

## SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

### COUNCIL MEETING – 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020

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

#### ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 5 – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUSINESS PLAN AND HRA BUDGET 2020/21

1. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, seconded by Councillor Penny Baker

That the recommendations made by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, concerning the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and HRA Budget 2020/21, be approved with the addition of a new paragraph (i) as follows:-

- (i) notes that Sheffield has set an ambition to become a zero carbon city by 2030, and therefore requests that a report is brought to Cabinet within the next six months which sets out a programme outlining how all of the housing stock covered by the HRA will have had sufficient investment in both energy efficiency schemes and new heating systems to contribute to meeting the city's zero carbon target within the next ten years.

2. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson, seconded by Councillor Alison Teal

That the recommendations made by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2020, concerning the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and HRA Budget 2020/21, be approved with the addition of new paragraphs (i) and (j) as follows:-

- (i) notes that, despite recognising the impact that housing can have in addressing the climate change emergency, no such proposals feature in the selected priorities and, therefore, requests the Administration to prepare an urgent plan of action for the Housing Service to reduce carbon emissions; and
- (j) in respect of garage rents, referred to in recommendation (d), the rent be increased by 3.7% (not 2.7%) and that increase in revenue be used to offset the new cost of the paid-for gardening scheme for older and disabled tenants.

## **ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 6 – PROPOSAL FOR ALTERNATIVE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL**

3. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Colin Ross, seconded by Councillor Richard Shaw

That the recommendations set out in the report be approved with the addition of a paragraph (c) as follows:-

- (c) these proposals to include significant delegation of powers and budgets to formal Area Committees which comprise all the elected members in an area.

4. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson, seconded by Councillor Angela Argenzio

That the recommendations set out in the report be approved with the addition of a paragraph (c) as follows:-

- (c) that section 3.3 of the report is amended so that Full Council is the body that takes the strategic decisions with substantial implications for the city and its communities in the proposed committee system.

## **ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 7 – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “BUSINESS RATES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO BUSINESSES”**

5. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Martin Smith, seconded by Councillor Mohammed Mahroof

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraphs (a) to (k) and the addition of new paragraphs (a) to (e) as follows:-
  - (a) asserts that the business rates system in England is not fit for purpose as it is extremely complicated, unpopular with the business community, unfairly disadvantages ‘bricks & mortar’ retailers over on-line companies and penalises businesses that seek to improve their premises;
  - (b) is concerned that Government plans to allow full rates retention by local authorities but reduce central grant funding risks business being increasingly treated as a source of funding, rather than an integral part of the local community;
  - (c) notes that Sheffield City Council has no control over property valuations & basic bills and little or no discretion on most of the relief

schemes;

- (d) believes the schemes over which the Council does have control are confusing & ineffective, for example:-
  - (i) the Hardship Relief scheme is mostly used to write off the debt of businesses that have already ceased trading, rather than help them before they get into that state;
  - (ii) payments under the Hardship, Not For Profit and Discretionary Top Up relief schemes are reported to be less than 0.1% of the baseline business rates funding; and
  - (iii) the Cabinet Member for Business & Investment, and the previous Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Governance gave conflicting information on whether traders in Chapel Walk seeking business rates relief should apply to the Council or the Valuation Office;
- (e) therefore directs the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources & Governance to:-
  - (i) conduct a review of all discretionary rate relief schemes to ensure that they are easier to understand and ensure that funds are targeted appropriately;
  - (ii) update the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy accordingly; and
  - (iii) complete both the above within the next three months.
- 2. the re-lettering of original paragraph (l) as a new paragraph (f).

6. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Paul Turpin, seconded by Councillor Martin Phipps

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the addition of new paragraphs (l) to (p) as follows:-
  - (l) notes that business rates reliefs are set by Government and this Council cannot claim credit for granting mandatory awards;
  - (m) believes that far too many small businesses, independents and not-for-profits in Sheffield experience real difficulties in obtaining even the mandatory reliefs they are entitled to;
  - (n) believes there has been a lack of support offered to independent businesses on Chapel Walk facing poor trading conditions for years

under the scaffolding;

- (o) notes that businesses currently pay for business rates instead of the land owners, who, it is believed, have enough money to own the land;
  - (p) calls for the outdated and unfair system of business rates to be scrapped and replaced by a land value tax on the owners of land and buildings rather than the occupiers; and
2. the re-lettering of original paragraph (l) as a new paragraph (q) and the insertion, after the words “reform the rates system”, of the words “by replacing it with a land value tax”.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 8 – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “SHEFFIELD PARKS AND OPEN SPACES”**

7. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, seconded by Councillor Roger Davison

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

- (g) requests that Fields in Trust status be secured for all Sheffield parks, including its largest one, Graves Park;
- (h) commends the work of Friends’ groups in maintaining, championing and protecting our parks, and will continue to support them;
- (i) believes that the nature of the Parks service lends itself to local management and governance arrangements, centred around the leadership of local Members in partnership with the community, and believes that charitable status, where already in place, offers a ready means to improve local involvement and accountability;
- (j) requests officers to ensure that the strategy for Better Parks is compatible with the Council’s climate change commitments and targets;
- (k) commits to protecting our parks from sale or disposal;
- (l) acknowledges the part played by far-sighted 19th and early 20th century Sheffield councillors and philanthropists who purchased or donated parks across Sheffield; and
- (m) further acknowledges the part played by early city councillors and philanthropists in planting street trees, making Sheffield one of the greenest cities in Europe.

8. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Alison Teal, seconded by Councillor Paul Turpin

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

- (e) believes that with an ambitious programme of planting, Sheffield could become the greenest city; Sheffield has rural land within its boundary which provides opportunities to achieve net zero carbon targets, through rewilding and planting the right species of trees; in urban areas we must preserve our existing green spaces and increase green coverage in every ward;
- (f) believes that reassessing some decisions to fulfil the Council's ambition to be the greenest city could help, such as:-
  - (i) retaining Owlthorpe Fields as a greenfield site;
  - (ii) not building a car park in Sheffield General Cemetery or breaking its historic perimeter;
  - (iii) ensuring officers always bid for Government grants for pocket parks, so opportunities like Duchess Road Open Space in the deprived Highfields part of City Ward, are not missed;
  - (iv) streamlining and encouraging the access to grants from members of the public wanting to create pocket parks and community gardens in their communities;
  - (v) ensuring safeguards against damage to green spaces so that situations like Fire in the Park Festival event at the Ponderosa will not deprive local residents of its full use;
  - (vi) gradually increasing the number of meadows and, where appropriate, 'rewilding' land which is currently grass requiring regular maintenance, in order to increase biodiversity and reduce costs and use of chemical pollutants;
  - (vii) providing more green spaces in the city centre, with it being the most polluted area in Sheffield, including the original plan for a park on the historic site of Sheffield Castle; and
  - (viii) committing to stopping the routine use of toxic chemicals, including glyphosate.

## ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 9 – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “PEOPLE AND POWER”

### 9. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Bryan Lodge, seconded by Councillor Terry Fox

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraph (d) and the re-lettering of paragraph (e) as a new paragraph (d);
2. the deletion of paragraphs (f) to (k) and the addition of new paragraphs (e) to (i) as follows:-
  - (e) notes the results of the Big City Conversation, and the many conversations held by local councillors within their communities, which showed that the biggest concerns in the city are some of the following - improving public transport; improving our roads and making them free of congestion; tackling crime and anti-social behaviour; providing services for children, young people and teenagers; delivering social care; maintaining our parks and green spaces; tackling the climate emergency and air pollution; and ensuring that everyone in the city has a safe, secure and affordable place to call home – issues all highlighted from responses collected during the Big City Conversation, and had opposition councillors taken part in the events across the City, they would have enjoyed first-hand knowledge of these responses;
  - (f) believes that people in Sheffield want to see the Council getting on with issues that matter the most to them, and that elected members would be better serving their constituents by spending more time in their communities working to address and understand these concerns, rather than spending more time in the town hall for committee meetings;
  - (g) notes that adopting a committee system has the potential to cost the Council a lot more every year in administration and that, especially during austere times, this would be regrettable; this is based on the information provided to the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019 on the unit cost of servicing a committee;
  - (h) believes that the major opposition group has chosen to ignore the potential additional costs that would ultimately be passed on to all council tax payers of Sheffield, regardless that the majority of these tax payers see other matters more worthy of this expenditure; and
  - (i) believes that, as noted in the report on governance arrangements, community involvement cannot be described as being inherently better or worse under either a Cabinet system or committee system and that, fundamentally, it is how locality arrangements are drawn up, and notes

that the Council has committed to strengthening these arrangements and increasing community voice, influence and the opportunity for people to have their say at a local level and within the Council's decision making processes.

3. the re-lettering of original paragraph (l) as a new paragraph (j).

10. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson, seconded by Councillor Angela Argenzio

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

(m) therefore supports a change to the committee system of governance.

**ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 10 – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “THE PLANET IS ON FIRE”**

11. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Mark Jones, seconded by Councillor Adam Hurst

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

- (c) further notes the budget for this was calculated as 16mT CO<sub>2</sub> from 2020 to 2038 and that the Council has committed to achieving net zero by 2030, therefore we have 16mT CO<sub>2</sub> for the next 10 years, which demonstrates why the following action has been delivered since a Climate Emergency was declared:-
  - (i) the Council now purchases electricity generated from 100% renewable sources, this is an increase of 81%;
  - (ii) the Council has established Energy Surgeries and installed Smart Energy Meters for Council tenants – creating a 40% saving for tenants as well as a substantial reduction in wasted energy;
  - (iii) Sheffield is trialing electric bin lorries powered by the very waste they collect, with re-powered lorries having zero carbon emissions and producing no air pollution;
  - (iv) working with the city's schools and education community to see a reduction in plastic usage and waste, including huge reductions in the amount of single use plastics used at school meal times; and

- (v) the Council has recently prepared an £85m programme of cycling, walking and bus corridor improvements as part of a further Sheffield City Region Transforming Cities Fund bid, announcements on which are expected soon;
- (d) notes, in addition, the work currently being undertaken to improve air quality in the city, including:-
  - (i) anti-idling zones are now active outside of all primary and secondary schools, and other notable places such as hospitals and health centres; and
  - (ii) piloting schemes to close targeted roads to traffic for set periods of time to create a better, less polluted and congested environment, targeted at benefiting children; such as School Streets - where roads outside schools are closed at drop-off and pick-up times; Play Streets - a resident-led scheme where a road is closed to traffic for a set period of time; and Living Streets - where a road is closed to traffic completely;
- (e) further notes that last summer, the Council consulted on its proposals to introduce a Clean Air Zone to improve emissions from the 19% of vehicles that are responsible for 50% of the Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from transport, and are currently awaiting confirmation from Government on our CAZ proposals;
- (f) notes that a Citizens Assembly will be introduced by June 2020 - to consider the necessary actions in the city to implement further change, with its membership being drawn to represent all parts of the city, including young people, and that it has taken time to set this up as it needs to be ensured that sufficient research has been conducted, and that there is a significant evidence base so that the assembly understands the scale of the task and what work is required, and that procurement for gathering this evidence is now almost over; and
- (g) believes great strides have been made in the last twelve months in tackling the climate emergency, but that huge changes will have to continue to be made in order to meet the Council's commitment of making Sheffield carbon neutral by 2030.

12. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Tim Huggan, seconded by Councillor Andrew Sangar

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

- (f) believes that, nationally, only the Liberal Democrats have a bold and credible plan to tackle the climate emergency, which includes:-



- (i) reaching 80% renewable electricity by 2030;
  - (ii) insulating all low-income homes by 2025;
  - (iii) raising energy efficiency standards for new homes; and
  - (iv) investing £15 billion to retrofit 26 million homes;
- (g) believes this Council has a responsibility as a land, property and house owner to ensure its stock is energy efficient, which will help to reduce carbon emissions in the city;
- (h) is dismayed that the timetable for the Sheffield Local Plan has been rescheduled and publication will, at the earliest, be 2023, seven years off when this Council proposes to reach carbon zero;
- (i) calls for a plan to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council's housing stock to be drafted and for officers to report back to full Council with their findings; and
- (j) acknowledges the current increased risk of intense rainfall leading to flooding and calls for significant mitigation measures, including substantial additional tree planting and improved moorland management in the upper catchments of Sheffield's rivers.

13. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Peter Garbutt, seconded by Councillor Alison Teal

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

- (f) notes the increasing public concern about the Climate Emergency and acknowledges the hard work of the community groups lobbying the Council and demanding we respond urgently to the crisis we are facing.

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