

## SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

### COUNCIL MEETING – 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2013

#### List of Amendments received by the Chief Executive

#### ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 8 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MAZHER IQBAL

1. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Joe Otten, 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) is appalled by the latest round of excessive hikes in energy prices approved by a number of British energy companies;
- (b) believes these hikes have been caused by the oligopoly created by the last Government, who took the market from seventeen operators to the dominance of the big six;
- (c) notes research by Ofgem that, in 9 years under the previous Government, the average annual household energy bill jumped by 120%, from £365 in Sept 2000 to £804 by Sept 2009;
- (d) believes the Leader of Her Majesty’s Opposition’s commitment to freezing energy bill prices is a con, which could risk blackouts and jeopardise green jobs as well as billions of pounds of investment in low carbon technology;
- (e) furthermore, understands that energy companies may significantly hike prices in anticipation of a future freeze, which will increase the cost of living for hard-working families;
- (f) also considers that a price freeze may have the effect of driving smaller operators out of the market, thereby reducing competition and actually upholding high prices;
- (g) supports the action the Coalition Government is already taking to tackle fuel poverty, including:
  - (i) the ground-breaking Green Deal, which was first proposed by Liberal Democrats, and was described by the Council’s Cabinet Member for Environment as “fantastic news for Sheffield”;

- (ii) reversing the previous Government's planned cut to Cold Weather Payments, which are targeted at the most vulnerable;
  - (iii) reducing fuel bills for 2 million families by up to £130 through the Warm Home Discount; and
  - (iv) rolling out a 'smart meter' programme, which helps people save money and ensures energy companies meet demand more efficiently;
- (h) also welcomes the steps taken by the Rt. Hon. Ed Davey, MP, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, to promote collective switching across the UK and is pleased that this policy was adopted by the Council through the Big Sheffield Switch;
- (i) notes research by the Department of Energy and Climate Change, which demonstrates that the Coalition Government's climate change policies will save consumers roughly £166 in energy bills by 2020;
- (j) believes the Government could always go further to support families with their energy bills and therefore welcomes the Government's commitment to reduce switching times and work with Ofgem to tackle the big six's profits;
- (k) however, rejects spurious claims that rising energy prices are linked to green levies and underlines the importance of investment in low-carbon technology to securing the future of Britain's economy;
- (l) also highlights the importance of local action and commends the previous Administration's Free Insulation Scheme, through which over 28,000 homes in Sheffield are already benefitting from warmer homes and cheaper energy bills; and
- (m) yet regrets that the present Administration has failed to make any real progress on the Council's Decentralised Energy City Strategy and calls for an immediate Cabinet Report to set out the next steps that can be taken.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 9 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR NEALE GIBSON**

2. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Roger Davison, seconded by Councillor Penny Baker

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraph (c) and the addition of a new paragraph (c) as follows:-

- (c) calls upon Shaun Wright, the Police and Crime Commissioner, to undertake further work with LGBT groups across the city to ensure that homophobic hate crimes are tackled.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 10 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR SHAFFAQ MOHAMMED**

3. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Mick Rooney

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) welcomes any fall in unemployment which is especially important given the mismanagement of the economic recovery by the present Government over the past three and a half years and notes reports from the Daily Express in May this year that ‘George Osborne’s economic policy has led to the “weakest recovery in recent history”, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).’
- (b) is concerned that the present Government are becoming increasingly complacent about the recovery and is concerned by the celebratory tone of the Leader of the Council’s main opposition group’s motion when many Sheffield families continue to face extremely challenging economic circumstances including the cost of living crisis which this Government is failing to tackle;
- (c) notes an article in the Guardian newspaper on 23rd October 2013 which states that “the recovery has so far been enjoyed by a relatively small number of people in a few patches of the country. Analysis of official statistics by the Centre for Research on Socio-Cultural Change (Cresc) at Manchester University [shows that]: London and the south-east have come roaring out of the crash, and now account for a greater share of growth than they did even during the boom. Nearly every other part of the country has got relatively worse off. And while the typical worker is going through the longest squeeze in living standards since the 1870s, top-earning households are comparatively better off than they were before the crash.”
- (d) is committed to doing everything possible to support small businesses who are central to Sheffield’s economy and therefore welcomes the following programmes of the present Administration to support local businesses:-

- (i) breaking down the barriers for Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to access the Regional Growth Fund;
  - (ii) the RISE Graduate Scheme which supports local SMEs employ graduates;
  - (iii) the export project supporting local SMEs in the export market;
  - (iv) the Sheffield Apprenticeship Programme;
  - (v) Skills Made Easy designed by Sheffield City Council, in partnership with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), to put the purchasing power for training for the first time, in the hands of businesses in the Sheffield City Region (SCR);
  - (vi) Business Summits;
  - (vii) the small business loan fund;
  - (viii) up to 50% reductions in off street parking charges;
  - (ix) the Chapel Walk scheme;
  - (x) the Digital Direction Programme; and
  - (xi) securing a Start Up Loans for Young People, the only Council to have done so;
- (e) recalls the principle that the City Deals were led by the cities and the ideas behind the Sheffield City Region Deal were formulated within the city region, led by local public and private leaders, and it is not the Deputy Prime Minister or Whitehall that have delivered the 425 apprenticeships, it's the City Region, with Sheffield as its Core City, providing the vision, leadership and delivery to make a difference to young people in SCR and to our businesses and is therefore pleased that the main opposition group have recognised the work taken by the present Administration, neighbouring authorities and the Local Enterprise Partnership;
- (f) regrets that the main opposition group have yet again attempted to mislead the Council, this time about apprenticeships, and notes an article from the Liverpool Daily Post from 10th June 2013 which states that "Liverpool is outranking most of its rival cities when it comes to helping young people into apprenticeships, new council figures reveal. Some 5.2% of the city's 16 and 17-year-olds now take up apprenticeships. That compares to an English average of 3.2% and is higher than the

figures in other “core cities” Bristol, Nottingham, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and Newcastle. Only Sheffield performs better, with 6% of young people taking apprenticeships.”;

- (g) regrets that the main opposition group have resorted to making misleading claims about apprenticeship figures and confirms the following facts:
  - (i) the Sheffield City Deal is unique in that it allows apprenticeships to be designed specifically to meet the needs of the local economy and welcomes that the private sector in Sheffield City Region are leading the skills deal with the SCR Skills for Growth Partnership which oversees the delivery of the deal;
  - (ii) Sheffield City Region has only counted additional apprenticeships created by Skills Made Easy and all other City Deals are simply counting the apprenticeships created during the period by providers, which is not additionality;
  - (iii) data from the Skills Funding Agency suggests that there were 18,785 Apprenticeship starts in the City Region during 2012 – 13;
  - (iv) 9,269 successful apprenticeship completions are being reported for the same year at the moment; and
  - (v) the latest figures show that 7.8% of Sheffield’s 16 and 17 year olds are taking up an apprenticeship which exceeds the English average of 4.1% and the Core City average of 4.6%;
- (h) welcomes that these figures recognise Sheffield’s success in delivering apprenticeships and the efforts of the present Administration who have prioritised apprenticeships;
- (i) notes that this record is in stark contrast to the previous Administration who broke a promise made by its Leader to commit £1 million of council resources to the Future Jobs Fund; and
- (j) regrets that one of the first actions of this Government was to scrap the Future Jobs Fund and believes that this was a costly mistake.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 11 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR LEIGH BRAMALL**

4. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, seconded by Councillor Colin Ross

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 appalling legacy of unemployment, particularly among 18-24 year olds, left by the last Government;
- (b) supports all measures to help young people in Sheffield into jobs, including the Sheffield Apprenticeship Programme, Rise Sheffield, the City Deal, the Youth Contract and University Technical Colleges;
- (c) welcomes news that the Sheffield City Deal has already created 370 apprenticeships across the city region;
- (d) however, notes reports in The Guardian newspaper that other city regions have outpaced Sheffield with Greater Birmingham and Solihull having already established 1,351 apprenticeships and Greater Manchester having outperformed their own target by creating 2,755 apprenticeships;
- (e) furthermore, believes that as this Administration gives to business with one hand it takes away with the other;
- (f) notes, in particular, the following as examples of the anti-business sentiments held by members of the ruling Group:
  - (i) rejecting a proposal by NEXT to locate a new department store in Sheffield, and providing a lukewarm reception to the proposal for an Ikea superstore;
  - (ii) failing to hold the full MADE entrepreneur festival in 2013;
  - (iii) hiking some city centre parking charges and increasing the hours of operation, damaging city-centre businesses;
  - (iv) ignoring appeals from traders in Millhouses for additional parking over the Christmas period and opposing plans to re-introduce free Christmas parking in the city and district centres; and
  - (v) attempting to ban ice cream vans more than 5 years old;
- (g) regrets that these policies have seen the Council criticised in The Star newspaper by business leaders for "closing its doors to business" and having "lost touch with the business reality of the

21st century”; and

- (h) calls upon the Administration to drop their anti-business rhetoric and work with the local business community to ensure the city maximises the potential of the City Deal and supports a generation of young people into work.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 12 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR HELEN MIRFIN-BOUKOURIS**

- 5. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Penny Baker, seconded by Councillor Katie Condliffe

That the Motion now submitted be amended in paragraph (b) by the deletion of all the words in that paragraph after the word “coursing”.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 13 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW SANGAR**

- 6. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Ben Curran, 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 the continued irresponsible scaremongering of the main opposition group and reminds them that they made the decision to bring Sorby House, Forum House and Vestry Hall back into the Council in December 2010 and is therefore shocked at the hypocrisy of the main opposition group;
- (b) welcomes moves to put in place plans to ensure that the buildings are sensibly used as part of the Council’s accommodation strategy which aims to save £30 million over 10 years by consolidating Council departments in fewer buildings;
- (c) regrets that the main opposition group continue to carp and criticise from the sidelines attempting to mislead local people, when the decision to bring these buildings into the Council was taken by the previous Administration and they are now being used to contribute to savings to the Council’s accommodation costs;
- (d) continues to oppose the present Government’s, of which the Liberal Democrat MP for Sheffield Hallam is Deputy Prime Minister, unfair cuts to Sheffield as they continue to slash Council budgets which is regrettably impacting on Council services; and

- (e) believes that the main opposition group should stand up for Sheffield at a time when the Council faces unprecedented cuts from the Coalition Government and believes this is the latest example of the main opposition group having absolutely no credibility and remembers that only a few months ago the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party and Leader of the Council's main opposition group were written to by the Chief Executive of the Council to correct numerous misrepresentations that had been made about the Council's budget.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 16 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR IAN AUCKLAND**

7. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of all the words after the words "reports" in paragraph (b) and their substitution by the words "for which plans were put in place by the previous Labour Administration but implemented by the previous Administration and regrets the shameful attempt to take credit for a plan that the previous Administration inherited from their predecessors";
2. the addition of a new paragraph (c) as follows and the re-lettering of original paragraph (c) as a new paragraph (d):-
  - (c) notes that Sheffield's reports demonstrate that the previous Administration clearly oversaw surpluses in parking services which were justified on the basis that "The surplus generated from the City Council's parking activities contributes to the overall provision of Transportation, Parking and Highway services in the city."
3. the deletion of original paragraphs (d) and (e); and
4. the addition of new paragraphs (e) to (h) as follows:-
  - (e) notes that figures regarding income from parking services and associated costs have frequently been published in the public domain under the present Administration and regrets the continued political opportunism of the main opposition group;
  - (f) welcomes that the Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development had already instructed officers to produce a parking enforcement report and looks forward to its publication;



- (g) reminds the main opposition group of the previous Administration's record on parking which increased charges in all but one year, including the doubling of pay and display charges in permit parking zones; and
- (h) deplores the hypocrisy and cynical political opportunism of the main opposition group who campaigned against the increases of parking permit prices from £10 to £20 in 2012 and cynically dropped this commitment in their following year's budget proposal and believes that this is indicative of a culture of casual broken promises within the party of the main opposition group.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 17 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JOE OTTEN**

8. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Julie Dore

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraph (c) and the addition of new paragraphs (c) and (d) as follows:-

- (c) believes local businesses should be free to make up their own view on the European Union and not be lectured to by the Liberal Democrat Party; and
- (d) regrets that this Government and the Deputy Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Nick Clegg MP, have yet again let Sheffield and South Yorkshire down over EU funding and urges them to urgently reconsider these proposals and give South Yorkshire a fair deal.

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