

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 16TH JUNE 2021

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE MEETING

1. MAKING SHEFFIELD EVEN SAFER FOR ALL

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) acknowledges with sadness the abduction and murder of Sarah Everard who was walking home after a quiet evening out at a friend's house in South London; this incident led to widespread anger among women, many of whom spoke out about their own experiences of harassment and abuse when simply going about their daily lives;
- (b) believes Sheffield to be one of the safest of the largest cities and that we want all our residents to feel safe going about their daily lives in our city and we want all women and girls to feel safe and protected in their own homes, exercising and playing in our green spaces, walking home from work or school and socialising in our city centre and local communities;
- (c) notes that the third round of bidding is now underway for the Government's Safer Streets Fund, and that the bids are being asked to focus on safety and feelings of safety in public places, particularly for women and girls;
- (d) welcomes the work and petition of *Our Bodies, Our Streets*, a student-led campaign in Sheffield which aims to end street harassment and improve public safety for women and marginalised genders; Safer Parks After Dark, their current project, aims to ensure that public spaces are welcoming and safe from street harassment through demanding safety interventions and initiating dialogue about this in our local communities; and the campaign has had talks with council members and officers in Sheffield and also in Rotherham;
- (e) acknowledges that male violence and harassment must be addressed in Sheffield, and sadly that the majority of women have experienced harassment from men;
- (f) acknowledges Sheffield having a rising violence and sexual assault rate making up 30.70% of all crime reported in Sheffield;
- (g) acknowledges sexism and patriarchy lies at the root of gender inequality;
- (h) welcomes the detailed work that has been undertaken by the Campaign Group to identify current issues as well as potential solutions that could be developed and a call to action based on best practice identified from other areas in the UK and internationally;

- (i) welcomes the ParkLight campaign and thanks all those who were involved with it, including students, university lecturers and staff, Our Bodies, Our Streets and The Star;
- (j) resolves to engage with charities and organisations who work to end male violence and harassment to address this in Sheffield, with the Council to lead the way in employee and Member training, as well as outreach to Sheffield organisations;
- (k) resolves to work with schools and other institutions within Sheffield to educate and train on Racism and Misogyny, by:-
 - (i) implementing the Council of Europe's "Sexism: See it. Name it. Stop it." campaign in Sheffield. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-channel/stop-sexism>;
 - (ii) implementing Race Equality training such as that provided by Race Equality First - <https://raceequalityfirst.org/training/> ; and
 - (iii) implementing the recommendations of Sheffield's Race and Equality Commission;
- (l) resolves to consult and work with the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, businesses, community, student and voluntary groups, both in the city and other local authorities, to prepare a bid for funding based around the proposals brought forward by *Our Bodies, Our Streets*, including:-
 - (i) improve safety in streets, parks and open spaces through using research-led, inclusive design principles such as increasing navigation sight-lines and installing creative, warm and layered lighting, and by involving women and marginalised gender groups in the co-design process; and
 - (ii) learn from any examples of best practice in other areas and countries which would improve and increase outdoor safety in this city;
- (m) asks for a report to be brought forward which considers how local action can be taken, working across partners, to address the full range of ideas brought forward in *Our Bodies, Our Streets'* call to action, setting out the city's approach to safety in public places, noting the wider issues raised by the campaign including:-
 - (i) greater work to tackle the root cause; systematic change is needed to tackle the culture of misogyny and public sexual harassment in the UK;
 - (ii) ensuring genuine community consultation with women and marginalised gender groups is placed at the heart of decision making;
 - (iii) learning from cities who have pioneered inclusive gender design; and
 - (iv) greater recording of data around lived experience to generate evidence that can inform decision making; and

- (n) recognises and welcomes that this is a call not just to deliver a safer environment, but to go about this in a fundamentally different way, using methods like those used by the Campaign Group such as the participatory mapping exercise, based on an understanding through engagement of the diverse intersectional lived experiences of women and marginalised genders and by involvement in the design process rather than consultation after the fact.

2. TRUTH, TRUST AND TRANSPARENCY

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) believes that local government is at its best when it operates on the principles of truth, trust and transparency;
- (b) acknowledges that the Council has made an unreserved apology for the failings relating to the implementation of the Streets Ahead project and the management of the street trees element of this, following the reports of the Local Government Ombudsman, the Forestry Commission and the Lessons Learnt work;
- (c) believes that over the past three years the approach to Streets Ahead and highway trees is now significantly different and supported by the majority of people, however recognises that this should have been reached a long time before it was;
- (d) notes that we are now working towards a street tree strategy that has been co-produced with the groups who were previously at the centre of the dispute and believes this is a demonstration of how far we have come together and thanks everyone who has been involved in making this happen;
- (e) recognises that the Administration has already committed to holding an inquiry and, as outlined in the commitments of the Co-operative Executive, the Council will 'Appoint an independent person to conduct a local non-statutory inquiry into the management of the street trees dispute.';
- (f) believes that the important principle of the inquiry is that it is independent and that this should be undertaken in accordance with best practice for similar inquiries in local government and supports that the independent lead should have full discretion over any relevant papers they wish to view or council officers that they wish to speak to;
- (g) believes that the full details and terms of reference for the inquiry must be properly developed and that it would be premature at this stage to limit the professional background of the independent person leading the inquiry to a specific profession, such as a retired judge, as there are a range of skills that

will be needed to lead the inquiry and these could be drawn from a range of backgrounds;

- (h) welcomes the commitment to an inquiry, open to the public, secured by the Green Group in negotiation with the Labour Group, into the management of the street trees dispute;
- (i) requests the Administration to ensure that the inquiry is led by someone of the status of being impartial and deemed to be sufficiently skilled, knowledgeable and capable to conduct this independent inquiry by both the Cooperative Executive and by appointed representatives from the tree campaign group known as Sheffield Tree Action Groups, and Amey;
- (j) calls on all current and past councillors and past council officers to co-operate with this inquiry;
- (k) calls on partners, specifically Amey and South Yorkshire Police, to co-operate with this inquiry; and
- (l) resolves to request the Cooperative Executive to publish the findings of this inquiry and act on its recommendations.

3. ACTION ON THE NATURE EMERGENCY

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) recognises our natural world is struggling from the impact of habitat degradation, urbanisation, consumerism, pollution, industrial agricultural and waste management practices and climate change – all contributing to widespread disruption to the survival and distribution of native species;
- (b) recognises and congratulates the excellent work by the Ecology Department, supported by the Parks and Countryside Service and partner organisations, being done on Species Specific Projects, as well as Landscape Projects, e.g. Urban Nature Parks and Nature Recovery Networks; and that, in addition, the Council defended the ecology of the Loxley River Valley by providing staff as key expert witnesses in a major planning inquiry, for the people of Sheffield;
- (c) in addition, congratulates and thanks all Council departments and employees working on projects and measures that protect and support nature, such as Sustainable Urban Drainage System work on Grey To Green projects, as well as organisations in Sheffield more broadly for their work, such as Hunter's Bar Infant School for their work on their green wall;
- (d) declares a nature emergency;

- (e) commits to developing a comprehensive Nature Emergency Action Plan (NEAP) for Sheffield, in association with partner organisations;
- (f) resolves that the plan will look to connect initiatives and unify the Council's approach to biodiversity through the NEAP;
- (g) requests the Climate Change, Economy and Development Transitional Committee develop the NEAP with input from all departments within the Council, and providing the opportunity for relevant external partner organisations, businesses and community stakeholders to input and collaborate on initiatives where there are benefits to doing so, for example, a wildlife corridor could affect several departments including Transport, Housing and Parks;
- (h) recognises that co-operation and communication is key to the success of the Nature Emergency Action Plan and that, from the planning stage to implementation, monitoring and protecting, it is important for the Council to lead initiatives which address the Nature Emergency and have widespread support from the public and local campaign groups;
- (i) acknowledges the likely challenges to projects within the NEAP from developers under the current national planning guidelines which severely constrain proper consideration of the Climate and Ecological Emergency, and for this reason, it is imperative that this Council develops robust policies in the Local Plan which can help to protect and enhance biodiversity;
- (j) requests that the Administration ensures relevant staff and all elected members will receive training on biodiversity net gain (BNG) - a vital aspect of the new Environment Bill;
- (k) acknowledges that the work done to promote biodiversity and sustainability in Sheffield over a number of years by the various organisations, formal and informal, working with and within the Council, provides a solid base on which to build, for example the tree planting in Bolehills done in conjunction with local groups and the park rangers;
- (l) recognises that top down measures must be balanced by input from the bottom up such as the initiative to allow residents to take over the management of grass verges close to their home; and the Council should review the range of measures that have been introduced by wildlife organisations, volunteer groups and Council departments to inform future plans;
- (m) calls for consultation with the wider community in recognition of the need for widespread public support and engagement with any initiative proposed under the NEAP;
- (n) recognises that changes called for will have a greater impact on the livelihoods of people working in certain sectors such as those involving land use, whether for food production or leisure use, and calls for the development of new job opportunities as part of the NEAP to help people and businesses make the transitions necessary under the NEAP;

- (o) calls on Local Area Committees to allocate a funding stream specifically for nature projects;
- (p) looks forward to Sheffield's green spaces, parks, riversides and verges becoming havens and corridors for wildlife and future proofing as the climate changes through landscape management changes, such as changed mowing regimes and reduced use of chemicals, air pollution reduction and sympathetic planting choices;
- (q) recognises that the success of natural areas to prosper is enhanced by the active engagement of both formal and informal neighbourhood groups taking a role in their care;
- (r) understands the multi-faceted ways nature plays in community building, recreation, physical and mental health, scientific discovery, literature and art and lasting economic prosperity;
- (s) recognises that both individual and communal gardens and orchards play a key role in encouraging wildlife and connection to nature;
- (t) understands that good design of the built environment can help anchor wildlife in urban spaces and believes that this should be addressed fully in the local plan;
- (u) reminds the Council that there are many people who take an interest in wildlife;
- (v) recognises that the terms Nature, Ecological and Biodiversity can be and are often used interchangeably by people and, for the purpose of this motion, all mean the same thing;
- (w) recognises that the Climate and Nature emergencies are intrinsically linked with each other and also to social justice; and by building a better world to deal with the Climate and Ecological Emergency we will also be building a better society;
- (x) aims for Sheffield to be carbon neutral by 2030;
- (y) resolves to request the Administration to ban the use of harmful pesticides and herbicides such as glyphosate;
- (z) will seek to rewild areas such as grass verges and make sure there are areas for wildlife in our green spaces including but not exclusively for wildlife corridors;
- (aa) aims for 100% of waterways to have water quality that supports healthy wildlife by 2030; and
- (bb) requests the Administration to provide and recommend resources for businesses to help them understand how their procurement decisions impact ecology in Sheffield, the UK and across the world; such resources include the Natural Capital Protocol and the SHIFT online platform.

4. THE MAKING OF THE BROOMHILL, BROOMFIELD, ENDCLIFFE, SOMERFIELD AND TAPTON (BBEST) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes the outcome of the Broomhill, Broomfield, Endcliffe, Somerfield and Tapton (BBEST) Neighbourhood Plan Referendum, as outlined in the report of the Executive Director, Place, now submitted; and
- (b) resolves to 'make' the BBEST Neighbourhood Plan such that it is adopted as a planning document as part of Sheffield's Statutory Development Plan.

5. TRANSITION TO A COMMITTEE SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes the proposals for the operation of Transitional Committees as set out in the report of the Director of Legal and Governance now submitted, and approves their establishment in respect of the four theme areas;
- (b) agrees to (i) establish a Governance Committee as a politically proportionate member steering group to guide the transition to a committee system of governance and to set the parameters for stakeholder engagement, as described in the report, and subject to the size of the Committee being increased from 7 to 11 seats by the addition of one additional nominee from the Labour Group, two additional nominees from the Liberal Democrat Group, and one additional nominee from the Green Group and (ii) receive a report at the next Council meeting outlining the revised political proportionality framework, and allocations of seats to political groups on individual committees, resulting from the establishment of the Governance Committee; and
- (c) requests the Director of Legal and Governance to amend Part 3 of the Constitution (Responsibility for Functions) by updating the Transitional Committee Terms of Reference to reflect their areas of responsibility, adding Terms of Reference for the Governance Committee once agreed by the Committee and to make any minor consequential amendments that may be necessary.

6. UPDATED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS

RESOLVED: That this Council adopts the updated Members' Code of Conduct appended to the report of the Director of Legal and Governance now submitted, following agreement by the Audit and Standards Committee on 25th March 2021.

NB: Ordinary Petitions which were submitted to the meeting and referred by the City Council to the relevant Executive Members, have been forwarded to them for action, and copied to the relevant Executive Director.