulnerable People Programme at a cost of £139,300 per year for the next five years (2023-2028) as detailed within this report, including the extension of the Supporting Vulnerable People agreements detailed within this report for five years until March 2028;

Working with communities in Sheffield's Green Spaces Programme

7. Approves the continuation of the Sheffield Green Spaces Programme including where required under the Constitution:

- I. the extension to Sheffield's Green Spaces grant agreements with Green Estate, Sheffield Countryside Conservation Trust and Steel Valley Project, detailed within this report, for 1 year until March 2024 at a cost of £156,300; and

II. the extension of the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust grant agreements detailed within this report for 5 years until March 2028, at a cost of £20,000 per year; and

General management and approval of grants

8. Where no such authority already exists under the Constitution delegate authority to the relevant Director for each grant programme to:

I. award new grants from any programme underspend (returned or unpaid funding); and

II. withdraw funding as necessary and in line with this report and the conditions of the grant funding agreements

11.3 Reasons for Decision

11.3.1 Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations were at the forefront of helping people throughout the covid pandemic and are now supporting people with the dual crisis of poor mental wellbeing and increasing poverty / cost of living rise (expected to continue for 3 years). The city and residents are more than ever reliant on VCS organisations enabling and walking alongside them.

11.3.2 We have long standing relationships of over 10 years with many of the organisations and they continue to support the outcomes need for people and our communities, green spaces to thrive.

11.3.3 As outlined in the One Year Plan and new Delivery Plan, we are committed to working with the VCS and continuing to fund our strategic partners at the same level through the modest Grant Investment Programme outlined in this Report helps to demonstrate that commitment whilst recognising the financial constraints the Council is under.

11.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

None. The Do Nothing option was discounted as to cut or change grant funding support would be detrimental at this time to the organisations, the people they work with and ultimately Council services.

12. ASYLUM DISPERSAL GRANT

12.1 The Director of Communities presented a report stating that the government have made provision for an Asylum Dispersal Grant to be paid to Local Authorities, along with additional funding to 'recognise the existing contribution and longstanding support' of local authorities accommodating asylum seekers.

The purpose of the report is to seek endorsement by the Committee of the proposed allocation of funding from the grant to support development of capacity to promote strong city leadership, a stepping-stone towards growth within the VCFS and strategic work to ensure a good quality, consistent and effective response to those seeking asylum and refuge in the city.

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

1. endorses the use of the Asylum Dispersal Grant and Asylum Dispersal funding to be utilised as detailed in this report, with the purpose of:

- Providing funding for the continuation of the current Communities Asylum & Migration team function to continue beyond March 2023.
- Supporting identified partners to provide strategically important, good quality services known to benefit those seeking asylum and sanctuary and approves grants in line with this report.
- Provide an Open Grant Pot for bids from a broad range of organisations working for the benefit of the asylum and refugee community.

2. where no such authority exists under the Constitution delegates to the Director of Integrated Commissioning, in consultation with the Director of Communities and Director of Culture and Environment, authority to agree the amounts, purposes and recipients of any individual grants awarded in year from the Grant Funds including any additional sums received, returned or unpaid; and

3. agrees the ringfence and carry forward all Asylum Dispersal money received into the 2023/24 financial year

12.3 Reasons for Decision

12.3.1 Given what we know about current numbers in the national, and local asylum estate, retention of refugees in the city and the importance of developing support for refugees to achieve socio-economic success, it is vital that we look beyond short-term demand regarding placement and care of asylum seekers in the city.

12.3.2 This funding is an opportunity to think not only operationally, but strategically to maximise impact for the city in the longer term. This funding will be significant to enable systemic change and an important step in placing the foundations for an integrated, prosperous, inclusive city.

12.3.3 The recommendation will support development of capacity to promote strong city leadership, a stepping-stone towards growth within the VCFS and strategic work to ensure a good quality, consistent and effective response to those seeking asylum and refuge in the city.

12.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

12.4.1 The Asylum Dispersal Grant will enable Sheffield to begin to address systemic inequality between asylum seekers and those who have sought refugee status and sanctuary via other routes of entry, including provision of wrap support for this vulnerable group. Given the clear benefit, other potential action e.g. to decline the funding, was rejected.

13. CIVIC HONOURS FOR SHEFFIELD

13.1 The Committee received a report of the Director of Policy, Performance and Communications and Interim Director of Legal and Governance aiming to relaunch the existing civic honours so that we have an open, accessible and clearly understood way of honouring people in Sheffield who have made a significant contribution to the city and its communities. This includes Civic Awards, Sheffield Legends and the Freedom of the City.

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

1. Agrees the outline proposals and actions to enable the re-launch of the civic honours as set out in the report;

2. Notes and approves the outline awards criteria for the different types of honour as set out in the appendix, including the principle of public nominations for Sheffield Legends and Civic Awards;

3. Notes and approves the principle of a representative panel to:
a. Make recommendations to the Lord Mayor on Freedom of the City awards; and
b. approve Sheffield Legends and Civic Awards

4. Requests that a further report be submitted to the Committee which provides more detail for approval about the awards criteria, timetable, public nomination process and composition of and recruitment to the independent panel for the awards and honours; and

5. Notes the proposals in respect of the employee awards.

13.3 **Reasons for Decision**

13.3.1 The activity around civic honours has lost momentum in recent years and we deal with potential nominations e.g., for Freedom of the City as necessary rather than in reference to an annual programme, clearly understood criteria, our values and the contribution of people in the city to life in our communities.

13.3.2 The proposals will allow us to achieve the following objectives using the established honours and awards:

- To have an active and a clear way for people to nominate someone who has made a special contribution to life in our city and to celebrate their achievements.
- Agree clear criteria and a decision-making process about who receives a civic honour.
- Define a range of awards through which we can recognise and celebrate people from all walks of life in Sheffield.

13.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

13.4.1 Option 1: Re-launch existing honours as a set of awards, each with a clear purpose and to redefine criteria, reinstate activity and improve what we already have, which are the:

Civic Awards
Freedom of the City

Sheffield Legends

And to develop an employee awards scheme

- 13.4.2 Option 2: to take no action. However, the current process is not working, and we believe that a widely understood and simple awards process is important to recognise and celebrate the outstanding effort and achievements of many people in the city and to say, 'thank you'

14. BUDGET MONITORING AND FINANCIAL POSITION MONTH 7, 2022/23

- 14.1 The Director of Finance and Commercial Services presented a report bringing the Committee up to date with the Council's financial position as at Month 7 2022/23 including General Fund revenue position and Capital Programme Monitoring (Appendix 1)

- 14.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee notes the Council's financial position as at the end of October 2022 (month 7).

14.3 Reasons for Decision

- 14.3.1 This paper is to bring the committee up to date with the Council's current financial position as at Month 7 2022/23 including the Capital Programme.

14.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

- 14.4.1 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.

15. CAPITAL APPROVALS - MONTH 7 2022/23

- 15.1 The Director of Finance and Commercial Services presented a report providing details of proposed changes to the existing Capital Programme as brought forward in Month 07 2022/23.

- 15.2 **RESOLVED :** That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

(i) Defer the Capital Programme addition listed in Appendix 1, section A - Transport Regeneration and Climate Change - Arundel Gate Bus Gate to the 12th December 2022 Extraordinary Strategy and Resources Policy Committee meeting and it was agreed to be dealt with as an urgent item ; and

(NOTE: The result of the vote on the resolution was For – 8, Against – 2, Abstentions 0).

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Strategy and Resources Policy Committee:-

(ii) Approves the proposed additions and variations to the Capital Programme listed in Appendix 1 (*excluding the deferred item referred to above*); and

(iii) Approves the acceptance of grants as detailed in appendix 2. 2

15.3 Reasons for Decision

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

15.3.2 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.

15.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

15.4.1 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.

16. 2023/24 BUDGET

16.1 The Director of Finance and Commercial Services presented a report updating the Strategy & Resources Committee on the progress of the 2023/24 budget process. The appendix contains specific budget proposals that the Committee are asked to endorse.

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

1. Notes the update on the Council's 2023/24 budget position, as set out in the report;

2. Endorses the budget proposals set out in the appendices and notes that the formal budget report be brought to the Strategy & Resources Committee on the 24th January 2023; and

3. Note that works continues towards balancing the 2023/24 budget including implementing the proposals agreed in this report.

16.3 Reasons for Decision

16.3.1 The Council is required by law to set a balanced budget each year. This report is pursuant to that objective and is in line with the process and timetable agreed by the Strategy and Resources Committee on 31 May 2022 and 5 July 2022.

16.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

16.4.1 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.

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