

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 5TH FEBRUARY 2014

List of Amendments to Notices of Motion received by the Chief Executive

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

1. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Cliff Woodcraft, seconded by
Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraphs (b) to (g); and
2. the addition of new paragraphs (b) to (l) as follows:-
 - (b) thanks all volunteers and donators to food banks and supports their work to help Sheffieldsers in need;
 - (c) however, believes it is highly inappropriate to exploit individual cases to draw broad conclusions or score political points;
 - (d) notes that under the last Government the number of food banks increased tenfold;
 - (e) highlights the following quote from Channel 4's Fact Check blog: "It's clear that food banks started under Labour and began to grow rapidly before the global financial crisis";
 - (f) notes that the Coalition Government have allowed Jobcentre staff to refer people to food banks - a move that was blocked by the last Government;
 - (g) recalls that Labour politicians have still not apologised for the economic downturn that they helped create and the impact of that downturn on local people's living standards;
 - (h) supports the measures taken by the Coalition Government to resuscitate economic growth and deliver a stronger economy;
 - (i) believes Liberal Democrats in Government have been vital in supporting local people with the cost of living, by fighting to:-
 - (i) give 24 million ordinary workers a £700 tax cut;

- (ii) increase the state pension by £650 thanks to our ‘triple lock’;
 - (iii) freeze Council Tax, saving the average Sheffield household £185 this year;
 - (iv) deliver an average saving of £50 on household energy bills; and
 - (v) freeze fuel duty, saving motorists £170 per year;
- (j) contrasts this with the appalling record of the last Government, who:-
- (i) crashed the economy, which is why the cost of living is high now;
 - (ii) scrapped the 10p tax, leaving half a million of the lowest paid workers worse off; and
 - (iii) increased the state pension by an insulting 75p;
- (k) furthermore highlights the following decisions of the current Administration, which have failed to support local families:-
- (i) imposing a 23% cut in Council Tax Benefit, refusing an offer of £1.1 million from the Government to reduce the cut; and
 - (ii) rejecting proposals from opposition councillors for a cross-party working group to support local residents affected by the ‘bedroom tax’; and
- (l) therefore calls upon the ruling group to drop their petty political point-scoring and work with the Government and local agencies to support local families.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.10 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR LEIGH BRAMALL

2. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, seconded by Councillor Joe Otten

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of the following words at the end of paragraph (a) “and is a direct consequence of the Gambling Act 2005, introduced by the last Government which included the removal

of the need for operators to prove unmet demand”

2. the re-lettering of paragraphs (b) to (f) as new paragraphs (c) to (g) and paragraph (g) as a new paragraph (i);
3. the addition of new paragraphs (b) and (h) as follows:-
 - (b) notes the comments of the Labour MP, Tom Watson, who stated the Labour Party ‘dropped the ball’ over the 2005 Gambling Act;
 - (h) therefore welcomes the motion passed by the Liberal Democrat Conference in September 2013 on High Street Gambling;

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.11 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR IAN AUCKLAND

3. 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 “therefore notes with concern” in paragraph (b) and their substitution by the following words “the Government’s National Planning Policy Framework which has resulted in the Planning Inspectorate stating that the current allocation of sites for housing does not go far enough to meet the demands”; and
2. the deletion of paragraphs (c) to (h) and the addition of new paragraphs (c) to (o) as follows:-
 - (c) regrets that this is an issue for the vast majority of local authorities across the country and notes that other authorities such as Brighton, Hull, Coventry and Kirklees have had to withdraw local plans as they did not meet requirements;
 - (d) confirms that if the Council do not meet the Government targets for a five year supply of immediately deliverable sites, developers could win permission to build on the city’s green spaces and even green belt sites on appeal, even after a planning application is turned down by the Council, which could lead to a planning free for all, potentially increasing the level of development on green belt land in an uncontrolled manner, which has already happened in other places such as Leeds;
 - (e) regrets that yet again the main opposition group seek to mislead

local people by suggesting that the need to find green spaces for housing is merely down to Councils wishing to build on them, rather than the reality, which is that it is driven by their own Government's planning policy;

- (f) notes these comments by Jonathan Carr-West, Chief Executive of the Local Government Information Unit: 'the National Planning Policy Framework and targets around housing supply are putting significant strain on councils' ability to protect the green belt.';
- (g) confirms that this is the view of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) who state that: 'Local authorities that are producing plans are coming under pressure to allocate more greenfield sites than originally intended. And over half (52%) of local authorities do not have up to date adopted local plans in place. As a result, they will come under increased pressure to approve any application for housing development in line with policies in the NPPF, rather than with local views.';
- (h) notes these comments from Shaun Spiers, Chief Executive of CPRE: 'We know that Planning Minister Nick Boles wants good quality, beautiful development, but his policies are not delivering. There can be no sustainable solution to this country's housing problems unless there is a renewed focus on improving quality, increasing local control and minimising the loss of countryside. The NPPF is not currently delivering that mix. The Government urgently needs to rethink its approach.';
- (i) echoes criticisms that this Government have significantly weakened the previous Government's brownfield-first policy which actively prioritised building on brownfield sites;
- (j) confirms that the present Administration is doing all it can to see as much brownfield land as possible built on and will continue to work to minimise development on green field sites, but it is the Government that has both cut the Council's funding to subsidise brownfield site regeneration, and then stipulated that the Council has to provide a five year supply at any one time of 'economically deliverable' (ie, financially attractive) sites for developers, which rules out many brownfield sites, restricting site supply;
- (k) welcomes the action of the present Administration to bring hundreds of empty homes back into use, however, will take no lectures from the main opposition group who brought a derisory 13 empty homes back into use in their last year in administration;
- (l) welcomes the policy of the Labour Party to stand up to

developers by tackling landbanking through the proposed introduction of a “use it or lose it policy” and believes it is this Government that have surrendered to big developers through rejecting this idea;

- (m) confirms that the Council would be willing to stand up to developers and implement the ‘use it or lose it’ policy were the Government to give local authorities the freedoms to do so;
- (n) believes that the Government’s reforms have been anti localist and have taken planning powers away from local people and given them instead to the Secretary of State and believes that the need to consider the Green Belt is ultimately a consequence of this Government’s approach; and
- (o) proposes that the Cabinet Member for Business Skills and Development writes to the Secretary of State outlining the consequences of the issues caused by the Government's cuts to housing investment for brown field development, and the problems this has caused, and asks the mover of the motion to confirm he will co-sign the letter.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.12 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR BEN CURRAN

4. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, seconded by Councillor Andrew Sangar

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the deletion of paragraphs (c) to (g); and
- 2. the addition of new paragraphs (c) to (g) as follows:-
 - (c) praises measures championed by Liberal Democrats in Government to support the low paid, including a £700 tax cut for ordinary workers;
 - (d) compares this to the last Government who scrapped the 10p tax, leaving half a million of the lowest paid workers worse off;
 - (e) notes that British workers – excluding the richest 10% – saw their take-home pay rise in real terms in the past year;
 - (f) however, recognises that more needs to be done to support low paid workers and therefore welcomes calls from The Rt. Hon. Vince Cable MP for a significant rise in the minimum wage; and

- (g) furthermore, supports the Liberal Democrat aspiration to raise the income tax threshold again to lift all workers on national minimum wage out of income tax altogether.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.13 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JULIE DORE

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

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraphs (c) and (d); and
2. the addition of new paragraphs (c) and (d) as follows:-
 - (c) supports the Government's move towards Individual Electoral Registration and recognises the importance of Liberal Democrats in improving this legislation; and
 - (d) regrets that following the Electoral Commission's 2003 recommendation that the United Kingdom move to Individual Electoral Registration, the last Government dithered for seven years instead of taking the necessary action.

6. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Nikki Bond, seconded by Councillor Mazher Iqbal

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of a new paragraph (d) as follows and the re-lettering of original paragraph (d) as a new paragraph (e):-

- (d) notes with concern the implications of this policy on Sheffield as a city with a high student population and communities with high numbers of ethnic minority residents.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.14 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR SHAFFAQ MOHAMMED

7. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, 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) echoes criticisms that since it came to power in 2010 this Government presided over the weakest economic recovery in history which was a direct result of the Government's failure to produce a credible plan for jobs and growth and led to a double dip recession;
- (b) believes that after three damaging years of flatlining, people in Sheffield will be astonished at the breathtaking arrogance and complacency of the Leader of the main opposition group;
- (c) regrets that because of the Government's mismanagement of the economy, with slower growth and higher unemployment, the Government is now set to continue to make cuts beyond the current Parliament;
- (d) notes that the impact of the Government's economic failure has hit the north of England and areas such as Sheffield much harder than the south;
- (e) believes that this is illustrated by the recent Centre for Cities report which demonstrates that between 2010 and 2012 80% of all new jobs created in the United Kingdom were in London;
- (f) recalls that the most high profile politician to suggest that unfair government cuts delivered by an unpopular and illegitimate government could lead to riots was the Deputy Prime Minister before the last general election;
- (g) opposes Government decisions which contributed to the weakening of the recovery such as cutting public spending too far too fast, significantly cutting investment in regional economic growth including the abolition of Regional Development Agencies, abolishing the Future Jobs Fund, increasing VAT and failing to put in place measures to stimulate growth;
- (h) calls on the Government to do more to support local businesses and commit to giving genuine support to all small and medium-sized enterprises, which are the lifeblood of our economy, by matching the pledge of the Leader of the Opposition to cut and freeze business rates for all small firms, and not just those in retail, but manufacturers, high-tech firms and other job creators;
- (i) welcomes the business friendly approach of the present Administration and supports the following actions taken locally by the present Administration to support local businesses including:
 - (i) the Skills Made Easy Programme;
 - (ii) Sheffield Apprenticeship Programme;

- (iii) RISE graduate internship programme;
 - (iv) start up loans for young people;
 - (v) Keep Sheffield Working Fund;
 - (vi) SME Loan Fund;
 - (vii) Export Pilot project for 30 companies;
 - (viii) launched Threshold Companies Initiative for growth SMEs;
 - (ix) Summer Saturdays;
 - (x) developed Sheffield City Region Investment Fund;
 - (xi) secured Tax Increment Finance scheme for city centre – 1 of 3 places in UK;
 - (xii) enterprise programme provided intensive support to over 200 growing SMEs and 150 start ups;
 - (xiii) launch of the Sheffield Economic Masterplan;
 - (xiv) series of business summits held, hundreds of business engaged;
 - (xv) Business Advisor Panel helping to keep Sheffield business friendly; and
 - (xvi) making the case for HS2 and Victoria Station; and
- (j) welcomes the present Administration's action to support the economy, however, believes that the Government must do much more to redress the widening gap between London and the rest of the country and calls on the Government to give cities such as Sheffield the tools they need to grow their local economies and welcomes the Core Cities Prospectus for Growth which outlines several steps the Government could take to achieve this.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.15 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JILLIAN CREASY

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

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

- (d) recognises that the Council is facing an unprecedented level of cuts from Central Government meaning that by 2015/16 the Council will have had an overall reduction in Government formula funding by 50% and recognises that with this level of funding reductions all services across the Council will be seriously affected;
- (e) recognises that over the past three years, the Council has done everything possible to make budget reductions in libraries

without making substantial changes to the service, however recognises that with the level of cuts now facing the Council, this is no longer possible;

- (f) welcomes that the Council is looking to find new ways of delivering library services given the serious situation facing libraries nationally and notes reports stating that over 400 libraries have closed nationally and 1000 are estimated to close by 2016;
- (g) further notes that the consultation on the library review has now closed and the Council is listening to the responses ahead of bringing forward proposals to Cabinet;
- (h) notes that the Council has received comments about the independent model from the groups looking to run libraries and will take on board these comments as it responds to the consultation;
- (i) recalls that the proposal by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion that the results of the consultation be brought to scrutiny before a decision is made, was agreed by the Council last month; and
- (j) welcomes that the Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion has already indicated that he is listening to concerns that have been raised about the Independent Model based on the feedback from the consultation and recognises that decisions about the library review will be made at Cabinet on 19th February, 2014.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.16 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MAZHER IQBAL

9. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, seconded by Councillor Roger Davison

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the deletion of paragraphs (b) to (f); and
- 2. the addition of new paragraphs (b) to (h) as follows:-
 - (b) recalls the numerous scandals involving big money in politics under the last Government including the Bernie Ecclestone, Hinduja Brothers and Cash for Peerages scandals;

- (c) furthermore, reminds Members of the 2010 lobbying scandal, which engulfed a number of Labour MPs – including the former MP for Sheffield Central – in which one ex-Minister described himself as a ‘cab for hire’;
- (d) praises the decision of Liberal Democrats in Government to fight for a fairer politics by tackling the big money in politics and the unhealthy influence of lobbyists;
- (e) however recognises the legitimate concerns raised by charities and therefore welcomes the pause on the Bill and the numerous concessions agreed by the Government;
- (f) believes that the final legislation will not restrict charities from campaigning on national issues as they have done in previous general elections;
- (g) notes that, among others, the Bill has been backed by former Labour MP and Speaker of The House of Commons, Michael Martin; and
- (h) yet believes that the current national Labour leadership is under such submission to the vested interests within its own party that it is unwilling to support moves to make politics more transparent.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.18 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR COLIN ROSS

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

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the deletion in paragraph (d) of the words “led by Greg Mulholland MP” and their substitution by the words “by members of all parties”;
- 2. the addition of the words “, after pressure from Toby Perkins MP,” after the words “Government proposals” in paragraph (e); and
- 3. the deletion of paragraph (f) and the addition of new paragraphs (f) and (g) as follows:-
 - (f) regrets that changes directly implemented by the Coalition Government to General Permitted Development Orders have made it easier for pubs to be converted to small supermarkets

without the need for planning permission at all and opposes these Government changes; and

- (g) confirms that the issue of creating a retention of community facilities policy and requiring applicants to demonstrate the lack of economic viability of a pub will be considered as part of the development of the Local Plan.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.19 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR PENNY BAKER

11. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Harry Harpham, seconded by Councillor Pat Midgley

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 smoke and mirrors of the main opposition group who continue to make erroneous claims about the Park Hill project;
- (b) reiterates the numerous previous motions that have been passed by the Council stating for the record that not a penny of the funds described by the main opposition group will be spent on the refurbishment of the Park Hill flats and regrets that the main opposition group are continuing to imply that the Council has allocated Council resources for the Park Hill redevelopment when in fact this is not the case;
- (c) for the avoidance of doubt, re-iterates that:
 - (i) there are additional costs relating to the Park Hill site which until this Government came to power were paid for by a Government grant;
 - (ii) these costs include looking after the empty flat blocks, providing security where the blocks are still lived in, funding Police Community Support Officer patrols and rehousing local residents; and
 - (iii) the Coalition Government has now completely ended the Housing Market Renewal Grant that previously paid for these costs and the Council has been left to pick up the £2.4m bill;
- (d) further believes that there is no question about whether or not these costs should be funded and firmly believes that it is the

right thing to do to ensure that the local residents are safe;

- (e) also notes that it is the Council's statutory duty to provide home loss payments to residents who are moving home;
- (f) further reiterates its opposition to the irresponsible decision of the Government to end the Housing Market Renewal Grant, leaving local taxpayers to pick up the bill for costs that were previously funded by the Government;
- (g) confirms that the Green Links project is not part of the Park Hill development, and that it will improve links between Norfolk Park all the way down to the Canal Basin and is funded from the New Homes Bonus (NHB) which is specifically designed for regeneration projects and not to fund services such as libraries;
- (h) further confirms that this is an initiative under the City Centre Breathing Spaces strategy signed off by Councillor Penny Baker when she was Cabinet Member and continues the implementation of the Sheaf Valley Park Master Plan which links Norfolk Park to Victoria Quays which has been supported by public consultation and local friends groups and was also signed off by the previous Administration;
- (i) notes that the present Administration's use of the NHB has been held up as best practice by the Audit Commission; and
- (j) believes that it is outrageous that when Council services are at serious risk from the Government, the main opposition group continue to support slashing Council budgets in the north and 400 libraries have shut nationwide with 1000 predicted by 2016, and believes that all the main opposition group are interested in doing is trying to mislead local people in a desperate attempt to deflect the responsibility from the Deputy Prime Minister.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.20 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ROBERT MURPHY

12. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Sue Alston, seconded by Councillor Ian Auckland

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

- (c) therefore welcomes the millions of pounds that have been invested in Sheffield's trams, trains and buses since 2010 as a result of Liberal Democrat influence in Government.

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

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

- (c) notes with dismay proposals to cut over £5 million from the budget of the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (PTE), proposals which include reducing the hours and journeys qualifying for concessionary travel for OAPs and the disabled, the ending of the popular Freebee city centre bus service and making cuts to Community Transport;
- (d) understands that making cuts to the PTE grant is a decision made by South Yorkshire councillors on the Integrated Transport Authority, not Central Government; and
- (e) calls on all Members of the South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority to reject any cuts to the PTE grant and the District Council Levy, and asks the representatives of Sheffield to convey this motion to the Authority.

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