

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 6TH FEBRUARY, 2013

List of Amendments received by the Chief Executive

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.9 – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

1. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Penny Baker, seconded by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed

That the recommendations of the Cabinet at its meeting on 16th January, 2013, concerning the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2012-17 and Housing Revenue Account Budget and Rent Increase 2013/14, be approved with the following amendments:-

- (a) reduces the rise in heating charges from 5% to 1% in line with benefit increases, which will mean that a further £136k will be required from the community heating reserves;
- (b) notes that the reported 2012/13 surplus has increased to £7m and recommends the additional £300k, if achieved at the year-end, is allocated to repairing and replacing heating systems and boilers;
- (c) welcomes the decision not to implement the unfair practice of charging new tenants a higher rent than existing tenants, as recommended by the largest opposition group; and
- (d) regrets that the Administration refused to approach the private developer of the Park Hill project to request that they meet the associated costs of the project, currently funded by this Council.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.10 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JULIE DORE

2. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, seconded by Councillor Simon Clement-Jones

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words “That this Council” and the substitution of the following words therefor:-

- (a) laments the previous Government’s inability to handle public finances, increasing the national deficit year-on-year from 2001 onwards, reaching a total of £43bn prior to the economic crash;

- (b) notes that the previous Government built up a record national deficit, where £1 in every £4 the Government spent was borrowed, leaving the current Government to clean up the mess they had created;
- (c) reminds Members of the commitment of the previous Government to halve the deficit by 2014, by pledging £82bn worth of cuts;
- (d) deplores Her Majesty's Opposition, who despite making this pledge, have refused to provide any credible plans of how they would have cut the national deficit in Government;
- (e) however, notes the comments of the Leader of the Opposition and the Shadow Chancellor who have refused to commit to reinstate funding for local government if elected;
- (f) regrets that the Administration continue to hypocritically scare-monger about Council budgets, in a desperate attempt to deflect blame for their own decisions and incompetence;
- (g) notes that while Sheffield will see a 3.9% reduction in its adjusted Formula Grant (including Early Intervention Grant and other funds), Wokingham will see a reduction of 5.6%, while Epsom & Ewell and Guildford will see reductions of 9.4% and 7.8% respectively;
- (h) further confirms that Sheffield City Council will have a spending power of £2,273 per dwelling next year compared to £1,845 for Wokingham, £306 for Epsom & Ewell and £284 for Guildford;
- (i) furthermore, thanks the Government for the overwhelming investment in Sheffield including the commitment to a High Speed Rail Station, £1.2bn for the Streets Ahead programme, £9.9m for a University Technical College, over £100m through the Regional Growth Fund and millions of pounds in Sheffield's trains, trams, buses and cycle routes;
- (j) believes it is a shame that the current Administration continue to use Sheffield as a pawn in a political game, instead of working constructively with the Government;
- (k) in particular, regrets that the current Administration have taken an axe to front-line services, while they continue to waste money on vanity schemes and pet projects;
- (l) confirms the following facts:
 - (i) the Council's Statement of Accounts, signed off by the Chair of the Audit Committee, reported "usable reserves"

of £167m;

- (ii) the Council's 2012/13 Capital Programme earmarked £2.2m for "Town Hall Meeting Rooms" in the 2013/14 financial year;
 - (iii) the Council spent £475,000 a year on full time trade union officials, in addition to 61 members of staff performing trade union duties on a part time basis;
 - (iv) from December 2011 to November 2012, the Council recorded £4.7m of "consultancy" fees in payment to supplier documents;
 - (v) the Administration approved £2.5m to be spent at Park Hill; and
 - (vi) that a Cabinet Advisor twice proposed a pilot investigating i-pads for councillors;
- (m) is not surprised, that having attempted to silence opposition voices in this Council Chamber, the Administration are now attempting to use the Council as a tool to silence opposition voices outside of the Council;
- (n) believes also, that it is ironic for the Administration to talk of "factually inaccurate untruths" given their "6-month budget" claim in 2011, which was in no way justified by the facts;
- (o) furthermore, notes the Fair Deal for Sheffield campaign, launched by the local Labour Party, contains false claims about NHS funding, which Labour councillors were forced to retract in this Chamber due to their inaccuracy;
- (p) is pleased to see that the Fair Deal for Sheffield was boycotted by all opposition parties on this Council, who truly recognised the ploy as nothing more than a party-political stunt;
- (q) sincerely hopes that not a single penny of taxpayers' money is wasted on this party-political stunt; and
- (r) believes that if the Administration were serious about standing up for Sheffield, they would stop their petty party political games, eliminate the excessive waste within the Council and ensure much needed funds were directed towards front-line services.

3. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Robert Murphy, seconded by Councillor Jillian Creasy

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (p) to (s) as follows:-

- (p) notes the proposed reduction of over £2m to the 2013/14 levy for the South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority;
- (q) understands that any decision to reduce the levy is made by the Integrated Transport Authority which includes 5 elected members from Sheffield;
- (r) believes that at a time of economic hardship and rising fuel prices, public transport is vitally important to prevent social exclusion and allow access to opportunities for all members of our communities; and
- (s) calls on all Sheffield members of the Integrated Transport Authority to oppose any reduction to the levy for 2013/14 and invest any budget savings in improvements to South Yorkshire's public transport network.

4. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Bryan Lodge, seconded by Councillor Stuart Wattam

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (p) to (r) as follows:-

- (p) notes that whilst the present Administration have taken full responsibility for their budget proposals whilst dealing with an unprecedented level of Government cuts, regrets that the main opposition group have opposed numerous proposals without presenting the full details of their budget outlining the alternative cuts that they would make;
- (q) believes that the main opposition group have acted irresponsibly through presenting factually inaccurate untruths about Council spending in an attempt to suggest that the Government's cuts can be made without impacting upon local services and believes that this is an attempt to mislead local people; and
- (r) therefore calls on all opposition groups to present details of their budget to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 13th February, 2013, remembering that when they were the ruling group, the main opposition group stated "it would not be open or honest for any political group to present their proposed budget on the morning of Budget Council day".

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.11 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR SHEILA CONSTANCE

5. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Colin Ross, seconded by Councillor Penny Baker

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion in paragraph (a) of the words “this current Government came to power” and their substitution by the words “this economic downturn”;
2. the deletion of paragraphs (f) and (h) to (j);
3. the re-lettering of paragraphs (a) to (e) as new paragraphs (b) to (f), and the addition of a new paragraph (a) as follows:-
 - (a) reminds Members that the previous Government oversaw the most severe economic collapse in post-war British history and left this country on the brink of economic abyss;
4. the addition of new paragraphs (h) to (m) as follows:-
 - (h) recognises that despite 13 years in power, Labour politicians failed to tackle the root causes of homelessness, with 1.75 million people on social housing waiting lists and an estimated additional 380,000 ‘hidden homeless’ people in the UK;
 - (i) notes with concern, that under the previous Government, the building of social housing declined to the lowest figure since the Second World War, with seven times more prison cells being built than Council homes;
 - (j) furthermore, acknowledges the Council have so far spent less than 10% of the New Homes Bonus, a fund specifically targeted at encouraging more home building;
 - (k) welcomes moves by the Coalition Government to increase the building of social housing, and action taken by the last Council administration to build the first new Council homes in Sheffield for two decades;
 - (l) acknowledges specific moves by the Coalition Government to tackle homelessness, such as the recent £264,000 awarded to Sheffield charities, the Archer Project and ASSIST, and measures in the Localism Act, which will allow homeless families to find a suitable home

in the private rented sector and avoid the uncertainty of long waits in temporary accommodation;

- (m) supports broader Government initiatives, which have been welcomed by homeless charities, such as a cross-departmental Homelessness Working Group and the Health Inclusion Board, which will tackle chronic health problems among the homeless, and the new mental health strategy, *No Health without Mental Health*, which focuses on the needs of homeless people;

- 5. the re-lettering of original paragraph (k) as a new paragraph (n).

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.12 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW SANGAR

- 6. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Mazher Iqbal, seconded by Councillor Geoff Smith

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words “That this Council” and the substitution of the following words therefor:-

- (a) regrets that this Government is making unprecedented and unfair cuts to Sheffield City Council and that the Council has had to reduce spending by £140 million over the past two years with a further £50 million for 2013/14;
- (b) is committed to local engagement and community empowerment, but believes that the unprecedented level of cuts that the Council is facing means that spending £2.4 million per year on locality engagement to the detriment of other services cannot be justified;
- (c) acknowledges that if this level of saving was not found from the locality engagement budget, it would need to be found by making cuts to other parts of the Council’s budget and believes it is disingenuous of the main opposition group to call upon the Council to protect Community Assemblies without offering any explanation as to which budgets they would cut;
- (d) will continue to encourage local engagement and community empowerment, however accepts that this will be with significantly reduced resources due to the unfair Government cuts that the Council is facing;
- (e) believes that the current Community Assembly system is flawed as it has failed to engage communities sufficiently and has as its main focus formal Assembly meetings which have often failed to

attract the public or convince them that they were influencing decisions;

- (f) notes that Councillor David Baker, one of the Lib Dem architects of Community Assemblies, is reported within the write-up of a Sheffield for Democracy meeting, called to discuss Community Assemblies, on 23rd October, 2012, as offering the perspective that “Community Assemblies (other than the North East Community Assembly) have not operated as intended”;
- (g) acknowledges that despite the flaws in the system, some good local work has been achieved by Community Assembly staff, local members and community groups;
- (h) believes that more of a focus on working at a ward level will encourage community engagement and participation;
- (i) notes that the initial consultation resulted in a wide range of views, with many constructive suggestions which will be considered carefully;
- (j) confirms that the work to develop the future model for local engagement and community empowerment is continuing and that there will be a second round of consultation with the intention of producing a system which maximises, as far as resources allow, local engagement and community empowerment, and supports partnership working in the City; and
- (k) further confirms that at first the new system will have to operate within a limited and reduced budget, but notes that in future, if more resources become available, it will be possible to enhance the new system through additional funding.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.13 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR HARRY HARPHAM

7. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Simon Clement-Jones, seconded by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the deletion of paragraphs (a) to (c) and (e) to (g);
- 2. the re-lettering of paragraph (d) as a new paragraph (a); and
- 3. the addition of new paragraphs (b) to (h) as follows:-
 - (b) regrets that the previous Government chose to dedicate their time sucking up to hedge-fund managers in the City

of London, ignoring the needs and potential of the Core Cities;

- (c) notes the quotes of Polly Toynbee, specifically, “you can only be flabbergasted all over again at how Labour kowtowed to wealth, glorified the City and put all the nation's economic eggs into one dangerous basket”;
- (d) believes the previous Government failed to address the North/South divide, leaving Northern cities overly dependent on the public sector and particularly vulnerable in a downturn;
- (e) supports the steps this Government has taken to rebalance the British economy, such as the recent announcement of the High Speed 2 rail line, alongside such policies as the Regional Growth Fund, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Enterprise Zones and University Technical Colleges;
- (f) believes contrasting the funding of a metropolitan borough with that of a shire district is a false analogy but – for the avoidance of doubt – notes that Sheffield will see a 3.9% reduction in its adjusted Formula Grant (including Early Intervention Grant and other funds), while Wokingham will see a reduction of 5.6%, Epsom & Ewell of 9.4% and Guildford of 7.8%;
- (g) further confirms that Sheffield City Council will have a spending power of £2,273 per dwelling next year compared to £1,845 for Wokingham, £306 for Epsom & Ewell and £284 for Guildford; and
- (h) resolves to continue working in partnership with other cities to ensure the Core Cities are the drivers of economic growth in our nation.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.14 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JACKIE DRAYTON

8. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Colin Ross, seconded by Councillor Andrew Sangar

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words “That this Council” and the substitution of the following words therefor:-

- (a) notes the Redesign of Early Years Services agreed by the Cabinet on 12th December, 2012;

- (b) highlights that thanks to Liberal Democrat policy of 15 hours Free Early Learning for disadvantaged 2-year-olds, £3.8 million of new funding will be invested in Sheffield next year;
- (c) yet recognises that, given funding reforms, changes have to be made to the way early years services are provided in the City;
- (d) believes the relevant Cabinet Member should not have dithered for over a year on the Early Years Review, and should have come forward earlier with concrete proposals, so that providers and parents would have longer to adapt;
- (e) is dismayed that the Cabinet are still yet to publish key details of the future model, such as how the 17 Children's Centre Areas will work in practice, with just weeks to go until the implementation of a new system;
- (f) furthermore, highlights the threats facing voluntary and community sector organisations in adapting to the new funding system and regrets the complete lack of support that has been provided to centres who are facing a potential cliff-edge in funding;
- (g) believes local parents and providers are simply not getting a fair deal from this Council;
- (h) therefore, understands the local anger at the Cabinet, given the pitiful consultation process, which amount to an insult to parents and providers across the City;
- (i) thanks campaigners for fighting with dignity and determination to protect local services;
- (j) regrets that the work of campaigners has been subject, in the words of one campaigner, to a "flippant and derogatory reference" by the Leader of the Council and hopes the Leader of the Council will apologise;
- (k) is not surprised, given this context, that the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee, voted unanimously to return this proposal to Cabinet for further consideration of the details of the proposals;
- (l) believes this vote, which contained members of the Administration's group, serves as a damning assessment of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families; and
- (m) urges the Cabinet to immediately adopt the recommendations of the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny and Policy

Development Committee, specifically that the Cabinet:

- (i) considers what transitional arrangements are needed to be put in place to ensure that good quality early years provision is able to be sustained; and
- (ii) provides further details of provision within the 17 areas, and gives assurances that a comprehensive communications plan is developed to inform parents of the locations of support, and the type of support available, in the 17 new areas.

9. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Robert Murphy, seconded by Councillor Jillian Creasy

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraphs (c) to (k) and the addition of new paragraphs (c) to (f) as follows:-
 - (c) notes increasing evidence that the environment of children in their early years is crucial to their development into contented and rounded adults;
 - (d) believes that the provisional decision to cut funding to the voluntary sector providers was made without consultation with either the providers or their service users;
 - (e) believes that placing early years providers at risk, many of whom have received an "outstanding" grade from Ofsted, is unacceptable given the potential for disruption of many vital services to communities in real need;
 - (f) therefore requests the Cabinet to set aside the current proposals and properly consult with communities about the models of support they require;
2. the re-lettering of paragraph (l) as a new paragraph (g).

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.15 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR COLIN ROSS

10. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Jackie Drayton, seconded by Councillor Julie Dore

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words "That this Council" and the substitution of the following words therefor:-

- (a) regrets that a further £6.8 million reduction to the Early Intervention Grant in the coming financial year, in addition to significant reductions to funding in previous years, indicates that Government cuts are being targeted directly at services to give children, young people and families the opportunity to fulfil their potential;
- (b) completely condemns the cuts to Early Intervention Grant and recalls warnings by sector leaders that these cuts would have a significant impact on services provided by local authorities;
- (c) supports the letter by the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Deputy Prime Minister objecting to cuts to the Early Intervention Grant;
- (d) regrets that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Deputy Prime Minister refused to listen to warnings about cuts to Early Intervention Grant and included heavy reductions in the Local Government Finance Settlement;
- (e) acknowledges that proposals in the Early Years review include measures to deliver some of the savings necessitated by the Government's cuts to the Early Intervention Grant;
- (f) further acknowledges that due to the level of the cuts to the Early Intervention Grant and the subsequent expansion of Free Early Learning, funding can no longer be identified for childcare sustainability and the Early Years Review therefore includes proposals to end grants to 16 childcare providers which is a continuation of the policy adopted by the previous Administration and notes comments by the previous Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families and current Deputy Leader of the Main Opposition Group in The Star newspaper on 7th January 2011 "We will have significantly less money than we previously had so we have to ensure we are putting it to the best possible use, supporting the most disadvantaged families, ... Tough economic times can give new opportunities to review how services are provided and to question if they are being provided in the most efficient way. It is about getting better value for money. Our funding needs to be redirected so those most in need are benefiting directly. ... Centres will have to charge market rates for their services if their parents can afford them."
- (g) regrets the potential impact that the removal of grants from the 16 childcare providers will have on their organisations, however acknowledges that this is ultimately a consequence of the Government's decision to cut the Early Intervention Grant so

heavily, as stated by the previous Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families that “we will have significantly less money than we previously had”;

- (h) is committed to making sure childcare is available in all areas across the City and understands that whilst changes in Government policy direct a change in the Council’s role towards a market facilitator, the Early Years Review identifies that temporary arrangements need to be put in place to ensure that early years provision can continue in the transitional period in between the ending of current arrangements and the expansion of Free Early Learning and welcomes that this was reconfirmed at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 24th January, 2013;
- (i) notes that the Early Years Review indicates longer term proposals to ensure that all providers are given the help they need to develop a sustainable business model and maximise the funding opportunities available following changes in Government policy and the development of Free Early Learning;
- (j) further notes that proposals in the Early Years Review also include changes to the organisation and management of Sheffield’s Children’s Centres, however, acknowledges that proposals in this area are to make savings to management, administration and premises costs and not to reduce the number of outlets in which services are provided, noting the statement in the Cabinet Report that there will be little impact on current service delivery to parents, however, understands that the locations of where this support is provided may change;
- (k) further notes that details of service provision following the organisational changes will be made available and any changes to locations of support will be effectively communicated to parents and welcomes that this was reconfirmed at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 24th January; and
- (l) further notes that any future proposals agreed following the consultation period will be subject to further scrutiny.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.16 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JACK SCOTT

11. Amendment to be moved by Councillor David Baker, seconded by Councillor Ian Auckland

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraph (e);

2. the re-lettering of paragraphs (c) and (d) as new paragraphs (d) and (e) and the addition of a new paragraph (c) as follows:-
 - (c) praises the previous Administration for introducing the Snow Warden Scheme and regrets the repeated refusals of this Administration to expand the Scheme at minimal cost;
3. the addition of new paragraphs (f) to (h) as follows:-
 - (f) notes that, while individual extreme weather events cannot be attributed to climate change with any confidence, climate change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of such events;
 - (g) regrets that previous Governments refused to take warnings of climate change seriously; and
 - (h) commends the influence of Liberal Democrats in Government in addressing climate change, through measures such as the ground-breaking Green Deal, which the Council's Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene described as "fantastic news for Sheffield".

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.18 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ALISON BRELSFORD

12. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Isobel Bowler, seconded by Councillor Harry Harpham

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words "That this Council" and the substitution of the following words therefor:-

- (a) regrets that the Council has had to propose removing the subsidy from Stocksbridge Leisure Centre in order to balance its budget in 2013/14;
- (b) welcomes the development of a partnership between Sheffield City Council and Stocksbridge Town Council to look at options for the future provision of leisure services for Stocksbridge;
- (c) thanks Sport England for their support for a short independent study to help us look at all options;
- (d) welcomes the Council's decision to provide additional funding for Stocksbridge Leisure Centre into 2013/14 to allow three months for options to be developed;

- (e) deeply regrets that this Government is making unprecedented and unfair cuts to Sheffield City Council and that the Council has had to reduce spending by £140 million over the past two years with a further £50 million for 2013/14; and
- (f) recognises that the present Administration is acting responsibly to protect services as far as possible, however, due to the scale of the cuts the Council is facing, it will have to make some difficult decisions and unfortunately the proposed withdrawal of subsidy and possible closure of Stocksbridge Leisure Centre is one of these.

13. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, seconded by Councillor Roger Davison

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (g) and (h) as follows:-

- (g) notes the minutes of Stocksbridge Town Council on 10th November, 2011 that Councillor Philip Wood “gave assurances that [Stocksbridge Leisure Centre] would stay open”;
- (h) believes that these remarks were misleading prior to a local election and hopes Councillor Wood will apologise for his remarks.