

## Council Meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021

### Written Answers Provided To Member Questions (Supplied to the Questioners on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021)

#### Questions of Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Terry Fox)

**Q.1 Following the recent stabbings and other incidents within the city centre, what measures can be put in place to make the people of Sheffield feel safer and more secure?**

A.1 We were all devastated to hear about the incident in the city centre and we are continuing to support the police in their ongoing investigation.

The council invests resources across the city to ensure Sheffield remains one of the safest cities in the country, this includes widening the scope of our CCTV network, investing in a team of wardens and embedding council workers in local police stations to not only provide community reassurance when tragic incidents like this occur, but also work to prevent them occurring. Engagement with the public remains a vital component in community safety work, something which we are planning to expand with the introduction of Local Area Committees

**Q.2 Given the current national shortage of lorry drivers and the impact it has had recently on the supply chain, what plans do the council have to ensure continuity of services within Sheffield? Particularly to those most in need?**

A.2 The driver shortage has not resulted in any disruption to Council services that we are aware of so far.

School transport services and schools food services have reported no issues. The majority of the Citywide Care Alarms fleet is electric and so unaffected and the Short term Intervention Team (STIT) also have had no issues to report.

There has been some concern from the Independent Home care sector, as the news broke nationally about a potential fuel shortage from 24<sup>th</sup> September, but by midweek (29 September) providers were reporting that the risk period had passed. The worst impact was that some carers had to take longer to fill up their tanks.

All services in the Council have Business Continuity Plans which have been well tested and updated through the pandemic. Within social care

business continuity arrangements are in place including collective risk logging/ monitoring and reporting, prioritisation of care, flexible use of in-house workforce, use of the Out of Hours team and ultimately escalation through the Council and into the Local Resilience Forum (LRF).

Independent Sector care providers have their own contingency plans and the Council's Commissioning Team have been in daily contact with providers of care during this recent period to share information with and across the sector and to obtain regular updates and risks assessments.

Should local business continuity arrangements not be sufficient the Council can move to adopt its Incident Management Framework and emergency plans. The Authority's Fuel Disruption Plan describes how the Council would administer a local response to a fuel crisis response once instigated nationally by Central Government. The Government and the Local Resilience Forum have confirmed that there is currently no intention to instigate any national emergency arrangements.

**Q.3 Following the recent announcement from SCT that they will cancel certain acts who do not fit their newfound values, who else would the Council support SCT in cancelling shows by:**

- (a) would you support Jimmy Carr being cancelled?**
- (b) would you support Jo Brand being cancelled?**
- (c) would you support Jay-Z being cancelled?**
- (d) would you support Eminem being cancelled?**
- (e) would you support Boris Johnson being cancelled?**
- (f) would you support Jeremy Corbyn being cancelled?**

**A.3** As far as I am aware, Sheffield City Trust has not said that it will cancel certain acts. I must reiterate the response I gave to Cllr Mohammed at the last full council meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September. The decision to remove Roy Chubby Brown's show from the schedule at Sheffield City Hall was made by Sheffield City Trust, an independent charity that is not controlled by Sheffield City Council.

We continue to support their position because, as we said at the time, we do not feel that a show containing homophobic, racist and sexist 'humour' has any place in a publicly funded venue in Sheffield.

**Q.4 Prior to the SCT decision to cancel Roy Chubby Brown, how many complaints had the council received about Roy Chubby Brown performing about Sheffield City Hall?**

- A.4 We understand from Sheffield City Trust that this was a historic booking made before the pandemic and subsequently re-scheduled. Going forward, Sheffield City Trust has assured us that they will consider whether acts are appropriate before bookings are taken, and we have asked them to review their policies on bookings that may present views that contradict their charitable objectives; ultimately the decision lies with the Trust and the SCT Board of Trustees.

**Question of Councillor Kevin Oxley to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Terry Fox)**

- Q. Has the Council applied for funding from the government's £30m Changing Places fund? If so, what are the council's plans to provide public conveniences?**

- A. The Council has submitted an Expression of Interest for the Changing Places funding. After discussion and collaboration with Disability Sheffield, people with disabilities and unpaid carers as well as scoping from Officers in the Place Portfolio Planning Teams we submitted a plan for a Changing Places facility in the Sports Pavilion at Hillsborough Park which is currently undergoing renovation by our partners Age UK.

This location was chosen as Changing Places own research indicated that people who would use Changing Places facilities wanted to see more of them in parks and green spaces, Hillsborough Park is also home to all-abilities cycling project Cycling 4 All and Age UK's developing dementia-friendly café, groups which will benefit from the creation of a Changing Places toilet. We are currently waiting on the decision of the Expression of Interest and expect to hear back soon.

**Questions of Councillor Brian Holmshaw to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Terry Fox)**

- Q.1 At its meeting in September 2021, full council recommended that the "affordable-free zone" for developers in the city centre, where profits go out of the city and few affordable homes are built and which was first put in place in 2014, is removed. What are the steps required for this to happen?**

- A.1 In the City Centre Housing Market Area, there is currently a 0% expected developer contribution towards affordable housing provision, and this varies across the city from 0% to 30%. This is set out in a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) - 2015 Community Infrastructure (CIL) and Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The SPD is based on a city wide viability study which found that a contribution

towards affordable housing in the City Centre would make schemes unviable. This is mainly because in the City Centre sales values are too low relative to the costs of development.

The first step required for any changes to the City Centre affordable housing contribution would have to be an update to the viability study to determine a reasonable ask of developers. We are seeking legal advice to establish if changes can be made via an amendment to the CIL and Planning Obligations SPD or whether they would have to be done as part of the new Local Plan. However, this work may still conclude that's it's not viable to provide any affordable housing in the City Centre at the moment.

We remain committed to do everything we can to secure affordable housing in the city. We have forced housing developers to make public their viability assessments for affordable housing - to ensure that developers' calculations are correct and meeting affordability targets, and are committed to providing 3,100 council homes by 2028, but we want to go further and are working with registered social landlords to deliver this.

**Q.2 When is it expected that this will take place?**

A.2 As noted above, we are seeking legal advice on the most appropriate route to make any changes to the affordable housing contribution in the City Centre. Timelines will be determined by the outcome of this, which we expect towards the end of October.

**Questions of Councillor Mike Levery to Councillor Jayne Dunn (Executive Member for Education, Children and Families) - to be answered by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Terry Fox)**

**It is now over a year since Youth Services was insourced, and a £2M additional funding announced for the year 2021/22. Could you clarify the following please?**

**In the July Council the response to the question “Does the Operating Model identify where new youth clubs are planned to be brought into operation?”, the response was “New ongoing provision will start from the September term”.**

**Q.1 Can you please advise where these new youth clubs are operating?”**

A.1 A youth strategy is coming shortly.

In the July Council the response to the question “What is the target completion date for achieving pay harmonisation for the former Sheffield Futures staff?”, the response was “For the remainder of the Youth Services staff not included in this Early Help review, we are not allowed under the terms of the transfer to harmonise their terms and conditions; however, if the trade unions make such a request we will work with them.” TUPE transfer terms are clear that transferring employees retain their previous terms and conditions, and can opt for harmonisation, if offered, if it improves their terms and conditions.

**Q.2 Bearing in mind that the transferred staff have had no pay increases for a number of years, and their pay is well below comparable jobs in Sheffield City Council, why has there been no attempt to seek pay harmonisation for the staff who aren't part of the Early Help review?**

A.2 Officers had a successful meeting with Trade Unions and there is a review of services currently underway. There is a complete commitment for colleagues in Community Youth Services to become full and active employees of Sheffield City Council by the end of the financial year. This must be within a well-designed and appropriate community youth service that is energetic, ambitious and delivers contemporary and safe work with young people. For this to happen we must ensure that any change taking place now is sustainable for the future. Staff have been very transparent about their experiences of on-going change and it would be a risk to harmonise pay and then potentially affect further change. This must happen together.

This is a priority for the service and discussion, reflections and thinking is now coming together. Trade Unions have accepted this, equally committed to ensuring the best needs for young Sheffielders.

**Q.3 It was agreed that the Youth Services Operating Model will be presented to the next meeting of the Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny Committee? No meeting, apart from appointing a Chair and approving minutes, has been scheduled for this committee since February. When will the Youth Services Operating Model be presented to this committee?**

A.3 A Youth Strategy is being developed.

**Q.4 We are halfway through the financial year; how much of the additional £2M has been spent to date, and on what? What is the projected financial outturn at year end?**

A.4 There is an intention to ensure full spend on this £2m budget this financial year.

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