

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 20TH FEBRUARY 2023

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE MEETING

1. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUSINESS PLAN AND HRA BUDGET 2023-24

RESOLVED: That:-

This Council:-

- (a) thanks all the officers who have worked hard to formulate the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) business plan;
- (b) notes that this HRA business plan and budget is the first to have been put together under the new committee system, that all members of the Housing Policy Committee have been involved in this process and that regular briefings have taken place between the Chair, Deputy Chair and Spokesperson on the proposals;
- (c) believes that increasing the city's affordable housing provision is crucial to tackling the Cost of Living crisis, reducing the numbers of people suffering from homelessness, and ensure that Sheffield remains an excellent place to live;
- (d) notes the unfortunate reduction in the Stock Increase Programme target from 3,100 to 2,310, as a result of extremely high building cost inflation, and believes that the severe inflation of £2.4m on the Newstead site before construction has begun is illustrative of the challenges facing new build projects;
- (e) believes that increasing Council stock is not the only way to increase affordable housing provision in the city, and believes that with the regrettable reductions in the Stock Increase Programme, the Council must think imaginatively to provide affordable housing, which may involve:-
 - (i) considering how the Council's general fund could contribute to, or reduce the cost of, new homes and increased use of Sheffield Housing Company for affordable housing new build delivery; and
 - (ii) increasing the SIP target through shared ownership schemes such as the Owlthorpe scheme, which would provide affordable housing while reducing maintenance and financing charges to the HRA;
- (f) believes that previous Council administrations between May 2011 and May 2021 have not been up to the task of delivering affordable housing, as:-

- (i) between 2019 and 2022, there was an estimated shortfall in affordable housing delivery of 2,251 units;
 - (ii) between 2016 and 2020, affordable housing units in the city suffered a net reduction, as completions were outstripped by right to buy sales; and
 - (iii) due to the failings in the Council's Housing Repair Service since insourcing, the current void rate is 3.4%, equating to roughly 1,300 homes – more than the reduction in the Stock Increase Programme target;
- (g) believes that while increasing council housing stock is crucial, the fastest way to improve the social housing provision in the city is to bring vacant council properties into a suitable state to be let, increasing capital investment to improve quality of existing homes to reduce high cost repairs and that cutting housing repairs to fund housebuilding is a false economy;
- (h) further notes that the continued high void rate places further pressure on the HRA budget through the loss of £1.2m in Council Tax payments on empty properties;
- (i) believes that improving the Housing Repair Service is central to ensuring that our tenants are not put in danger from overdue gas inspections, out of control damp and mould, and delayed fire safety repairs;
- (j) therefore welcomes the proposed increase in budget for the Housing Repairs Service, but notes that this must be met with improved results on customer satisfaction and reducing repair call volumes and voids;
- (k) reaffirms its support for the creation of an Alternative Disrepair Resolution Scheme (which will allow tenants to receive full compensation for disrepair claims) and its support of council tenants to directly employ contractors if a repair has been delayed, and urges the Housing Policy Committee to consider these proposals favourably when they come to Committee;
- (l) welcomes the positive engagement that has taken place with our Tenants' and Residents' Associations, and encourages the Housing Policy Committee to continue extending tenant engagement where possible;
- (m) believes that there are no easy answers when it comes to increasing affordable housing in the city, and that all parties must work together over the next year to tackle the housing crisis through proposals that are imaginative but realistic, and therefore resolves that:-
- (n) the HRA Business Plan report for 2023-24, as set out in the Financial Appendix to the report, be approved;
- (o) the HRA Revenue Budget 2023-24, as set out in the Financial Appendix to the report, be approved;
- (p) rents for council dwellings be increased by 7% from April 2023, in line with the Regulator of Social Housing's Rent Standard;

- (q) rents for temporary accommodation be increased by 7% for 2023-24;
- (r) garage rents for garage plots and garage sites be increased by 7% from April 2023;
- (s) the sheltered housing charge be increased by 7% for 2023-24;
- (t) the burglar alarm charge be increased by 7% for 2023-24;
- (u) the furnished accommodation charge be increased by 7% for 2023-24;
- (v) the Hardship Fund be increased by a further £300,000 for 2023/24, to £450,000; and
- (w) no increase be made to the community heating charge at this time.

This Council:-

- (x) regrets that the report plans to reduce the Stock Increase Programme (SIP) to 2,310, from the previous target of 3,100 new council homes by 2029 as set by the previous Labour administration, and believes that all options – including prudential borrowing, re-capitalisation/re-profiling, and different ownership models - must instead be considered to not only retain the figure of 3,100 but to go further still;
- (y) believes that tenants need to be much more engaged and empowered within decision-making and service delivery, and welcomes Labour’s proposals to develop Housing Advisory Panels, bringing together all residents and linked directly into the Local Area Committees (LACs) and including a greater working relationship with all Registered Private Providers of Social Housing (Housing Associations), to make the Council more responsive and accountable to local needs;
- (z) believes that the Council should not accept a sub-standard repairs service, and that radical action is needed to deliver what is required, and, therefore, believes that investing more now to upgrade homes is not only the right thing to do for tenants, but will ultimately prove cost effective in bringing down the long-term repairs bill;
- (aa) believes that the Council needs to be working in anticipation of a new change of government within the next 18 months, and a new Decent Homes standard this could bring; which will certainly require improvements to tackle damp and mould and ensure homes are warm and heated affordably;
- (bb) notes that the Council is investing in existing homes to make sure that tenants live in warm and safe homes, including £62 million being spent to retrofit homes, including decarbonisation and bringing all homes up to at least EPC C Energy standard, helping residents to save on energy costs and contributing to net zero targets; and believes that, whilst this is hugely welcome, the total spend on Heating, Energy and Carbon Reduction should ideally be more ambitious and that options including securing external funding, recapitalisation, reprofiling and prudential borrowing, should be considered with the aim of increasing investment to £100

million, and that the additional investment must complement a programme of skills and job development;

- (cc) believes the Council is faced with a stark choice between two options – either be ambitious with investment and deliver for Sheffield, or accept a managed decline with less council homes delivered to a poorer standard, and believes that only the former is an acceptable proposition for the city; and
- (dd) believes that, in contrast with the current Government, the Council will always prioritise support for neighbourhoods and put housing needs at the top of our agenda to produce the strong, thriving neighbourhoods that Sheffield deserves.

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) believes the Heritage Strategy for Sheffield is unique in being a community-led strategy, created from the ground up by grass roots organisations;
- (b) notes that this Council has been involved in driving the Heritage Strategy forward since its earliest stages, welcoming the completed Strategy in January 2021, and subsequently joining the Heritage Partnership Board in February 2021 as a first step towards implementation;
- (c) believes that the aim of a Heritage Strategy is to protect and enhance a city's heritage and invigorate interest and development; believing that Sheffield's heritage is defined in its widest sense including not only physical assets such as historic buildings and structures, archaeological sites, historic townscapes and landscapes, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, but also museums and art galleries and their collections, archives, libraries, public art, natural habitats, people and communities, spoken stories and much more;
- (d) further, believes that Sheffield's unique heritage is particularly inclusive, embracing the customs, traditions and skills developed locally, such as the 107 languages spoken, radicalism, anti-slavery campaigning, music, our working men's clubs, and Sheffield as the Home of Football;
- (e) notes the importance of Heritage to our city and recognises its social, environmental, educational and well-being benefits and its economic potential;
- (f) celebrates and champions Sheffield's diverse heritage;
- (g) notes that Sheffield hosts the largest Heritage Open Days festival in the country;
- (h) believes that the Heritage sector is an important source of economic prosperity and growth with a total GVA (Gross Value Added) of £36bn, supporting over 500,000 jobs nationally;
- (i) also believes that the impact of Heritage as a means to stimulate investment is evident in the huge success of the Kelham Island development and the redevelopment of the City Centre;
- (j) believes that strong partnership between local business, the Council and heritage organisations is vital to Sheffield's economic future, and especially welcomes the third aim of the Heritage Strategy to build on the contribution of Sheffield's heritage to the city's economic wellbeing;
- (k) notes the adoption by the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee of the Sheffield Culture Collective Strategy last September, and the work

currently being undertaken to develop a full city Culture Strategy, and welcomes the critical role this will play in securing future Arts funding for Sheffield;

- (l) believes that there are many cases where the City's industrial and craft heritage have been neglected, such as the loss of industrial heritage and craft trades for housing development in Kelham Island, and the continuing threat to heritage as demonstrated by the recent demolition of the Plough Inn, the continuing neglect of the Old Town Hall and Crown Court, and the repeated delays to the Castlegate site, and actively supports local listing of heritage assets;
- (m) believes that previous administrations have failed to develop and implement a coherent and economically viable plan for the Graves building, and requests that the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee considers adding this issue to its work programme;
- (n) notes that the Council has left many buildings it owns which are of heritage value to fall into a poor state of repair, such as Birley Spa Bath House and the Rose Garden Café, and believes that the Council must invest more in proactive maintenance in order to protect heritage buildings in its possession;
- (o) further, believes adopting the Heritage Strategy for Sheffield will demonstrate the Council's strategic approach and commitment to Heritage, and that having this strategic approach will greatly improve the Council's ability to attract external funding for a wide range of heritage projects;
- (p) notes that this city's heritage does not belong to the city council, but to the people of Sheffield;
- (q) resolves, therefore, to ask the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to add the Heritage Strategy for Sheffield to its work programme and request that, within the next 3 months, the Committee calls upon the Sheffield Heritage Partnership Board to report on progress and co-develop a programme of actions which will drive forward the implementation of the Heritage Strategy for Sheffield;
- (r) believes that the recently listed John Lewis building is another critically important Heritage asset, believes that it is incredibly important to ensure that the right decision is taken on its future and to avoid poor project outcomes such as those seen in the Fargate Container project, and requests that the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee considers whether public consultation on any proposal would be beneficial to achieve this.
- (s) notes the positive tone of this motion, congratulates the volunteers at Joined Up Heritage Sheffield on their long standing efforts to place heritage at the centre of our cultural landscape and applauds the long-overdue emphasis finally being placed on the power of heritage to do good in the city;
- (t) welcomes the significant shift in attitude towards heritage since the Cabinet Member described heritage disparagingly as a "barrier to development" in 2019;

- (u) believes that Sheffield City Council needs to:-
 - (i) abandon its risk-averse approach to heritage in the city and embrace the environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits of heritage in all its forms; and
 - (ii) nurture better working relationships with the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic England and other large-scale national and regional funding bodies, as an essential part of being able to fund the type of heritage projects the city has missed out on over the years;
- (v) requests that the Governance Committee look at the place of heritage within the committee system within their Governance Review;
- (w) requests that whichever committee is responsible for heritage considers establishing a cross-party task and finish working group to work with Sheffield Heritage Partnership Board, and make recommendations to the relevant Policy Committees or to this Council on the implementation of the grassroots Joined Up Heritage Sheffield Heritage Strategy;
- (x) recommends that if a task and finish working group is established, that its programme of work includes looking at the possibilities for:-
 - (i) providing financial and organisational support for the work of the Sheffield Heritage Open Days volunteers who, with over 130 free walks, talks, tours and exhibitions across the Sheffield region between 9 – 18 September 2022, have made the festival one of the biggest and best in the country; and
 - (ii) employing additional SCC conservation staff, community heritage officers and planning enforcement officers to support the implementation of the heritage strategy;
- (y) affirms support for the inspiring Harmony Works project team in their bid for national public funds to move the Music Hub to a heritage building in Castlegate in the heart of the city;
- (z) recommends that relevant Committees should use the mechanism of the Corporate Opportunities Register to identify and put in funding bids and establish partnerships to support heritage in the city; and
- (aa) requests that the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee adds the future of the city's paused Conservation Areas, such as the one at Castlegate, to its work programme, as this Council believes they can bring positive economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits, together with heritage funding, to the communities they serve.

3. THE LOCAL PLAN IN BEIGHTON

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) believes that local residents know what is best for their own communities, and as such, welcomes the numerous representations, feedback, and petitions from members of the public concerning allocations and policies in the emerging Local Plan;
- (b) believes that local residents of South East Sheffield have made their voices clear on the issue of the site east of Eckington Way (referred to in the Emerging Local Plan as site SES 03), which has been allocated for use as a 'General Employment and Traveller Site', and notes that a petition opposing the proposed site has received 2,773 signatures as of the 8th of February;
- (c) notes that democratic discussion of how the Council should discharge its duty to provide Gypsy and Traveller accommodation can regrettably sometimes attract discriminatory and racist views and therefore condemns in the strongest terms all forms of racism and discrimination against Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, and Travelling Showpeople communities, and especially any use of discriminatory stereotypes within political campaigning;
- (d) believes that, not only as a council but as a city, we should be proud to celebrate the rich histories and diverse cultures of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, and provide traveller sites in full consultation with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities;
- (e) notes that the site allocation list for Beighton, and the whole of the South-East, was put to councillors on 11th July 2022;
- (f) believes that this whole process was completely transparent and notes that, following these briefings and discussions within political groups, the whole Council met on 14th December 2022 to vote on the Local Plan, and all parties – Labour, Liberal Democrat, Conservative and Green – approved the plans;
- (g) notes that the Local Plan was delivered cross-party, and notes that were any traveller site removed from the current Plan, an alternative site would need to be found in order to meet recognised need;
- (h) notes that while an alternative site, instead of site SES 03, may be required, it would not be appropriate to determine this until the public consultation has completed – and Members need to consider all representations (including from the gypsy and traveller community) as well as any further evidence, around all sites in the city;
- (i) believes that the Local Plan is for all of Sheffield – all of its people and different communities, without prejudice – and that this Council needs to balance all considerations in the final approved report, including issues around traffic

mitigation, supporting infrastructure, environmental protection, the standard of homes, and economic growth;

- (j) notes there has been significant concerns raised about the suitability of the site for use as industrial employment and traveller pitches, for the following reasons:-
- (i) congestion on Eckington Way is a significant issue, as:-
 - (A) the site is very close to the Crystal Peaks shopping centre and Drakehouse Retail Park;
 - (B) there have been 13 collisions on the road and roundabout in the last five years, 5 of them serious;
 - (C) Ward members regularly receive complaints from constituents regarding the large volume of congestion on Eckington Way; and
 - (D) the site's proposed use for employment and travelling showpeople, with Eckington Way as its only access point, would significantly add to congestion on this street; and
 - (ii) the site is not appropriate for industrial or traveller development, as:-
 - (A) it is in very close proximity to current residential development, which is likely to be adversely affected by an industrial and traveller site through noise and pollution;
 - (B) the site is on a Green Belt boundary, is of a substantially similar quality to the site adjacent which is included in the Green Belt (both were rated 13/20 in the 2020 Green Belt Review), and is only delineated from the section within the Green Belt by a footpath;
 - (C) a high pressure gas pipe is present on the site, which raises safety concerns around its proposed use as an industrial site;
 - (D) it is possible that the site may be protected as Grade 3a farming land at a future date, putting the Council in noncompliance with its legal obligation to provide Gypsy and Traveller accommodation; and
 - (E) industrial land use adjacent to housing has previously been shown to disturb the local community, such as at the Abbey Glen site nearby, where hundreds of residents have campaigned against the smell and noise created by the laundry service's industrial activities;
- (k) therefore resolves that officers are requested to include a reappraisal of SES 03 as an industrial and traveller site in the Local Plan, taking into account the views of this Council and the responses to the consultation, when officers present the 'schedule of suggested amendments' to the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee and subsequently to Full Council, as agreed on 14th December 2022;

- (l) notes that following the Race Equality Commission, and in the past, Sheffield Council has committed to working towards becoming an anti-racist city;
- (m) believes that, as the two biggest parties in the Council, both Labour and the Liberal Democrats have a responsibility to this commitment and should not be campaigning against one of the most marginalised and demonised groups in the UK;
- (n) notes that the Labour Party's nominated candidate for the Beighton Ward has set up a petition against the proposed traveller site in Beighton, and believes this is a cynical attempt to win votes in the local election;
- (o) affirms that the Council has a legal and moral obligation to provide traveller sites in Sheffield; and
- (p) notes that no objections to the proposed site in Eckington were made at Full Council when the draft local plan was unanimously agreed in December 2022.

4. MARKING THE SUCCESS OF THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM IN SHEFFIELD

RESOLVED:

That this Council notes:-

- (a) the successful campaign by the “It’s Our City” group to establish a Committee system and remove the “Strong Leader” model in Sheffield, with 65% of voters supporting the committee model in the referendum;
- (b) Sheffield is one of the first cities in the country to adopt the Committee system;
- (c) the greater collaboration between Councillors across political groups in policy formulation and in the decision-making processes of the Council;
- (d) the involvement of a wider number of Councillors in the decision-making of the Council;
- (e) the greater accountability of Councillors to the electorate due to their involvement in decision-making;
- (f) that part of the reasoning behind moving to a committee system was greater involvement of communities in decision making, and more work should be done to achieve this by the committees;

That this Council believes:-

- (g) that more work is also needed to ensure that work programmes are not officer led and that policy committees are involved in the early stages of policy development, as the engagement findings of the Governance Review reported;
- (h) that effective scrutiny of decisions relies on active challenge and debate by the policy committees to ensure that decisions are made in the best interests of the city;
- (i) the change in culture needed across political groups to embed the benefits of the Committee system is still “work in progress” and all groups should embrace this positive new way of governing the Council to realise its benefits fully;
- (j) that the Committee Chair’s role is not the equivalent of the old style Cabinet Member’s role and work is still needed to ensure that this is understood by Councillors and Officers and the public to deliver more collaborative and consensual working across political groups;
- (k) that greater clarity is needed on which decisions are made by which committees as this is sometimes unclear;

That this Council resolves to:-

- (l) affirm its support for the Committee System in Sheffield;
- (m) work together across political groups to build on the successes we have already seen the committee system achieve;
- (n) promote a greater understanding of how the committee system works among the public, members and officers;
- (o) achieve greater involvement of the public in Council decision-making, such as by committees making more extensive use of the engagement toolkit;
- (p) improve the understanding and clarity of the role of all committees to make decisions as envisaged when the system was developed, including committees being involved in the early stages of policy development, in order to reduce the number of decisions taken back to the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee; and
- (q) encourage a culture in the Council that matches the new cooperative way of working needed in a committee system.

5. LEVELLING-UP - WHY WE NEED TO TAKE BACK CONTROL FROM WHITEHALL TO DELIVER ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR SHEFFIELD

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) believes that too many places across the country have had nothing but crumbs from the Government's table in the latest round of 'levelling-up' funding;
- (b) notes that many communities in great need have lost out in the recent round of funding, and believes that the way this funding is distributed pits communities against one another, forced to compete in a contest where Whitehall Ministers pick winners and losers;
- (c) notes that the total cost of work producing bids for levelling-up funding for councils in England is at least £27 million, with the vast majority seeing no return on this spending;
- (d) notes that of the 80 successful bids to the second round of levelling-up funding in England, only half are in the 100 most deprived areas of the country;
- (e) notes that, compared to the first round of funding, Yorkshire and the Humber has seen its share drop by 5.3%, the West Midlands drop 4.1%, the East Midlands by 3.5%; and the North East's share drop 0.7%;
- (f) believes South Yorkshire's transport offer is being badly let down by this Government, noting that both bids to the Levelling-up Fund from the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority for support for the bus network have been rejected, and from March, Government bus cuts could see a third of services lost;
- (g) believes that this is unacceptable, and notes that this Council has called for bus franchising to be enacted as quickly as possible to bring buses under greater public ownership, and that the Labour Group is committed to seeing Sheffield buses and trams under full public ownership;
- (h) believes it takes extraordinary arrogance from the Government to expect gratitude for their failed 'levelling-up' policies and the marginal funding associated with this, when they have decimated vital local services like childcare, buses and social care;
- (i) notes that the Council has had to endure huge cuts for thirteen years; with the annual grant the Council receives from the Government now £288m less in real terms than in 2010, with a staggering £2.1 billion being lost, in real terms, over the same period, which is around £9,000 per household in Sheffield;
- (j) notes the Parliamentary Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee calls for the Government to take steps to level up cultural opportunities and production

across the country, and explicitly incorporate support for local arts and culture into the Government's First Statement for Levelling-Up Missions; and believes support for cultural industries must be included in levelling up efforts;

- (k) believes that Britain isn't working - after 13 years of virtually no growth our cherished public services are strained, our high streets are still boarded up, transport is getting worse, crime is on the rise and work simply doesn't pay sufficiently for many;
- (l) believes that the Government's only answer is an ineffectual system of short-term, competitive pots of money that pits communities against each other, and believes that this is the kind of sticking plaster politics that the Leader of the Opposition, Sir Keir Starmer, has promised to end;
- (m) believes, however, that we cannot simply wait for a change of government and must continue to do what we can, right now, at a local level to deliver clean, inclusive economic growth, supporting both old and new industries;
- (n) further believes as part of this, that we must consider how best to safeguard and strengthen our city's economic drivers;
- (o) notes that Sheffield's economic power was initially built on the back of the steel industry and believes Sheffield still occupies a unique position as the heart of Britain's steel industry, and can set the course for its own future;
- (p) notes that Governments around the world have committed to their domestic industries with long-term strategic investment in green steel production, but believes the UK Government has failed to invest in the transition, have attempted to weaken safeguards that protect our steelmakers from being undercut by cheap steel imports, and have splashed tens of millions on imported steel to build British schools and hospitals;
- (q) believes that climate justice is indivisible from social and economic justice; that employing a 'just transition' approach to decarbonisation - protecting the livelihoods of those working in polluting industries, and transitioning these workers into well-paid, green jobs - is essential to ensure a green transition does not harm workers and their communities;
- (r) supports, therefore, TUC calls for the Government to set-up a national Just Transition Commission, to provide a worker-centred transition to a low carbon economy; with a Just Transition Commission helping to coordinate investment, boost learning skills agenda, support local manufacturing, and to work closely alongside local authorities in delivering this;
- (s) supports further, TUC Yorkshire and Humberside's calls for a regional Just Transition Commission to coordinate investment, learning skills agenda, changing procurement rules to support local manufacturing, and regional leadership on climate targets, as well as the work by the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission in supporting the just transition agenda;

- (t) believes that we need a radically different approach in the country to provide not only economic growth, but inclusive clean growth that benefits everyone, and secures a prosperous future for industries old and new;
- (u) believes that Sheffield's steel industry only grew to such heights due to strong trading and export links, and that to rebuild green industry will similarly require a strong private sector and positive trading relationships;
- (v) believes that Sheffield has an enormous opportunity to contribute to reaching the net zero target and creating a circular economy, but that this can only be achieved through resolving the UK's chronic low productivity and slow growth;
- (w) condemns the decision by the Government to award no money to local authorities that had received funding from Round One of the Levelling Up Fund, and believes that not publishing this decision during the bid process led to a significant waste of officer resources;
- (x) believes that this Council must practice what it preaches when it comes to local decision making, and that it cannot decry the hoarding of power in Whitehall while seeking to hoard power in the Town Hall;
- (y) reaffirms its commitment to ensuring the success of the Local Area Committees, welcomes the good work that has been done locally across the whole city, and believes that truly local politics will be essential to building a circular economy;
- (z) believes that Local Area Committees have improved local decision making power for communities, and have made great progress on schemes which are tackling fly tipping and antisocial behaviour, beautifying local communities, and addressing the cost of living crisis;
- (aa) believes that the LACs require significantly more powers in order to successfully deliver for their communities, including powers on local transport initiatives, parks and leisure, and social care, and believes that increasing the power of the LACs will go a significant way towards ensuring the success of the Committee system;
- (bb) believes that if localism is to be fully embraced, LACs must be empowered to make decisions which run contrary to the Town Hall's wishes;
- (cc) believes that a proportional voting system is necessary to truly "Take Back Control" by making all votes matter, noting that since 1935 not one of the single party majority governments elected by our current First Past The Post voting system received a majority of the votes;
- (dd) notes that under First Past The Post voting system the amount of votes taken to elect an MP differs by party, and this historically favours the Conservative Party: the Green Party received 866,000 votes in the 2019 general election and elected one MP, the Liberal Democrat Party received 336,000 votes per MP elected, the Labour Party received 51,000 votes per MP elected and the

Conservative Party only had to receive an average of 38,000 votes to elect an MP;

- (ee) believes that under the current system the largest two parties appeal to voters in "swing seats", taking votes in "safe seats" for granted, and notes that proportional representation weighs all votes equally - if a party received 20% of the votes then they would receive approximately 20% of the seats;
- (ff) believes that an electoral system returning results that match how the electorate voted is not only key to taking back control from Whitehall, but to democracy;
- (gg) notes that 40 out of 43 European countries use a form of proportional representation to elect MPs, with UK and Belarus the only countries using First Past The Post;

That this Council resolves:-

- (hh) to support proportional representation and the Councils For PR campaign; and
- (ii) to request that the Chief Executive writes to the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak MP, and the Leader Of The Opposition, the Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP, requesting the Government changes to use proportional representation in local, national and regional elections, attaching a copy of this motion.

6. APPOINTMENTS TO CHIEF OFFICER POSTS – APPROVAL OF SALARY PACKAGES

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes the information contained in the reports now submitted on the recruitment exercises for certain Chief Officer posts;
- (b) approves the salary packages for the posts of Chief Operating Officer and Strategic Director of Children's Services, in the range £118,693 to £130,461; and
- (c) approves a market supplement payment of £8,539, lifting the total remuneration of the Chief Operating Officer to £139,000.

7. CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) approves the changes to the various Parts of the Constitution, as outlined in sections 3.1 to 3.7 of the report of the Interim Director of Legal and Governance and as set out in appendices B to J; and
- (b) notes the minor change to the Council Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution that had been made by the Interim Director of Legal and Governance, as outlined in section 4 of the report and as set out in appendix K.

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