

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 3RD APRIL, 2019

List of Amendments received by the Chief Executive

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.5 – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “EFFECTS OF AUSTERITY ON CHILDREN AND GOVERNMENT FAILURE TO INVEST”

1. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Martin Smith, seconded by Councillor Andrew Sangar

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of new paragraphs (c) and (d) as follows:-
 - (c) notes subjects such as languages, music, drama and art are increasingly being cut from the curriculum to balance budgets;
 - (d) is dismayed that there are cases of state schools crowd funding to keep music lessons on the curriculum, and believes education at state schools should be free;
2. the deletion of original paragraphs (d) and (e), and the relettering of original paragraph (c) as a new paragraph (e); and
3. the addition of new paragraphs (f) to (h) as follows:-
 - (f) further notes that our 16 year olds are politically active, therefore should have the right to vote;
 - (g) believes strongly in our children and young people and their right to the education of their choice; and
 - (h) asks that the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills write directly to the Secretary of State for Education to demand fairer funding and a reverse to cuts.

2. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Alison Teal, seconded by Councillor Kaltum Rivers

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

- (d) also congratulates High Storrs School for showcasing ways to reduce carbon with its Eco-Expo day;

- (e) believes that it is a scandal that the Labour Administration seeks only to blame the Government and accepts no responsibility for the problems with children's services and education in the city;
- (f) notes that, in the motion on the agenda, the Administration proposes no action whatsoever be taken to help ameliorate the effects of austerity on children;
- (g) calls on the Government to urgently implement Fairer Funding for schools so that Sheffield children do not continue to be disadvantaged;
- (h) believes the implementation of emotional well-being support for children transitioning to high school, as outlined in the Green Party budget, would be a step towards supporting children more effectively to cope with the challenges they face;
- (i) believes the public health approach with the foundation of understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences can make a significant positive difference for children and their families; and
- (j) calls upon the Chief Executive to report back to the next Council meeting on the range of actions the Council is currently taking to address child poverty.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.6 – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “ENSURING TENANT SAFETY IN SHEFFIELD, AND DEMANDS FOR GOVERNMENT TO DO MUCH MORE”

3. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Penny Baker, seconded by Councillor Steve Ayris

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the substitution, in paragraph (d), of the words “Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats have”, for the words “Labour Party has”;
- 2. the addition of the words “, including consultation with tenants” at the end of paragraph (f);
- 3. the deletion of paragraph (i) and the addition of new paragraphs (i) and (j) as follows:-
 - (i) believes that central government are not holding developers to task and that the law is not robust enough to hold developers to account for the situation;
 - (j) calls on the Government to tighten up the law and make sure tenants are not left covering the cost of important safety measures, and hold developers to account;

4. the re-lettering of original paragraph (j) as a new paragraph (k), and the addition of a new paragraph (l) as follows:-

(l) is concerned that almost two years following the Grenfell Tower disaster, the Government's 'Building a Safer Future: An Implementation Plan' contains little or no detail on timetables for implementing the recommendations set out by Dame Judith Hackitt in her Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety, and therefore calls on the Government to:-

(i) publish its timetable for when legislation will be brought forward on Building Regulations and Fire Safety and on holding developers to account through stricter accountability and enforcement; and

(ii) ensure that tenants of neither the social-rented nor private-rented sector are left to cover the cost of vital safety measures.

4. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Rob Murphy, seconded by Councillor Douglas Johnson

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

(k) notes that re-cladding work on Hanover Tower is still not complete, but is pleased that residents will soon have safe cladding and restored insulation to keep their homes warm and fuel bills down;

(l) notes that one firm of private contractors was paid to put the cladding up in the first place, then paid again to take it down, then paid a third time to put the right cladding up;

(m) notes that the cost of this removal and reinstatement of cladding is costing almost £4m, after councillors were originally informed the cost would be a tenth of that amount, but welcomes the fact that Council tenants will now be relieved of this cost by taxpayer funding;

(n) requests the Administration to report back to the next Council meeting on proposals to spend the £3.9m funding now released to the Housing Revenue Account;

(o) notes that the Council's inquiry into how the original, defective cladding was approved, fitted and signed off is still ongoing, nearly two years after the Grenfell Tower disaster, with no answers as to who was responsible or lessons to be learnt;

(p) notes that the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee was "concerned that conflicts of interest are pervasive

within the industry. From builders choosing their own inspection services, manufacturers selecting product testers for their perceived leniency, Fire Rescue Authorities inspecting the work of their own commercial trading arms, to private sector companies' influence over the fire safety guidance in which they have a commercial interest."

- (q) believes that residents in private sector high-rise housing across the city may remain in buildings with combustible cladding that has been signed off by building inspectors and that their situations remain unresolved;
- (r) notes that the Council has the information as to which buildings are at risk, but has declined to release it, on the grounds it is commercially sensitive;
- (s) therefore, calls on the Administration to ensure residents have accurate and up-to-date information about the safety of their homes;
- (t) asks the Administration to ensure, so far as possible, that no tenant or leaseholder loses out as a result of increased heating costs; and
- (u) resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to call on the Government to fund replacement cladding which is a product of a failed building regulation system.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.7 – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “SUPPORTING AND DELIVERING A THRIVING LOCAL ECONOMY”

5. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Mazher Iqbal, seconded by Councillor Abtisam Mohamed

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

- (a) notes that Sheffield has had the most successful period of inward investment ever over recent years – landing household names like McLaren and Boeing as well as numerous smaller firms choosing Sheffield as their home because of the skills of the local workforce and the positive business climate here;
- (b) believes, however, that inward investment is only ever a small part of overall business growth, which is why this Administration continues to support local residents to start or grow a business through our business support programme, ‘Business Sheffield’, that delivers:-
 - (i) 100 Start Up Workshops each year on all aspects of running a business, engaging over 1,100 individuals;
 - (ii) delivering start up workshops for Sheffield Hallam University

- and 1-2-1 support for University of Sheffield students;
- (iii) hosting a large scale networking event each quarter for 100+ businesses each time;
 - (iv) directly supporting 400 individuals at pre-start stage and 300 early stage and small businesses receiving 1-2-1 support from a Business Advisor; and
 - (v) supporting 350 established businesses through ongoing growth support from a Growth Advisor/Tech Scale Up Advisor;
- (c) notes that, under this Administration, the Council supports local business through its ethical procurement policy that:-
- (i) mandates that one quote must be from a local supplier as a minimum, resulting in half of our contracts being awarded to local business since implementation;
 - (ii) removes administrative burdens by increasing the tender threshold to £150k, meaning less administration for small local business;
 - (iii) works in partnership with the NHS, CCG, College and Universities to replicate this across the public sector in Sheffield;
 - (iv) weights 15% of tender evaluation for Social Value, with 5% of this being local economic impact of contracts; this is a significant departure from most public procurements that focus on just price / quality ratios; and
 - (v) measures and monitors large contractors' local sourcing activity as part of contract terms and conditions to encourage engagement with local supply chains;
- (d) believes that this Administration actually understands the Business Rates system (seemingly unlike the proposers of the original notice of motion), as the vast majority of businesses referenced in the original motion will already receive some form of rate relief – and that, of 19,000 businesses in Sheffield, around 11,000 already receive some form of rate relief;
- (e) notes that this Administration wants every business in Sheffield to receive the rate relief they are due and will help businesses understand how to access this;
- (f) notes increasing momentum and confidence in a vibrant and busy city centre – with footfall on the Moor bucking the national trend, up 20% from last year, with further investments from the private sector and the Council through Heart of the City 2 set to sustain this clear momentum,

and Future High Streets Fund bids prepared;

- (g) notes a successful Renew Sheffield programme in conjunction with the University of Sheffield and the city centre BID that already helps bring vacant shops into use; and
- (h) notes continued support for our major events programme, like DocFest, Off the Shelf, Sheffield Adventure Film Festival and many more, despite sustained budget cuts since 2010 and the formation of the coalition government.

6. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson, seconded by Councillor Martin Phipps

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (c) to (h) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraphs (c) to (e) as new paragraphs (i) to (k):-

- (c) notes the increasing reliance of the Council on business rates funding due to cuts in central government grant funding;
- (d) believes that big businesses already have very significant advantages over the small, independent and social sector businesses that do so much to enhance the character of Sheffield;
- (e) is saddened by the loss of Sheffield businesses such as Rare & Racy, and other shops on Division St, on Chapel Walk, and many others;
- (f) notes with concern, recent comments by the Administration that the proposed Castlegate conservation area should “accelerate” development, not “get in its way”, and the threat to review all of the city’s Conservation Areas;
- (g) believes that all new development must build without destroying the assets Sheffield already has; and
- (h) believes that the city’s heritage buildings offer opportunities (including through leisure and tourism) for local business which have yet to be realised and offer future potential;

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.8 – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “BREXIT: LET IT BE DONE”

7. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Ben Miskell, seconded by Councillor Chris Peace

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

- (a) believes that the wishes of the people must be respected and the underlying reasons as to why so many people feel disenfranchised should be addressed;
- (b) notes the disillusionment that people on both sides of the referendum vote are feeling towards the current government and that only the Labour Party remains committed to bringing together both those who voted leave and those who voted remain;
- (c) believes that a hard Brexit would be a disaster for the majority of those who voted for change and would instead exacerbate economic problems, with the only real winner being a wealthy few and not the many, and that every effort must be made to avoid this outcome;
- (d) notes that, as soon as Article 50 was triggered, the Labour position has been clear that they will not give the Government a blank cheque to drive through a destructive Brexit deal, and is why Labour set out its six tests at the start of the Article 50 process;
- (e) believes that a hard Brexit, as championed by UKIP and many Conservatives, could mean a future of inequitable trade deals and American-style deregulation, undermining our rights, freedoms and prosperity;
- (f) supports the Labour Party in remaining resolute in opposition to this form of Brexit and the threat of no deal, and notes that, because of Labour's opposition, there is no majority in Parliament for crashing out of the EU without a deal;
- (g) believes that the Prime Minister is refusing to show any real leadership, and is instead stubbornly persisting with a damaging approach which is focused more on appeasing factions of her party than finding a sensible solution that works for the whole country;
- (h) supports the following position put forward by the Labour Party, setting out credible approaches to prevent no deal or the damaging withdrawal agreement as it presently stands:-
 - (i) a close economic relationship based around a permanent Customs Union, close alignment to the Single Market and robust protections for rights, and notes that a similar option came within 4 votes of a consensus in Parliament earlier this week; and
 - (ii) in the event of no parliamentary majority on any further meaningful votes, the Prime Minister should accept her Government's failings, step aside and call a General Election, and if the Prime Minister stubbornly continues to try and govern, then any damaging deal should be put to a confirmatory vote, in accordance with the commitment made at the Labour Party

Conference;

- (i) notes that since the referendum, due to prolonged uncertainty caused by the disastrous handling of Brexit by the Government, this has badly damaged our economy and that Brexit has already cost the UK economy £40 billion a year, or £800 million per week, according to Bank of England economist Gertjan Vlieghe;
- (j) believes that since the 2016 referendum result, the UKIP Party has moved further and further to the right, and now hold abhorrent views which are completely at odds with those who had previously voted for the Party in such significant numbers; and
- (k) believes that this Council should take no lessons from UKIP councillors about discrimination, given that their Party's advisor is the right-winger Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, or Tommy Robinson as he likes to be known, a man who is regarded by many as someone who actively encourages discrimination and hatred.

8. 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 addition of the following words:-

- (a) notes that various businesses and organisations have closed or are in the process of closing operations in the UK, resulting in job losses across the country and knock on economic impact; a no-deal scenario could leave the UK economy 6.3% to 9% smaller after 15 years, compared to what it would have been, and believes this will be disastrous for business and the people of Sheffield;
- (b) believes there is no deal that could be negotiated that could be more beneficial than continued membership of the EU, and that leaving the EU would therefore be damaging to the UK's fundamental national interests and the interests of Sheffield and South Yorkshire;
- (c) notes that Sheffield and South Yorkshire has received multiple grants and huge amounts of funding from the EU that has contributed to prosperity and the growing economy of the local area;
- (d) notes that over 50,000 people in Sheffield have signed the petition to revoke Article 50 and remain in the EU;
- (e) further notes that over 6 million people in total have signed the petition to revoke Article 50 and this is the largest and fastest growing petition in history;
- (f) notes that many Sheffield residents attended the million strong march for a People's Vote on 23rd March 2019;

- (g) notes that 49% of people in Sheffield voted to remain in the EU in 2016, one of the closest results in the country;
- (h) believes that, if there was a People's Vote now, the people of Sheffield would vote to remain in the EU, and notes that a poll revealed that 54% of Sheffield voters would now vote to stay in the EU;
- (i) notes that the Liberal Democrats campaigned to stay in the EU during the 2016 referendum and have led the campaign for a People's Vote with the option to stay in the EU;
- (j) is dismayed that the main opposition party has no opinion and no voice on Brexit, with a leader who continues to ignore the majority view of his party to pursue his own pro-Brexit agenda;
- (k) notes that the parliamentary motion from 1st April 2019, if passed, would have triggered a People's Vote and specifically, for the public to confirm the deal struck by MPs or remain in the EU, only lost by 12 votes;
- (l) agrees with the Rt. Hon. Sir Vince Cable MP, Leader of the Liberal Democrats, that "A fourth meaningful vote without a referendum attached will be a meaningless and fruitless exercise.";
- (m) calls on the Government to create an emergency Brexit Support Fund of at least £7.5 billion to mitigate job losses caused by Brexit uncertainty, a No Deal Brexit or the Prime Minister's deal, with the fund being ring-fenced to support UK workers made redundant as a result of businesses leaving the UK, closing down or downsizing as a result of the impact of Brexit, and to offer workers the chance to receive advice or re-training to help them secure employment or start a new business; and
- (n) calls on the Prime Minister to hold a People's Vote with an option to remain in the EU and with the Liberal Democrats campaigning for Britain to remain a full and active member of the EU.

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