

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 6TH OCTOBER, 2021

List of Amendments received by the Chief Executive

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 6 – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “STARK BUDGET CHALLENGE”

1. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Mike Levery, seconded by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed

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

- (e) notes that for all the Government’s talk of ‘levelling up’, Sheffield continues to suffer funding cuts above the national average, and believes it is the hard-working people and the most at need who continue to shoulder the impact of this shortfall in funding, with government cutting public services to the bone;
- (f) particularly condemns the current Government’s approach to funding the NHS and Adult Social Care, and believes that a properly thought-out new long term funding settlement for social care is desperately needed to sustain vital frontline services, particularly for places like Sheffield which has a relatively low council tax base but a high level of need;
- (g) believes that the Liberal Democrat proposal of raising income tax by a penny in the pound will make progress in meeting this need for a long-term funding settlement and greatly relieve the pressure on adult social care and the NHS;
- (h) believes that Sheffield City Council’s financial situation is aggravated by the potential impact of Brexit, and on the capacity of both the local and national economy to generate the resources that our public services badly need;
- (i) notes the October 2020 Medium Term Financial Analysis predicted a funding gap of £72M between 2021/22 to 2024/25, meaning that 60% of this gap is currently predicted in this financial year;
- (j) notes the 14% increase in this year’s Adult Social Care budget raised from the 3% precept increase in Council Tax;
- (k) notes the efficiency savings of £14.9M brought forward from 2020/21 approved in the 2021/22 budget through services effectiveness, cost reduction and staff savings;

- (l) believes that although the Council is facing financially difficult times, the current Administration has still had choices about where to spend our money, and have often made the wrong choices over the past ten years, for example:-
 - (i) protecting taxpayer subsidies for Trade Unions whilst slashing funding to local communities;
 - (ii) continuing to spend vast amounts on Council spin doctors whilst cutting front line services;
 - (iii) spending millions on costly consultants whilst allowing important road safety schemes to be delayed;
 - (iv) adopting a services insourcing policy which could lead to budget increases; and
 - (iv) increasing a youth services budget prior to insourcing 12 months ago and still having no plans on how to spend it; and
- (m) believes that a formal half year review is required urgently to clearly identify the budget overspend areas which lead to a predicted overspend of £44M, an increase of 12% on the approved budget, with a recovery plan to minimise the impact on reserves, and a clear indication of which earmarked reserves are affected.

2. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Alexi Dimond, seconded by Councillor Paul Turpin

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

- (o) rejects austerity and notes that the Green Party is the only major political party to consistently oppose austerity;
- (p) recognises that the rise in national insurance is unfair and will not resolve the crisis in Health and Social Care, and believes that this Council would favour progressive taxes such as wealth, land and financial transaction taxes;
- (q) believes that long-term, outsourced contracts with big private businesses have not taken an equivalent share of the cuts to council services over the last ten years; and notes that long-term costs of finance stretch into Sheffield's future until 2057;
- (r) notes that years of austerity have resulted in repeated recruitment freezes and a large number of redundancies;

- (s) believes that this has crushed the opportunities of a generation of young people who might otherwise have been taken on as apprentices or in entry-level jobs;
- (t) notes that this has also led to the loss of years' worth of collective experience from the Council's workforce;
- (u) believes that many members of the workforce may benefit from a voluntary reduction in their working hours and that this may allow new opportunities for young recruits to learn additional skills by working alongside them; that there are benefits of intergenerational skills transfers and more fulfilling working environments for both younger and older workers; and
- (v) therefore requests officers in every portfolio to promote opportunities for reductions in hours for workers, and flexible retirement, in order to encourage new job opportunities for young people and to maintain their pride in jobs well done.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 7 – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “ENERGY”

3. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Mark Jones, seconded by Councillor Ben Miskell

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

- (k) notes the current gas crisis and believes that UK government needs to do significantly more to end the UK's dependence on overseas gas, and that the current energy crisis is borne out of political failings;
- (l) notes that despite headlines about record amounts of wind and solar power and record numbers of electric cars, climate change-causing greenhouse gas emissions and energy use continue to rise, and the world's thirst for fossil fuels still appears insatiable, and believes that failure to deal with these trends quickly and fairly as part of an organised and just transition will lead to further environmental destruction, social injustice, and economic chaos;
- (m) believes today's soaring energy bills are also a glimpse into a future of what could happen if we do not change tack, and notes that there are myriad reasons for the current spike in gas prices: the sudden economic growth after the pandemic slump, a cold winter in Europe and Asia, local unplanned-for events, and complicated geopolitics are all partly responsible, but a domestic dearth of systemic thinking is also why many UK citizens are disproportionately affected by the increase in gas prices;

- (n) believes that what this current energy crisis shows us is that, in the 1980s, government should never have sold off our North Sea assets, and instead we could have invested the monies from North Sea exploration into renewables;
- (o) agrees with the comments of Tom Burke, Head of Climate Think Tank E3G, that “bad political ideas have helped pave the way for volatile gas prices. There is nothing new about volatility in commodity prices, but there has been a consistent failure to address reducing gas for heating. This is not an energy crisis, but a crisis of politics”;
- (p) believes that we need to take a pragmatic approach to common ownership of the energy sector, and move away from the neoliberal dogmatic approach of recent government who have espoused a market-driven and privatised approach, which has led to spiralling fuel and energy costs;
- (q) notes that the Council is liaising with groups such as Sheffield Renewables to explore how we can deliver increased levels of renewable energy in the city, including community-owned renewable generation;
- (r) believes, however, that we need significant intervention from the Government to help us go further locally; including to help us turn our waste into biogas, and to help insulate all our homes to make them more energy efficient;
- (s) believes that electric heating, as it currently is, may not work for all homes, especially old houses with poor insulation and, therefore, putting in solar panels and swapping out the boiler is not necessarily the answer;
- (t) notes that due to actions of the previous Administration, the Council purchases electricity generated from 100% renewable sources, and installed Smart Energy Meters for Council tenants – creating up to 40% saving for tenants as well as a substantial reduction in wasted energy; and
- (u) requests the Co-operative Executive to direct the Climate Change, Economy and Development Transitional Committee to undertake research, with recommendations, as what more the Council can do to help the city move to more sustainable energy and deliver on the goals of the proposed Local Energy Bill.

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

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. in paragraph (a), the substitution of the words “promote renewal energy” by the words “promote energy efficiency and renewable energy”;
 2. the addition, at the end of paragraph (b), of the words “and the lack of investment in energy efficiency by previous governments”;
 3. the deletion of paragraph (d) and the addition of a new paragraph (d) as follows:-
 - (d) recognises that increasing investment in, and use of, energy efficiency, followed by renewable energy, are the best ways to bring down the cost of energy supply to people's homes;”
 4. in paragraph (e), the substitution of the words “increasing use of renewable energy” by the words “increasing the energy efficiency of buildings and use of renewable energy”;
 5. in paragraph (h), the insertion of the words “community-owned and” before the words “local renewable electricity supply”;
 6. in paragraph (i), the insertion of the words “community-owned and” before the words “local renewable energy supply”; and
 7. the addition of new paragraphs (k) and (l) as follows:-
 - (k) further resolves to work with local experts, such as Sheffield Renewables, to address any local barriers to installation and work together to advance community-owned and local renewable energy supplies, including exploration of the use of Council-owned land and property to support community led renewable energy projects; and
 - (l) resolves to consider how best to incorporate the promotion of community-owned and local renewable energy supply in Sheffield’s 10-point Decarbonisation Plan.
5. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Barbara Masters, seconded by Councillor Andrew Sangar

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

- (k) believes that:-
 - (i) the emerging fuel crisis is pushing more and more Sheffield residents into fuel poverty as bills keep rising and that, as a Council, we have a duty to act;
 - (ii) the emerging fuel crisis demonstrates the need for Sheffield to have more control of its own energy supplies to prepare for the

greater demand for electricity locally as measures to clean up our environment are rolled out; with this additional energy needing to come from renewable sources in line with the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency;

- (iii) the infrastructure needed to provide access to clean and affordable energy should use existing networks as much as possible to reduce the use of new materials;
 - (iv) building on the existing district heating system would allow us to reduce Sheffield's carbon footprint and has the potential for a clean source of heat and power; and
 - (v) the Council should investigate innovative and sustainable forms of powering small scale and district heating systems that use the infrastructure already present in Sheffield; this includes exploring heat recovery from mine water which is being promoted by the Coal Authority working with academics, local authorities, central government, and others, to help realise the potential of mine water heat, and which is already being used to heat homes in the Northeast of England; and
- (l) requests that the requirement for new developments to link into a district heating system where this is the most sustainable option, be incorporated into future planning policy.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.8 – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “CRISIS IN SOCIAL CARE”

6. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Steve Ayris, seconded by Councillor Mohammed Mahroof

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

- (h) notes that the Liberal Democrats on this Council proposed putting an additional £200,000 into vocational development for front-line care workers in the financial year 2021/2022 over and above the £4.2m enhanced pay provision agreed, as a way of boosting the esteem of the caring vocation and the role it plays as a valuable employer;
- (i) notes the plight of unpaid carers who have performed heroic efforts to look after our most vulnerable in society during the pandemic;
- (j) also calls on the Government to raise the Carer's Allowance by £1000 a year and not what this Council believes to be the insultingly low 5p a day announced in April, allowing our carers to lead decent lives, after recent research suggested a third struggle to make ends meet;

- (k) believes that with over 120,000 vacancies in the sector, professional care staff are overstretched and unable to give people the time and attention they need;
- (l) further believes that the Government's announcement will mean nothing to the staff who need it and that care staff deserve better pay, recognition and career progression, not vague promises of training and a tax on low paid workers, and therefore that the Government's plan is neither the way to reform social care nor the way to pay for it; and
- (m) calls upon the Government to work to improve the care sector by investing in staff development, offering good rates of pay, good working conditions and developing a positive culture where staff are valued.

7. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Martin Phipps, seconded by Councillor Brian Holmshaw

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

- (h) thanks social care workers for their hard work and sacrifices to care for the people of Sheffield;
- (i) believes that social care workers should be well paid and social care should be properly funded, universal and free-at-the-point of delivery;
- (j) believes that major reform is needed to address the crisis in social care and that, in line with the above principles, a National Care Service should be established;
- (k) applauds the work taking place in Scotland by the Scottish Greens and SNP in forming a National Care Service; and
- (l) resolves to support the introduction of a National Care Service and to write to Sheffield MPs to lobby Parliament for the introduction of this.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.9 – NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING “DOING MORE FOR THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY”

8. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Tony Damms, seconded by Councillor Bryan Lodge

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

- (e) notes that following the publication of the original motion, there has been confusion from some residents about Poppy Days and the city's Poppy Appeal, and we want to make it categorically clear that there is a full

programme of remembrance planned for Sheffield, in partnership with the Royal British Legion (RBL), as we have always done;

- (f) believes it is important to note that remembrance events are led by the Royal British Legion, but the Council must do everything it its power to support the RBL and the Armed Forces Community;
- (g) notes that the RBL holds City Poppy Days, which are different from a general Poppy Appeal, in various locations across the country, and that the RBL only host City Poppy Days where they can rely on the availability of members of the Armed Forces - including uniformed personnel from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force - and as such Sheffield have not been asked to host a City Poppy Day, though the Council would, undoubtably, actively support the RBL if this were the case;
- (h) believes that supporting our Armed Forces Community should never be politicised, and that councillors throughout the city must work together to deliver for our service personnel, veterans, and their families;
- (i) believes that consideration needs to be given to how the Council can go further in supporting our Armed Forces Community –including proposals outlined in the original Notice of Motion, including updating the Community Covenant Annual Newsletter on Sheffield City Council’s Armed Forces webpage, looking into increasing the frequency of the newsletter from annual to semi-annual, and ensuring appropriate training to Council Officers – and calls for a cross-party committee to be set-up to look into this, to be led by the Lord Mayor and the Council’s Military Champion, and including members from all of the Council’s political parties; and
- (j) believes, fundamentally, that any proposals need to be developed alongside the AFC and the RBL.

9. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Paul Turpin, seconded by Councillor Douglas Johnson

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

- (g) recognises the best way to protect our armed forces is to not send them to war;
- (h) recognises that the war on terror has cost 900,000 lives;
- (i) recognises that the bombing of Yemen has cost 130,000 lives, and spawned the world's worst humanitarian crisis in a country that was already the Arab world's most impoverished nation;
- (j) believes that by providing better social services all people will be better cared for;

- (k) believes that a properly funded NHS with universal mental health care and trauma counselling for everybody is a standard that the Government is failing to meet;
- (l) believes that the pandemic showed us that there is no reason for anyone to be homeless and that homelessness, like poverty, is a political choice made by the Government;
- (m) resolves to always argue in favour of peace and robustly against war and violence;
- (n) resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak MP, asking him to:-
 - (i) raise the UK Foreign Aid budget to 1% in order to help prevent future wars and humanitarian crises caused by war; and
 - (ii) properly fund the NHS so universal mental health care and trauma counselling for everybody, including the armed forces, is standard;
- (o) resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP, asking him to:-
 - (i) stop British Forces supporting the bombing of Yemen; and
 - (ii) to ban the sale of arms;
- (p) resolves to never knowingly provide any business that is involved in the arms trade with financial support from the Council either directly or via grant funding schemes;
- (q) resolves to fulfill Sheffield's commitment as a City of Sanctuary by helping all people who supported Allied forces in Afghanistan and any other places of conflict;
- (r) resolves to be more proactive in applying for grants from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust;
- (s) resolves to ensure the production of the updated Sheffield Armed Forces Community Directory of Local Support remains on schedule; and
- (t) resolves to publish the minutes of the Sheffield Community Covenant Partnership Board on the Sheffield City Council website.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.10 – THE MAKING OF DORE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

10. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Joe Otten, seconded by Councillor Andrew Sangar

That the recommendations in the report of the Executive Director, Place, be approved with the addition of a new paragraph (c) as follows:-

- (c) notes the increase in the local portion in the plan area from 15% to 25% as required by legislation; believes that this requirement is vitiated by the current policy of redistribution of the local Community Infrastructure Levy portion between areas of Sheffield, and asks the Co-operative Executive to bring forward proposals to ensure that areas covered by Neighbourhood Plans should retain the full 25% local portion for expenditure in the plan area, control of such expenditure to be delegated to the relevant Local Area Committees.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.11 – UPDATES TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

11. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Joe Otten, seconded by Councillor Sue Alston

That the recommendations in the report of the Director of Legal and Governance be approved, subject to the inclusion of the following addition to the terms of reference of the Transitional Committees:-

- e) Supporting Transition
- Consider what powers and budgets under the related portfolio areas should be devolved to Area Committees, and to make recommendations to the Co-operative Executive.