

Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee

Meeting held 22 February 2023

PRESENT: Councillors Ben Miskell (Deputy Chair), Paul Turpin (Group Spokesperson), Kurtis Crossland, Jayne Dunn, Tom Hunt, Barbara Masters, Henry Nottage and Minesh Parekh

1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Martin Smith.

3. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 Councillor Nottage declared a pecuniary interest in item 8 due to him being a business owner that had received a carbon audit under a Shared Prosperity Fund scheme.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18th January 2023 were approved as a correct record subject to the correction of a typographical error made in paragraph 9.2.2.

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

6.1 No public questions or petitions were received.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 The Principal Democratic Services Officer presented the Work Programme.

7.2 It was noted that items on the work agenda scheduled for 29th March 2023 would now be presented at the rescheduled committee on 15th March 2023.

7.3 Members discussed which policy committee's remit the Clean Air Zone (CAZ) and proposed changes to bus lanes on Ecclesall Road came under. The interim Assistant Director for Legal and Governance agreed to check this point and ensure that the item would be considered by the correct committee.

7.4 The committee considered consultation methods on the green jobs strategy. The Director of Economic Development explained that initial work carried out had been on context setting and that after the next meeting of the committee, when there had been a steer from members, trade unions would be invited to enter the discussions.

7.5 It was agreed that consideration be given to submitting a report to a future committee meeting regarding the cross cutting nature of the impact of the CAZ and it was requested that an economic evaluation of all roads affected be carried out.

7.6 Members discussed the Tinsley Art Project and officers agreed to provide a briefing once the formal decision had been made. The final decision on the project would not be made by the Economic Development and Skills committee due to the capital expenditure involved.

7.7 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** that:-

1. the Committee's work programme, as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed, including any additions and amendments identified in Part 1;
2. consideration be given to the further additions or adjustments to the work programme presented at Part 2 of Appendix 1;
3. 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
4. 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. SHARED PROSPERITY FUND YEAR - LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORT PROJECTS

8.1 The report sought to approve the use of £4.55 million of the UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) allocated to Sheffield City Council on four key projects as listed in section 1.3 of the officer's report.

The Business Growth Manager highlighted the need for transformational change to offer effective support to Sheffield businesses, and in order to deliver this, confirmed that dialogue with regional partners would continue.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee Policy Committee:-

- a) Approve the use of £4.55 million of UKSPF revenue funding to provide business support to Sheffield businesses through the following four key projects –
 - Launchpad – £850,000 UKSPF revenue funding for start-up and early

stage business support including workshop programme, specialist advisor 1-2-1 support and a small grants programme for start up businesses.

- Productivity and digital innovation grants – £2.1 million UKSPF revenue funding for SME's to access grants to support productivity gains and digital adoption in the business.
- Low carbon – £1.3 million UKSPF revenue funding used to provide sustainability audits and grants to improve the energy efficiency, reduce carbon consumption of Sheffield SME businesses.
- RISE – £300,000 UKSPF revenue funding to provide graduate jobs in Sheffield SME's, partnership programme with both Sheffield Hallam University and University of Sheffield.

Reasons for Decision

The underlying benefit that this proposal brings to secure external funding to deliver a programme of activity in Sheffield that will cover:

- Addressing the Cost-of-Living crisis
- Support the community sector
- Support to the cultural and visitor economy
- Improvements to the built environment and reduce carbon emissions.

The estimated value of support from SPF to Sheffield is a minimum £4.55 over two years with an expectation of additional private and public match funding

Alternatives Considered and Rejected

A do-nothing option would result in core business support programmes stopping altogether. The proposal as developed specifically looks to address strategic and financial support to increase productivity, reduce carbon emissions, reduce energy costs and help individuals to start businesses in the city. Alternative proposals would have less alignment with the themes developed in the SYSPF Investment Plan and might not be supported by SYMCA.

9. PROGRESS UPDATE ON ADOPTING THE CULTURE STRATEGY

- 9.1 The Head of Business Development (Culture) introduced an update following the Council's decision in September 2022 to adopt the Sheffield Culture Collective Strategy as an interim measure. The update would outline the work being undertaken to create the new strategy, how the Council could better support cultural organisations in the city and look at the establishment of a Cultural

Pipeline Fund.

- 9.2 The Vice-Chair of the Sheffield Culture Collective presented an overview of the work done to build on the Sheffield Culture Collective Strategy and progress made so far. The policy was launched in 2021 and adopted by Sheffield City Council in September 2022. The intention had always been to broaden and develop the strategy to represent the breadth and depth of organisations in the sector.

The interim strategy had demonstrated Sheffield's seriousness to funders including the Arts Fund and its discussion at this committee illustrated that it was considered an economic driver and a factor that contributes to a city's liveability.

A paper had been put out to tender with a plan to develop the new strategy and the intention was to bring the proposed strategy back to the committee in the autumn of 2023. There had been investment from Sheffield City Council, the University of Sheffield and the Arts Council, so far, and a portion of the work had been completed.

The Sheffield Culture Collective had planned an event in the Winter Gardens 14th March, 2023 to showcase new and small National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs). Representatives of the business community had been invited to get a taste of Sheffield culture. The aim of the event was to create a dialogue between businesses and the arts.

The importance of the new strategy, to demonstrate Sheffield's ambition to compete with other major cities, was highlighted. It was also noted that the work carried out by officers in the last year had brought extra money into the city to support cultural activity.

Officers agreed to provide Members with further information in respect of: a report produced by the SYMCA in 2022 on employment figures in the cultural sector in Sheffield and a toolkit for the LACs to assist them in moving the strategy forwards.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee:-

- Note the progress made in commissioning a wider, refreshed city Culture Strategy with the sector and partners, for completion in Autumn 2023.
- Note the outcomes of three Expressions of Interest and work being undertaken on other funding opportunities.
- Note the progress made in establishing a Cultural Pipeline Fund supported by SYMCA resources.
- Formally record its thanks to Council officers and external partners, in particular the Sheffield Culture Collective and Sheffield Culture Consortium, for the work carried out in the development of the strategy.

Reasons for Decision

1. This report provides a progress update on the actions and recommendations in the September 2022 report. The Economic Development and Skills Committee is recommended to:
 - Note the progress made in commissioning a wider, refreshed city Cultural Strategy with the sector and partners, for completion in Autumn 2023.
 - Note the outcomes of three Expressions of Interest and work being undertaken on other funding opportunities.
 - Note the progress made in establishing a Cultural Pipeline Fund supported by SYMCA resources.
2. As set out in the original report, the continuation of these actions will help to create a context where Sheffield's cultural sector can develop further and SCC can show cultural leadership.
 - The development of a refreshed Cultural Strategy will give ownership and encouragement to our diverse cultural sector, plus clarity and confidence to funders.
 - SCC's ongoing support with external funding bids will, over time, improve the likelihood of success.
 - A Cultural Pipeline Fund will start to create a cultural project stream, and will begin to address inequalities in provision and access to resources.

Alternatives Considered and Rejected

1. Do nothing

By undertaking none of the proposed actions, the cultural sector in Sheffield will continue to experience under-investment from external funders and SCC will suffer ongoing reputational damage in its cultural leadership
2. Do not commission a renewed city Cultural Strategy, and retain the Culture Collective Strategy as a finished product.

The Sheffield Culture Collective Strategy is an excellent document but was developed for a particular purpose with 19 local organisations and individuals, and does not include all the elements (e.g Net Zero) or methodology (co-creation) which would ideally feature in a city Cultural Strategy. While the general approach and priorities of the Collective Strategy are in line with Council policy, and provide a valuable immediate strategic hook for strengthening the cultural landscape in the city, a longer-term Cultural Strategy needs to be built on the views, needs and mandate of the wider cultural sector. With the support of the University of Sheffield and the Arts Council, we have an opportunity to co-create an inclusive, well-grounded and diverse strategy which will provide a blueprint for the next 10 years.

10. SHEFFIELD CITY GOALS (TO INCLUDE INCLUSIVE ECONOMY AND WELLBEING ECONOMY WHICH WAS REFERRED FROM FULL COUNCIL IN FEBRUARY 2022)

- 10.1 The Director of Economic Development presented an update to the committee that built on the report that was submitted in June 2022. It was explained that the goals provided a single focus and long term ambitions but moved away from a strategy that felt fixed. A task and finish group had been established and had been meeting every three weeks since June 2022 with a remit to ensure that engagement was embedded in the strategy. The work had moved into a listening phase where feedback from communities would be key.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee Policy Committee:-

- Note the presentation.