

Cabinet

Wednesday 18 March 2015 at 2.00 pm

**To be held at the Town Hall,
Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH**

The Press and Public are Welcome to Attend

Membership

Councillor Julie Dore	(Leader of the Council)
Councillor Leigh Bramall	(Business, Skills & Development)
Councillor Jackie Drayton	(Children, Young People & Families)
Councillor Jayne Dunn	(Environment, Recycling and Streetscene)
Councillor Isobel Bowler	(Culture, Sport & Leisure)
Councillor Ben Curran	(Finance and Resources)
Councillor Harry Harpham	(Deputy Leader/Homes & Neighbourhoods)
Councillor Mazher Iqbal	(Communities & Public Health)
Councillor Mary Lea	(Health, Care & Independent Living)

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING

The Cabinet discusses and takes decisions on the most significant issues facing the City Council. These include issues about the direction of the Council, its policies and strategies, as well as city-wide decisions and those which affect more than one Council service. Meetings are chaired by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Julie Dore.

A copy of the agenda and reports is available on the Council's website at www.sheffield.gov.uk. You can also see the reports to be discussed at the meeting if you call at the First Point Reception, Town Hall, Pinstone Street entrance. The Reception is open between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Thursday and between 9.00 am and 4.45 pm. You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain confidential information. These items are usually marked * on the agenda.

Members of the public have the right to ask questions or submit petitions to Cabinet meetings and recording is allowed under the direction of the Chair. Please see the website or contact Democratic Services for further information regarding public questions and petitions and details of the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at council meetings.

Cabinet meetings are normally open to the public but sometimes the Cabinet may have to discuss an item in private. If this happens, you will be asked to leave. Any private items are normally left until last. If you would like to attend the meeting please report to the First Point Reception desk where you will be directed to the meeting room.

Cabinet decisions are effective six working days after the meeting has taken place, unless called-in for scrutiny by the relevant Scrutiny Committee or referred to the City Council meeting, in which case the matter is normally resolved within the monthly cycle of meetings.

If you require any further information please contact Simon Hughes on 0114 273 4014 or email simon.hughes@sheffield.gov.uk.

FACILITIES

There are public toilets available, with wheelchair access, on the ground floor of the Town Hall. Induction loop facilities are available in meeting rooms.

Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

**CABINET AGENDA
18 MARCH 2015**

Order of Business

- 1. Welcome and Housekeeping Arrangements**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Exclusion of Public and Press**
Note: Appendices 3, 5 and 6 for agenda item 17 'Future Options for the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service' and Appendix G for agenda item 18 'University of Sheffield Campus – Sheffield City Region Investment Fund' are not available to the public and press because they contain exempt information described in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person
- 4. Declarations of Interest** (Pages 1 - 4)
Members to declare any interests they have in the business to be considered at the meeting
- 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 14)
To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11 February 2015
- 6. Public Questions and Petitions**
To receive any questions or petitions from members of the public
- 7. Items Called-In For Scrutiny**
The Director of Legal and Governance will inform the Cabinet of any items called in for scrutiny since the last meeting of the Cabinet
- 8. Retirement of Staff** (Pages 15 - 16)
Report of the Director of Legal and Governance
- 9. Corporate Plan 2015-18** (Pages 17 - 56)
Report of the Director of Policy, Performance and Communications
- 10. Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring 2014/15 Month 9 (as at 31/12/14)** (Pages 57 - 110)
Report of the Executive Director, Resources
- 11. Deferred Payment Scheme (The Care Act)** (Pages 111 - 122)
Report of the Executive Director, Communities

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| 12. | Primary School Places in South West Sheffield
Report of the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families | (Pages 123 - 370) |
| 13. | Housing Employability and Apprenticeship Scheme
Report of the Executive Director, Communities | (Pages 371 - 408) |
| 14. | Care Home Market and Fees Analysis 2015/16
Report of the Executive Director, Communities | (Pages 409 - 460) |
| 15. | Futureshapers - A Youth Engagement Fund Project
Report of the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families | (Pages 461 - 478) |
| 16. | Tackling Poverty Strategy
Report of the Director, Policy, Performance and Communications | (Pages 479 - 608) |
| 17. | Future Options for the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service
Report of the Executive Director, Communities | (Pages 609 - 694) |
| 18. | University of Sheffield Campus - Sheffield City Region Investment Fund
Report of the Executive Director, Place | (Pages 695 - 732) |
| 19. | The Graves Park Charitable Trust: Cobnar Cottage
Report of the Executive Director, Place (NOTE. The decision is to be made by Cabinet as Trustees of the Graves Park Charity) | (Pages 733 - 834) |

NOTE: The next meeting of Cabinet will be held on Wednesday 15 April 2015 at 2.00 pm

ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

If you are present at a meeting of the Council, of its executive or any committee of the executive, or of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of the authority, and you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)** relating to any business that will be considered at the meeting, you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

You **must**:

- leave the room (in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct)
- make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of any DPI at any meeting at which you are present at which an item of business which affects or relates to the subject matter of that interest is under consideration, at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.
- declare it to the meeting and notify the Council's Monitoring Officer within 28 days, if the DPI is not already registered.

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your **disclosable pecuniary interests** under the new national rules. You have a pecuniary interest if you, or your spouse or civil partner, have a pecuniary interest.

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner undertakes.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period* in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

*The relevant period is the 12 months ending on the day when you tell the Monitoring Officer about your disclosable pecuniary interests.

- Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority –
 - under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
 - which has not been fully discharged.

- Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.
- Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) –
 - the landlord is your council or authority; and
 - the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -
 - (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
 - (b) either -
 - the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

If you attend a meeting at which any item of business is to be considered and you are aware that you have a **personal interest** in the matter which does not amount to a DPI, you must make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of that interest at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. You should leave the room if your continued presence is incompatible with the 7 Principles of Public Life (selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership).

You have a personal interest where –

- a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing (including interests in land and easements over land) of you or a member of your family or a person or an organisation with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council Tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Authority's administrative area, or
- it relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests that are defined as DPIs but are in respect of a member of your family (other than a partner) or a person with whom you have a close association.

Guidance on declarations of interest, incorporating regulations published by the Government in relation to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, has been circulated to you previously.

You should identify any potential interest you may have relating to business to be considered at the meeting. This will help you and anyone that you ask for advice to fully consider all the circumstances before deciding what action you should take.

In certain circumstances the Council may grant a **dispensation** to permit a Member to take part in the business of the Authority even if the member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest relating to that business.

To obtain a dispensation, you must write to the Monitoring Officer at least 48 hours before the meeting in question, explaining why a dispensation is sought and desirable, and specifying the period of time for which it is sought. The Monitoring Officer may consult with the Independent Person or the Council's Standards Committee in relation to a request for dispensation.

Further advice can be obtained from Gillian Duckworth, Director of Legal and Governance on 0114 2734018 or email gillian.duckworth@sheffield.gov.uk.

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Cabinet

Meeting held 11 February 2015

PRESENT: Councillors Julie Dore (Chair), Leigh Bramall, Isobel Bowler,
Ben Curran, Harry Harpham (Deputy Chair), Mazher Iqbal and Mary Lea

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jackie Drayton and Jayne Dunn.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 No items were identified where it was proposed to exclude the public and press.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 Councillor Ben Curran declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda Item 12 'Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Investment' (See minute 11 below) as a Trustee of the Ben Centre. Councillor Curran left the room during consideration of the item and took no part in the discussion or vote.

3.2 Councillors Julie Dore, Harry Harpham and Mazher Iqbal declared personal interests in Agenda Item 12 'Voluntary Sector Grant Aid Investment' (See minute 11 below) as they had savings accounts with Sheffield Credit Union.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 11 January 2015 were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 Public Question in respect of the Public Health Budget

Mike Simpkin commented that there were some excellent examples of public health funding being used in targeted programmes to improve health through adding to local authority services, for example through housing improvement. However, the proposed saving and transfer of up to £2.5m from the public health budget looked like a significant dilution and it wasn't obvious whether this year's use of public health money to support community libraries had any specific health link (e.g. health collections, health information, links to health hubs etc.) Will the Council therefore spell out exactly what public health services were proposed to be lost and what measures will be taken to assess the health impacts of the proposed transfers (both positive and negative)? If agreed, will these re-allocations be subject to reassessment next year, rather than being absorbed into the basic budgets of the services they are supporting?

In response Councillor Mazher Iqbal, Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health, reported that Public Health had come into the Council in April 2013. There were a number of historical contracts which existed and savings and transfers in relation to this were outlined in the Budget report on the agenda for this meeting.

Councillor Iqbal then referred to the Smoking Cessation project. This was based on payment by results where for every person who stopped smoking the Council would get paid. There had been a projected underspend in this project for the year and possibly next year. As a result the Council were looking at other Public Health projects which they could look to fund with the underspend. For example, a lot of work had been done on the Best Start project which aimed to give children the best start in life. A bid had been made for external funding to support the project which had been unsuccessful. However, the Council were keen to continue with the project and it may be possible to use the underspend from the Smoking Cessation project to support this.

Councillor Iqbal also confirmed that no funding from Public Health was being invested in libraries in the City.

5.2 Public Question in respect of Healthwatch Sheffield

Mike Simpkin commented that it was being rumoured that there will be a significant cut to the Sheffield Healthwatch budget, possibly up to 15%. This was a statutory function for which the Council received external though not ringfenced funding from the Department of Health which had requested transparency about local decisions. If rumours were true and not due to a cut in the national allocation, would it not be disreputable for the Council to cut local inspection and evaluation not just because of the NHS but also of its own social care services at a time when these were under hugely increasing pressure as well as being subject to integration and change?

Councillor Iqbal confirmed that the rumours referred to by Mr Simpkin were not true and there would be no 15% grant to Healthwatch.

Councillor Julie Dore, Leader of the Council, added that Healthwatch Sheffield were members of the Health and Wellbeing Board which she Co-Chaired with Tim Moorhead of the Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group. Councillor Dore and Tim Moorhead also had regular meetings with Healthwatch Sheffield and were committed to engaging with them.

6. ITEMS CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY

- 6.1 It was noted that a Leaders decision on 'Tender for Reprovision of Day Services and Residential Short Term Care Beds for People with Dementia' taken on 3 February 2015 had been called-in for Scrutiny.

7. RETIREMENT OF STAFF

7.1 The Executive Director, Resources submitted a report on Council staff retirements.

RESOLVED: That this Cabinet :-

(a) places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by the following staff in the Portfolios below:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Years' Service</u>
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Children, Young People and Families

Susan Abramski	Curriculum Specialist, Intake Primary School	28
Shan Bennett	Clerical Officer and Primary School Assistant, Dobcroft Infant School	21
Susan Blackett	Business Support Manager, Sacred Heart Primary School	23
Nina Blackwood	Teacher, Talbot Specialist School	22
Lorraine Goodwin	Senior Administrative Officer, Windmill Hill Primary School	29
Jean Owen	Administrator, Nether Green Junior School	26
Peter Sweet-Escott	Headteacher, Windmill Hill Primary School	35

Communities

Graham Compton	Estate Officer	25
Stephen Todd	Strategic Commissioning Manager	31

Place

Linda Dale	Medico-Legal Centre Manager	35
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Resources

Christine Prime	HR Business Partner	38
Patrick Scanlan	Motor Vehicle Fitter	25

(b) extends to them its best wishes for the future and a long and happy retirement; and

(c) directs that an appropriate extract of this resolution under the Common Seal of the Council be forwarded to them.

8. REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2014/15 MONTH 8 (AS AT 30/11/14)

8.1 The Interim Executive Director, Resources submitted a report providing the month 8 on the City Council's Revenue and Capital Budget for 2014/15.

8.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

- (a) notes the updated information and management actions provided by the report on the 2014/15 Revenue budget position;
- (b) approves the carry forward request for 100+ Apprenticeships Scheme within the Children, Young People and Families Portfolio as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (c) approves the next phase of New Homes Bonus projects as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (d) in relation to the Capital Programme:-
 - (i) approves the proposed additions to the Capital Programme listed in Appendix 3 of the report, including the procurement strategies and delegations of authority to the Director of Commercial Services or nominated Officer, as appropriate, to award the necessary contracts following stage approval by Capital Programme Group; and
 - (ii) approves the proposed variations and slippage requests listed in Appendix 3 of the report; and notes;
 - (A) the latest position on the Capital Programme including the current level of delivery;
 - (B) the emergency approvals and Director variations under delegated authority; and
 - (C) the slippage requests authorised by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources under his delegated authority;

8.3 Reasons for Decision

8.3.1 To formally record changes to the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme and gain Member approval for changes in line with Financial Regulations and to reset the Capital Programme in line with latest information.

8.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 8.4.1 A number of alternative courses of action are considered as part of the process undertaken by Officers before decisions are recommended to Members. The recommendations made to Members represent what Officers believe to be the best options available to the Council, in line with Council priorities given the constraints on funding and the use to which funding is put within the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

9. **REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16**

- 9.1 A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Interim Executive Director of Resources was submitted which sought approval for the City Council's revenue budget for 2015/16, a 2015/16 Council Tax for the City Council and commented upon the levies and precepts made on the City Council by other authorities.

- 9.2 As part of Cabinet's consideration of the joint report, it was noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee had noted the following recommendations, without amendment, as part of its consideration of the joint report earlier in the day.

- 9.3 **RESOLVED:** That the City Council, at its meeting on 6th March, 2015, be recommended to:-

- (a) approve a net Revenue Budget for 2015/16 amounting to £422.972m;
- (b) approve a Band D equivalent Council Tax of £1308.28 for City Council services, i.e. an increase of 1.99%;
- (c) approve the Revenue Budget allocations and Budget Implementation Plans for each of the services, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (d) note the information on the precepts issued by the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority;
- (e) approve the proposed amount of compensation to Parish Councils for the loss of council tax income in 2015/16 at the levels shown in the table below paragraph 175;
- (f) note the latest 2014/15 budget monitoring position;
- (g) approve the Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategies as set out in Appendix 7 to the report and the recommendations contained therein;
- (h) approve the Minimum Reserve Provision (MRP) Statement set out in Appendix 7 to the report;
- (i) delegate authority to the Director of Finance to undertake Treasury Management activity, to create and amend appropriate Treasury Management Practice

statements and to report on the operation of Treasury Management activity on the terms set out in those documents;

- (j) agree that the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2013/14 and onwards, approved on 15 May 2013, and implemented for 2014/15, be also implemented for 2015/16, with the addition (to paragraph (h) of Schedule 2) of the following approved duty which was approved by Council at its meeting held on 3 December 2014 – "attendance at meetings of Local Housing Area Forums";
- (k) approve foregoing an annual increase in the Members' Allowances in 2015/16;
- (l) approve a Pay Policy for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix 8; and
- (m) delegate authority to the Director of Public Health and the Interim Executive Director, Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, to approve the final allocation of Public Health grant to portfolios in 2015/16.

10. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16

10.1 The Executive Director, Resources submitted a report setting out the proposed Capital Programme from 2015-16 onwards, describing the programmes to be undertaken, listing the projects to be delivered and setting out the context in which it had been compiled.

10.2 As part of the Cabinet's consideration of the report it was noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee had noted the following recommendations, without amendment, as part of its consideration of the report earlier in the day.

10.3 **RESOLVED:** That the City Council, at its meeting on 6th March, 2015, be recommended to:-

- (a) approve those specific projects included in the years 2014-15 to 2019-20 programmes as at Appendix 9 of the report and block allocations being included within the programme for noting at this stage and detailed proposals will be brought back for separate Member approval as part of the monthly monitoring procedures;
- (b) note the proposed Capital Programme for the 5 years to 2019/20 as per Appendix 9 to the report; and
- (c) approve the allocations from the Corporate Resource Pool (CRP) and the policy outlined in Appendix 4 to the report such that the commitment from the CRP is limited to 1 year and no CRP supported schemes are approved beyond 2015-16 unless explicitly stated, and if substantial capital receipts are realised within 2014-15 or 2015-16 a further report will be brought to Members as part of the monthly approval process.

11. VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT AID INVESTMENT 2015-16

11.1 The Executive Director, Communities submitted a report seeking approval for recommended investment in the voluntary and community sector for 2015/16 from the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid budget. This budget is subject to approval of the Council budget for 2015/16 to be adopted at Council on 6th March 2015.

11.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

- (a) having had due regard to the provisions of Sections 149 and 158 of the Equality Act 2010 and Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and to the issues raised by those provisions, approves the grant agreement extension recommendations listed in Section 4 of the report, and detailed further in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (b) endorses the grant agreement extension process described in Appendix 2 of the report and approves the actions, arrangements and recommendations at Sections 4 and 11 of the report, and the following specific delegations;
- (c) delegates authority to the Executive Director, Communities:-
 - (i) to administer the Lunch Clubs Small Grants Fund as described in Appendix 1 of the report;
 - (ii) to agree the terms of and authorise the completion of all funding agreements, including amendments to the terms of any existing grant funding agreements, relating to grants made from the Lunch Clubs Small Grants Fund and the Voluntary Sector Grants Fund, together with any other associated agreements or arrangements that she may consider appropriate, provided that if the terms of a proposed funding agreement or amendments to the terms of an existing agreement involve the variation of any standard terms previously agreed by Internal Audit and/or Legal Services, the agreement shall not be completed without the consent of the Chief Internal Auditor and the Director of Legal and Governance;
 - (iii) to review, adjust or suspend grant awards where (a) a change of circumstance affects the ability of an organisation to deliver the purpose of the grant awarded, the Executive Director, Communities considers the performance of the organisation to be below an acceptable standard or (c) an organisation has breached any of the award conditions contained in their funding agreement,
- (d) delegates authority to the Executive Director, Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health to:-
 - (i) agree the amounts, purposes and recipients of any individual grants awarded in year from the Grant Funds, including any additional sums received or returned or unpaid funds;
 - (ii) to withdraw grant awards where (a) a change of circumstance

affects the ability of an organisation to deliver the purpose of the grant awarded or (b) the Executive Director, Communities considers the performance of the organisation has breached any of the award conditions contained in their funding agreement, and

- (iii) to allocate any other additional sums that may be received in year from other parts of the Council or other partners as part of the Voluntary Sector Grant Aid process to fund local voluntary sector activity.

11.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 11.3.1 The allocation of this funding to preventative services will fundamentally contribute to the Values, Priorities and Strategic Outcomes of the Council's Corporate Plan 2015-18. In particular:-

Values

- Prioritising those with greatest need
- Working with, and within, communities

Priorities

- Tackling inequalities
- In-touch organisation
- Strong neighbourhoods and communities

Outcomes

- Specifically 'Tackling Poverty and Increasing Social Justice' but also-
- Health and Wellbeing
- Successful children, young people and families
- Housing and neighbourhoods
- Safe and secure

- 11.3.2 In addition, the allocation of this funding will contribute to the Fairness Commission's recommendations around:-

- Health and Wellbeing for All
- Fair access to High Quality Jobs and Pay
- Fair Access to Benefits and Credit
- Housing and a Better Environment
- A Safe City
- What Citizens and Communities can do

11.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 11.4.1 The proposal and recommendations within the report had been submitted by the Grants Awards Recommendations Panel, which is made up of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health, his advisors and the Head of Libraries and Community Services. Details of the whole process used to come to this proposal and recommendations can be seen in Appendix 2 of the report.

- 11.4.2 In order to inform recommendations on the grant extensions and award amounts to Cabinet, each of the 24 Voluntary Grants Fund current grant recipients were invited to complete an Impact Form. This asked organisations to profile the impact of a 20% reduction in grant on their service and their service users, including an analysis of the impact on different communities of interest within their service users.
- 11.4.3 Officers made a recommendation on the amount to be awarded to each organisation during the extension period, having regard to the impact form and budget proposal, considering the impact on the service and service users, including an assessment of equality impact, as reported in the impact form, organisational performance, whether the budget was balanced or shows a shortfall, proposals for covering shortfall and the continued viability of the service/project funded in 2015-16 if a reduction was to be applied.
- 11.4.4 The Grants Awards Recommendations Panel considered the option of reducing the total Grant Aid budget by 20%. As a result of the information provided by organisations (as described in section 9.3 of the report) and having consideration for the statutory Best Value Guidance, the Panel are recommending that the budget is only reduced by 9%.

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SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Cabinet Report

Report of: Chief Executive

Date: 18th March 2015

Subject: Staff Retirements

Author of Report: Simon Hughes, Democratic Services

Summary: To report the retirement of staff across the Council's various Portfolios

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to:-

- (a) place on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by members of staff in the various Council Portfolios and referred to in the attached list;
 - (b) extend to them its best wishes for the future and a long and happy retirement; and
 - (c) direct that an appropriate extract of the resolution now made under the Common Seal of the Council be forwarded to those staff above with over twenty years service.
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Background Papers: None

Category of Report: OPEN

RETIREMENT OF STAFF

1. To report the retirement of the following staff from the Council's Service and to convey the Council's thanks for their work:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Years' Service</u>
<u>Children, Young People and Families</u>		
Kathryn Brailsford	Senior Learning Mentor, Watercliffe Meadow Primary School	23
Pamela Crowson	Admin Finance Officer, Nether Green Infant School	22
Janet Hattersley	Cleaner in Charge, Stocksbridge High School	26
Linda Oxley	Supervisory Assistant, Talbot Specialist School	20
Christine Ball	Senior Business Support Officer	33
Jean Whitney	Business Manager, Adoption and Fostering Service	45
<u>Communities</u>		
Jane Wadsworth	Occupational Therapy Assistant	29

2. To recommend that Cabinet:-
- place on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by the above – mentioned members of staff in the Portfolios stated :-
 - extend to them its best wishes for the future and a long and happy retirement; and
 - direct that an appropriate extract of the resolution now made under the Common Seal of the Council be forwarded to those staff above with over twenty years service.



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Cabinet Report

Report of: John Mothersole – Chief Executive

Report to: Cllr Julie Dore – Leader of the Council

Date: 18 March 2015

Subject: Corporate Plan 2015-18

Author of Report: James Henderson, Director of Policy, Performance and Communications

Key Decision: YES

Reason Key Decision: Affects 2 or more wards

Summary:

The Corporate Plan sets the Council's direction and priorities for the next three years and how the Council will go about achieving them

Reasons for Recommendations:

To seek Cabinet approval for the Corporate Plan 2015-18

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended:-

1. to approve and adopt the Corporate Plan 2015-18 as appended to this report, noting that implementation of the Plan will be subject to approval of the Council's budget and that individual aspects of the Plan will be subject to a robust appraisal, including a financial appraisal and impact assessment prior to implementation;
2. to direct that any substantial changes to the direction or priorities within the Corporate Plan need to be brought back to Cabinet for approval, but to authorise the Chief Executive to make amendments to the Corporate Plan considered appropriate, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

Background Papers: None

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Eugene Walker
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Gillian Duckworth
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES Cleared by: Adele Robinson
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
YES Cleared by: Jeremy Wight
Human Rights Implications
NO
Environmental and Sustainability implications
YES Cleared by: Dave Caulfield
Economic Impact
YES Cleared by: Edward Highfield
Community Safety Implications
YES Cleared by: Janet Sharpe
Human Resources Implications
YES Cleared by: Julie Toner
Property Implications
NO
Area(s) Affected
All
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Lead
Cllr Julie Dore – Leader of the Council
Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press Release
YES

REPORT TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

CORPORATE PLAN 2015-18

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Corporate Plan 2015-18 sets out the Council's direction and priorities for the next three years and how the Council will go about achieving them. A full copy is attached as Annex A. The Corporate Plan will be the key reference point for the Council's work over this period and will be used to develop medium term business planning, budget proposals and communications.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE

- 2.1 Our priorities set out what the Corporate Plan means for Sheffield people.

An in-touch organisation: This means listening; being connected and being responsive to a range of people and organisations; ideas and developments. This includes local people; communities and Government, as well as keeping pace with technology. This means understanding the increasingly diverse needs of individuals in Sheffield so the services we and our partners provide are designed to meet these needs. It also means understanding how to respond. This priority is also about empowering individuals to help themselves and providing opportunities to do this, so they and their communities are increasingly independent and resilient.

Strong economy: This means creating the conditions for local businesses to grow and making Sheffield an attractive location to start a business. We want Sheffield to achieve our economic potential and for the pace of Sheffield's economic growth to quicken, particularly in the private sector. This means being well-connected, both physically and digitally, building on our success as a city that supports businesses to grow and play a full, distinctive role in the global economy. We want local people to have the skills they need to get jobs and benefit from economic growth; and to make the most of the distinctive things Sheffield has to offer, such as cultural and sporting facilities.

Thriving neighbourhoods and communities: This means neighbourhoods where people are proud to live, with communities that support each other and get on well together. This includes good, affordable housing in areas that are well maintained and easy to get around. It means places with access to great, inclusive schools that act as community amenities and access to libraries and high quality sport and leisure facilities, including green and open spaces. We want people living in Sheffield to feel safe and will continue to join with other agencies in the city to make it easier for local people and communities to get involved; so we can spot and tackle issues early. We will work with communities to support them and to celebrate the diversity of the city.

Better health and wellbeing: This means helping people to be healthy and well, by promoting and enabling good health whilst preventing and tackling ill-health, particularly for those who have a higher risk of experiencing poor health, illness or dying early. Health and wellbeing matters to everyone. We will provide early help and look to do this earlier in life to give every child the opportunity to have a great start in life. This

is strengthened by our other priorities that make sure the city has facilities and amenities that help people to stay healthy and well, such as leisure and culture, as well as access to green and open spaces.

Tackling inequalities: This means making it easier for individuals to overcome obstacles and achieve their potential. We will invest in the most deprived communities; supporting individuals and communities to help themselves and each other, so the changes they make are resilient and long-lasting. We will work, with our partners, to enable fair treatment for individuals and groups, taking account of disadvantages and obstacles that people face.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 The Corporate Plan sets out a vision for the city alongside the priorities for the Council. It references the changes to Sheffield's population and economy, changes to Sheffield City Council and our response to these changes. We set out our long-term ambitions, what we will change over the next three years and what we will continue to do within each of the five priorities (detailed above).

3.2 Our changing finances mean we have to fundamentally rethink how we achieve our ambitions for the city of Sheffield. A significant part of this involves thinking beyond the specific funding of the Council, into the total public funding spent in Sheffield. This is so, with our partners, we can look to influence and invest this spending differently, creating sustainable organisations that work together to deliver shared ambitions.

4.0 MAIN BODY OF THE REPORT

4.1 How the Plan will be Used

4.1.1 The Corporate Plan sets out the Council's direction and priorities for the next three years; as such it will be the key reference point for all the Council's policies and work.

4.1.2 Progress towards our ambitions in the Plan will be actively managed and monitored over the period of the plan, with performance being formally reported to senior officers, Members and published quarterly. The Plan sets the context within which services will be planned and resourced over the next three years.

4.2 Communications

4.2.1 The Corporate Plan 2015-18 will inform how we communicate the Council's direction and priorities to different audiences over the next three years.

4.2.2 Council employees are fundamental to the Council being able to deliver the promises made in the Corporate Plan. We need to make sure our staff understand and use the Corporate Plan and will structure our internal communications to support this and plan to embed the plan into how the Council manages its staff, including through One-to-Ones and Individual Performance Reviews.

4.2.3 External communications will include a range of online tools, to share our direction and priorities with local people, businesses, partners and stakeholders, signposting them to relevant details.

- 4.3 **Financial Implications**
The Corporate Plan sets the strategic medium-term context within which our resources will be prioritised. The Corporate Plan will inform our annual business planning process and budget decisions to ensure we respond to changing finances in a way that supports our longer term ambitions for the organisation and the city.
- 4.4 **Legal Implications**
- 4.4.1 This Corporate Plan sets the overall direction and ambitions for the council and the city over the next three years. It is based on available information on funding, responsibilities and powers at the time of writing so may be subject to change.
- 4.4.2 In achieving the aims of the Corporate Plan the Council will use a full range of powers and duties. The legal aspects of individual projects and activities within the Corporate Plan will need to be considered as part of a robust appraisal as they are brought forward for decision either by Cabinet or otherwise in accordance with the Constitution and the Leader's Scheme of Delegation.
- 4.5 **Equality of Opportunity Implications**
- 4.5.1 'Tackling inequalities' is one of our five priorities for the Council's work over the next three years. We recognise that some people and communities need extra support so they can help themselves to reach their full potential, particularly when they face multiple disadvantages or obstacles. We are increasingly targeting our work to provide early help and look to do this earlier in life, focused on those in the greatest need.
- 4.5.2 The approach outlined in the Corporate Plan will help us to tackle inequality and meet the Public Sector Duty placed on us by the Equality Act 2010. This duty is on public bodies to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations.
- 4.5.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the Corporate Plan. All Council portfolios will be expected to produce appropriate Equality Impact Assessments for subsequent relevant decisions or on new policies, projects and actions, including the initiatives outlined in the Corporate Plan.
- 4.6 **Tackling Health Inequalities Implications**
A crucial part of our focus on health and wellbeing is reducing the health inequalities that exist within the city's communities. Our priority for 'Better health and wellbeing' sets out the Council's commitments for the city.
- 4.7 **Environmental and Sustainability Implications**
The plan sets out the Council's approach to locally generating low carbon energy as well as our current and future plans to secure investment to improve flood defences and make the city more resilient to the impact of climate change. We will also encourage the use of more sustainable transport, particularly public transport and cycling as well as developing our approach to tackle air pollution.

4.8 **Economic Impact**
Our priority for a ‘Strong economy’ means we want to create conditions for the local economy to grow. This includes securing investment to drive economic growth and becoming a more digitally connected city to help Sheffield become an increasingly attractive place to start and grow a business.

4.9 **Community Safety Implications**
We want to work more closely with other agencies to address underlying issues as well as identify and tackle problems early to support ‘Strong neighbourhoods and communities’.

4.10 **Human Resources Implications**
The Corporate Plan outlines the Council’s approach to providing services for the people and businesses of Sheffield. As a consequence of changing needs and finances we will look to provide some services in new or different ways that may have human resources implications. All work undertaken as a result of this plan is subject to negotiation procedures in accordance with Council policy.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 An alternative would be to not have a Corporate Plan. This would lead to a lack of direction and clarity of the organisation’s priorities for the next three years, undermining the delivery of our long-term ambitions.

6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 To seek Cabinet approval for the Corporate Plan 2015-18

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Cabinet is recommended:-

- to approve and adopt the Corporate Plan 2015-18 as appended to this report, noting that implementation of the Plan will be subject to approval of the Council’s budget and that individual aspects of the Plan will be subject to a robust appraisal, including a financial appraisal and impact assessment prior to implementation;
- to direct that any substantial changes to the direction or priorities within the Corporate Plan need to be brought back to Cabinet for approval, but to authorise the Chief Executive to make amendments to the Corporate Plan considered appropriate, in consultation with the Leader of the Council..

James Henderson
Director of Policy, Performance and Communications

Sheffield City Council

OUR PLAN

2015-18



Page 23

Sheffield is a great city and our Corporate Plan focuses on what makes Sheffield a unique, ambitious and inspiring city in 2015 and beyond.

Sheffield is a major European city. We are proud to be the UK's greenest city and we are often considered one of the happiest. We are also striving to be Britain's fairest city.

Local government is changing, but we have bold ambitions. We won't let obstacles stand in the way of delivering our promises or our aspiration: **to be the best we can be – as individuals and communities, as a council and as a city.**

The Corporate Plan sets our direction and priorities. The council exists to serve the people of Sheffield, so we will focus on helping people who live, work, learn and visit our city to enjoy what Sheffield has to offer. But this plan is not just about the council, it is about what we want for Sheffield and its people and what, together with others, we want to achieve over the next three years.

Strong economy

To achieve our economic potential, be well-connected, with skilled individuals and growing businesses, playing a distinctive role in the global economy



Working with others in the City Region we will:

- Attract investment across the city and support businesses to start and to grow; creating 28,000 jobs across the city region
- Attract more visitors to Sheffield, by increasing the city's vibrancy and raising the city's profile
- Maintain and build on our national top ten position for young people in apprenticeships
- Invest millions of pounds to give people the skills they need to get a good job
- Make sure 97.9% of businesses and residents in South Yorkshire can access super-fast broadband
- Develop Don Valley and the M1 corridor as a leading European centre for advanced manufacturing
- Attract individuals and businesses to Sheffield as the UK's top Outdoor City
- Work with businesses to boost exports

Better health and wellbeing

To promote good health, prevent and tackle ill-health by providing early help, earlier in life; particularly for those at risk of illness or dying early

Working with Sheffield's Joint Health and Wellbeing Board we will:

- Help thousands of people achieve a greater level of wellbeing
- Stand by our commitment to keep all children safe
- Help hundreds more children in Sheffield have a great start and be ready for learning and life
- Support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to live happy, healthy, fulfilling lives
- Help thousands of people to get early help and access services to remain independent, reducing hospital admissions
- Make sure people can access the care and support they need to live fulfilling lives
- Introduce 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' to help people improve their mental and emotional wellbeing and reduce loneliness and isolation
- Provide direct support to more carers than ever before



An in-touch organisation

To listen and be responsive, so services are designed to meet the increasingly diverse needs of individuals in Sheffield



Working with individuals, communities and our partners we will:

- Make the best use of public money to have the greatest impact for Sheffield
- Continuously respond to the changing needs of our customers
- Make sure we listen, understand and respond to what people are telling us, treating them with respect at all times
- Value our employees who are vital to delivering high quality services for Sheffield
- Make sure our services can change to deliver the best outcomes for Sheffield people
- Provide more of our services online, as we know people want to access services at a time that suits them
- Demand more powers from Government and build on the Devolution Deal, so that Sheffield can better shape its own future

Thriving neighbourhoods and communities

For people to have a good quality of life and feel proud of where they live, with access to great schools and local amenities



Working with others across the city we will:

- Have good or outstanding schools in all our communities to support children, young people and families achieve their full potential
- Better support children at risk of under-achievement to narrow the gap in outcomes
- Create affordable housing, with 750 new council houses and support developers to build 4,600 new homes across the city
- Sustain high quality parks and green spaces
- Build new leisure centres at High Green and Graves and increase access to facilities, with joint investment in community football pitches
- Keep Sheffield's streets and open spaces clean and tidy
- Complete the resurfacing of 1,180 miles of road, as part of our Streets Ahead programme
- Work with communities to improve community safety

Tackling inequalities

To make it easier to overcome obstacles by investing in the most deprived communities and supporting individuals to help themselves and achieve their full potential



Working with others we will:

- Work towards Sheffield being a Living Wage city; promoting the benefits to employers, including our contractors and persuading the city's public sector organisations to sign up by 2018
- Work with communities to strengthen our approach to cohesion and stigmatisation
- Support Sheffield Money to provide 5,000 local people with affordable loans
- Support up to 2,000 teenagers and young adults to access education, employment and training
- Help those who face obstacles to find lasting work, including young people, disabled people and those with mental health conditions
- Proactively work with others to deliver our Tackling Poverty Strategy and break the link between being poor as a child and growing up to live in poverty as an adult

For more info:

The full Corporate Plan is available on our website:

www.sheffield.gov.uk

Corporate Plan Overview

OUR PRIORITIES

An in-touch organisation • Strong economy • Thriving neighbourhoods and communities
Better health and wellbeing • Tackling inequalities

What's changing...



Financial pressures



Changing population



Changing legislation

Over the next three years we want...

Access to **local, low carbon energy**

High quality parks and green spaces



Investment to drive economic growth



A superfast **digitally connected city**

People with the **skills that meet the needs of local businesses**

Better housing conditions to improve health



To **build new homes** including Council houses

To **improve** community safety



To **listen and be responsive**

Employees who **feel valued**

Better connected transport to increase travel choices

Transformed roads and pavements

To make **ethical, affordable credit** available



To help **people who face barriers to get a job**

To support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to lead **happy, healthy, fulfilled lives**

More people independent and well in their communities



Improved **mental health and wellbeing**

Flexible care that helps people to live their lives

To make **well informed decisions and changes**



Public services that **meet people's needs**

More young people in education, employment and training



All schools becoming **great schools**

More children ready for learning and life

What's our response...



More financially self-sufficient Council through economic growth



Providing early help earlier in life, so people can help themselves



Working differently across public services and with partners

Continuing services that people rely on...



CORPORATE PLAN 2015-18



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Sheffield is a great city – Councillor Julie Dore

Sheffield is a great city, with great people. This plan seeks to celebrate what is great about our city and tackle our challenges head-on to make the most of our enormous potential, focussing on what makes Sheffield a unique and inspiring city, for 2015 and beyond.

We have bold ambitions. We are striving to be Britain's *fairest* city. Compared to England's other large cities we have more young people in apprenticeships and work-based training; just one example of how we can create the right environment for everyone to fulfil their potential.

On top of this we are proud to be the *greenest* UK city, with four trees for every person and over 200 green spaces and parks. We can also enjoy a huge range of culture and leisure activities, including the largest theatre complex outside of London.

Sheffield is often considered one of the *happiest* cities. We have been voted the best city in which to be a student¹, singled out as "inclusive, welcoming and strikingly friendly." That's a huge part of what makes Sheffield a great city in which people choose to live, learn, work and enjoy.

No great city has nothing left to do and no more difficulties to overcome. But Sheffield is recognised as a great city with an important past and a promising future.

Sheffield is a major European city. And Sheffield City Council has an ambitious plan to benefit the people who live, work and visit here. Our ambition for Sheffield is aspirational but simple. It is one shared by every parent, business leader, learner, new citizen, and, indeed, every person concerned for their own future or the future of others. It is rooted in our belief in the people of Sheffield.

Simply, **we will be the best we can be – as individuals and communities, as a council and as a city.**

At the heart of what we do, we will focus on people with the greatest need and take early action, as prevention is better than cure. We will make sure the council operates efficiently, and work towards long term solutions to deal with the cuts we face. Working with communities to deliver services differently is vital. We already know that adopting new approaches has saved services that would otherwise have been lost to cuts, such as our library service.

As its fourth largest city, we play an absolutely vital role in England, its economy and its future. We want faster economic growth, more jobs, and more prosperity for all. The message is clear – **Sheffield is open for business.** We are already recognised for our world-leading manufacturing capabilities and by next year Sheffield will have the most advanced factory in the world. We know what to do to fulfil our potential, but we need more tools to achieve our ambitions. Therefore, we will continue to work with Government to devolve powers to Sheffield so we can shape our own future and fulfil the city's huge potential.

We are committed to continuing the physical transformation of our city, particularly the development of a major new retail quarter and further regeneration of The Moor. We are campaigning hard to create 6,500 extra jobs through having the new High Speed rail station in the city centre, and we have ambitious plans for a new business district in Castlegate.

¹ <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/news/times-higher-education-student-experience-survey-2014/2013333.article>

Sheffield has so much promise; so much to offer. But, as with all major cities, we know that we also have challenges. We know how important it is to have desirable housing in thriving neighbourhoods; to have schools where all children achieve their potential; and a city centre people choose to visit, work and live. We know there are people excluded from enjoying what our city has to offer due to ill health, disability, poverty or discrimination. They need extra help and support that is accessible and available when they need it. Our new public health responsibilities mean we want to ensure every contact we have with the people of Sheffield is designed to have a positive impact on health.

To be the best we can be – we must deliver our promises and meet our challenges.

None of us can do that alone. This plan is not just about the council. It is about what we want for Sheffield and its people. Government funding reductions are changing what we are able to do ourselves; this means delivering services for the people of Sheffield has never been more of a challenge. Working with others – internationally, nationally, regionally and with the communities and households in Sheffield – will be critical.

This means sharing a vision with public, private, and voluntary organisations; working together to make a difference to people's lives. It means being stronger about the role all people in the city can, and should, play to keep Sheffield great. As in our City Strategy, we believe this is a city where people shape the future, and there needs to be a new relationship between the city and its citizens.

We know a great city starts where people live and continues as they step out of their front doors, into their neighbourhoods and the wider city environment. If we are to be the best we can be, we must be that **together**, with everyone contributing. This could be by looking out for neighbours, keeping neighbourhoods tidy or giving time to support community organisations. It is only together that we can achieve our full potential.

This plan is about our priorities and our values, and those of the people of Sheffield. It is about all of us becoming the best we can be. The council exists to serve the people of Sheffield, so we will focus on helping people who live, work and visit our city to enjoy what Sheffield has to offer. **How we work – our values, our culture – is as important as what we set out to do.**

Because great achievement recognises the value of both challenge and support from partners, and we know we cannot do everything alone, we will build on our **successful partnerships**. This includes being open about our challenges and working with others on the solutions.

Because great achievement recognises the value of determination, and we recognise the balance of rights and responsibilities for all the people and communities of Sheffield, we will be **fair and support people to help themselves and each other**, so the changes they make are resilient and long lasting.

Because great achievement recognises the value of feedback, learning and improving, we will listen, respond and learn, making sure we understand and act on our understanding. We will **listen and be connected; responsive and relevant**, including making sure people feel engaged, involved and listened to, and believe the council works for them.

All great achievement is driven by ambition and by goals. Ours is simple, and shared: **to be the best we can be**, so we will use our resources and influence to deliver our ambition for our city. That is our vision and our promise.

Councillor Julie Dore

Leader of Sheffield City Council

Our priorities – Councillor Julie Dore

An in-touch organisation:

This means listening; being connected and being responsive to a range of people and organisations; ideas and developments. This includes local people, communities and Government, as well as keeping pace with technology. This means understanding the increasingly diverse needs of individuals in Sheffield so the services we and our partners provide are designed to meet these needs. It also means understanding how to respond. This priority is also about empowering individuals to help themselves and providing opportunities to do this, so they and their communities are increasingly independent and resilient.

Strong economy:

This means creating the conditions for local businesses to grow and making Sheffield an attractive location to start a business. We want Sheffield to achieve our economic potential and for the pace of Sheffield's economic growth to quicken, particularly in the private sector. This means being well-connected, both physically and digitally, building on our success as a city that supports businesses to grow and play a full, distinctive role in the global economy. We want local people to have the skills they need to get jobs and benefit from economic growth; and to make the most of the distinctive things Sheffield has to offer, such as cultural and sporting facilities.

Thriving neighbourhoods and communities:

This means neighbourhoods where people are proud to live, with communities that support each other and get on well together. This includes good, affordable housing in areas that are well maintained and easy to get around. It means places with access to great, inclusive schools that act as community amenities and access to libraries and high quality sport and leisure facilities, including green and open spaces. We want people living in Sheffield to feel safe and will continue to join with other agencies in the city to make it easier for local people and communities to get involved; so we can spot and tackle issues early. We will work with communities to support them and to celebrate the diversity of the city.

Better health and wellbeing:

This means helping people to be healthy and well, by promoting and enabling good health whilst preventing and tackling ill health, particularly for those who have a higher risk of experiencing poor health, illness or dying early. Health and wellbeing matters to everyone. We will provide early help and look to do this earlier in life to give every child the opportunity to have a great start in life. This is strengthened by our other priorities that make sure the city has facilities and amenities that help people to stay healthy and well, such as leisure and culture, as well as access to green and open spaces.

Tackling inequalities:

This means making it easier for individuals to overcome obstacles and achieve their potential. We will invest in the most deprived communities; supporting individuals and communities to help themselves and each other, so the changes they make are resilient and long lasting. We will work, with our partners, to enable fair treatment for individuals and groups, taking account of disadvantages and obstacles that people face.

1 Context for the plan

“No city has nothing left to do; no difficulties to overcome, but Sheffield is...a great city with an important past and a promising future...”

- 1.1 Cities are complex. They change continually. People, businesses and communities have different experiences and perceptions, but for most Sheffield is a city of choice – a place they want to be. Sheffield City Council is one of many organisations in Sheffield working to improve people’s lives and opportunities. This section describes some of the changes we have seen in the city and in the council, and how, with our partners, we are responding to that change.

Changes to Sheffield’s population and economy²

- 1.2 Sheffield’s population has grown and become more diverse over the last 10 years³. A growing population shows confidence in Sheffield and our potential to continue to be successful. It also brings challenges to consider how these diversifying needs are met in the future.
- 1.3 The city’s communities are more diverse than at any point in the past. Sheffield has proportionally more young people and more older people now, than ever before. Our ethnic minority population was 19% at the last census; up from 11% ten years previously. Sheffield’s diversity is to be celebrated, but the scale of change varies across the city, with some areas having a very different population today than a decade ago.
- 1.4 Many people in Sheffield choose to live here for the long term, with nearly three quarters of people moving home within the city’s boundary. A growing population means increased demand for good quality, affordable housing. But, in recent years the house building rate has fallen substantially compared to pre-recession levels. That limits the availability of low cost housing. Whilst house sales have risen slowly over the last three years, more of the population is choosing to rent.
- 1.5 The economic performance of Sheffield and the wider [City Region](#)⁴ remains mixed. Unemployment levels⁵ have declined rapidly over the last 10 months, which we welcome. However, while Sheffield appears to have fared similarly to other major English cities, the city still has an unacceptably high level of youth unemployment.
- 1.6 The recession and ongoing funding cuts to public services raise serious concerns about poverty and inequalities. An estimated 23% of Sheffield’s children live in relative poverty⁶, compared to 18% across the UK, as do more than one fifth of households⁷. In coming years many of those already in poverty will potentially face more hardship, while more households could face financial challenges.
- 1.7 People are living longer and the overall health of the population is improving. However, this masks significant variation across the city, with an unacceptable eight year difference in life expectancy between different communities.

² State of Sheffield reports - <https://www.sheffieldfirst.com/key-documents/state-of-sheffield.html>

³ 2011 census <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/your-city-council/sheffield-profile/population-and-health/2011-census/key-statistics.html>

⁴ The area comprising Barnsley, Bassetlaw, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Derbyshire Dales, Doncaster, North East Derbyshire, Rotherham and Sheffield Local Authorities <http://www.sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/about/overview>

⁵ Job Seekers Allowance Claimant rate <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

⁶ HM Revenue and Customs the Children in Low Income Indicator: defined as having a household income less than 60% of the national average equivalised for family size

⁷ Households Below Average Income

Changes affecting Sheffield City Council as a public service

- 1.8 Expectations of public services are changing. It is more important to join up the work we do, within the council and with partners, to focus on what matters for local people – high quality public services that work seamlessly together. People don't want to, and shouldn't have to, understand our structure before they can access services they need. Most of our customers are also ready for the convenience of 24 hour self-service and want to interact with us at a time that suits them.

“As Government funding reductions change what we are able to do ourselves, delivering services for the people of Sheffield has never been more of a challenge”

- 1.9 While public expectations have increased, local authorities have experienced unprecedented income reductions in recent years. From 2010/11 to 2015/16, Sheffield City Council's net revenue budget will have reduced by 30% and money from Government will have fallen by £124m. In response to this reduction, together with additional costs, we have made considerable reductions in spending. £240m has been cut from our service budgets over the last four years. We have to do more with less.
- 1.10 The council will continue to face difficult finances for the foreseeable future. To continue to balance the budget we need to lower our overall spend by more than a third in the next three years. This means further tough decisions lie ahead.

The council has gained significant and welcome new responsibilities...

- 1.11 In April 2013 Public Health responsibilities moved back to local authorities from the NHS. Sheffield City Council is committed to maximising this once in a generation change; to use these responsibilities, alongside our pre-existing powers, to make Sheffield healthier. Our aim⁸ is to promote good health; preventing and tackling ill health; and enabling people to make healthier choices. We will seek to prevent avoidable ill health and remove barriers to treatment and care, prioritising those in the poorest health where we can.
- 1.12 Responsibility for council housing transferred back to the council in 2012, after 88% of residents voted in favour. Building and managing council homes sits alongside our wider housing and neighbourhood responsibilities; helping us deliver better, joined up services.

There have been significant changes to legislation and national policy...

- 1.13 We are also experiencing major legislative change, including:
- 1.14 The **Care Act 2014**: Major reforms of how care and support is provided, from April 2015 and paid for, from April 2016, focused on:
- Personalisation; ensuring individuals have choice and control over their care and support
 - Preventing, postponing and minimising people's need for formal care and support
 - Empowering individuals to make decisions
- 1.15 This is part of wider funding reforms in health and social care supported by the **Better Care Fund**; created by pooling NHS and council budgets to integrate the commissioning of health and social care to provide coordinated services that are more cost effective in the longer term.

⁸ Sheffield City Council's Public Health Vision Statement <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/caresupport/health/public-health-vision-statement.html>

- 1.16 The **Children and Families Act 2014**: Greater protection to vulnerable children; better support for children with separating parents; a comprehensive new system to help children and young people with special educational needs from birth to age 25; and help for parents to balance work and family life. The Act changes the adoption system so children can be placed into loving homes faster and gives children in care the choice to stay with foster families until their 21st birthday.
- 1.17 The **Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014**: Powers to tackle antisocial behaviour, including enforcement of tenancy conditions, available across agencies. The Act creates a Community Trigger, so members of the public or officers can trigger a review to look at the breadth of an issue across all organisations involved.
- 1.18 The council is committed to ensuring all citizens have the information and support to access services and make decisions about their lives. As a Public Authority, we have a general duty to promote equality⁹ as well as specific duties, set out in the **Equality Act 2010** (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011.
- 1.19 Primarily following the **Welfare Reform Act 2012**; major reforms across a wide range of benefits, credits and allowances, such as the introduction of Personal Independence Payment which over time will replace Disability Living Allowance and Council Tax Benefit replaced by local Council Tax Support Schemes. Reforms include a cap to payments made to each household and the introduction of Universal Credit; a single monthly payment of all means-tested working age benefits.

Our response to these changes

- 1.20 This Corporate Plan sets the overall direction and ambitions for the council and the city over the next three years. It is based on available information on funding, responsibilities and powers at the time of writing so may be subject to change.

“To be the best we can be, we must deliver our promises and meet our challenges”

- 1.21 Identifying problems and providing help early can make a huge difference to people, preventing problems escalating. This approach needs to look at all the issues faced by individuals and families, regardless of which service they contact first and focus on the causes of problems, so we support people before they reach crisis point.
- 1.22 This includes providing help earlier in children’s lives, working with them in their early years to help them achieve their potential and address some of the root causes and most deep seated issues associated with living in poverty, exclusion or discrimination.
- 1.23 Balancing our budget cannot rely on unsustainably cutting services. We will ensure savings are informed by our priorities, but will identify ways to encourage development and grow the Business Rates we receive, so this income¹⁰ can finance public services.
- 1.24 We will continue to directly deliver services where we are the best organisation to do so, as well as arranging for others to deliver services on our behalf. We will make our online services simpler, ensuring they cover the things people contact us about most. Where the right opportunities exist to be more commercial we will actively pursue them, for example, setting fees and charges closer to market rates, or selling services to other public bodies and organisations.

⁹ Legal requirements under Section 149 and 158 of the Equality Act 2010

¹⁰ 49% of rates income are retained by the council, with the introduction of the business rates retention scheme

- 1.25 We will work within, and with, communities to identify opportunities to involve volunteers and community groups in our services, and support people to do more for themselves and for their communities. This is particularly important when budget pressures mean the alternative might be to stop a service altogether.
- 1.26 At all times we will continue to work in a transparent and open way, being clear about why we make decisions, and consulting and listening to those most affected.

“As Government funding reductions change what we are able to do ourselves... working with others...will be critical”

- 1.27 Our ambitions are for the city of Sheffield, not just for Sheffield City Council. Because we are a democratic organisation, the council is uniquely placed to lead changes that are beyond the scope of a single organisation, group or individual. This means our role extends beyond delivering services and running the council well, into city leadership.
- 1.28 Together with our partners in the city and beyond, we need to reform how public services are provided. As people’s expectations and the nature of the city changes while public budgets reduce, using our influence with others is vital. We are working closely with partners to make these changes. That’s why working with partners such as NHS organisations, South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue is so important. This includes working closely with Government as one of 14 Local Authorities invited to be part of the Public Service Transformation Network.
- 1.29 Many things require broader collaboration and plans with regional public and private sector partners – our ambitions and influence can’t stop at Sheffield’s boundaries. This is particularly true for economic growth and transport developments, which is why our work within the Combined Authority¹¹ and Local Economic Partnership¹² for Sheffield City Region is so important.

“We will continue to work with Government to devolve powers for Sheffield so we can shape our own future and fulfil the city’s huge potential”

- 1.30 We believe reforming public services will: create more financially sustainable cities; develop locally shaped services to support those in the greatest need; connect people to opportunities to ensure more people in Sheffield are in work and part of a strong city economy; and reduce dependency on the state. Some changes we can make ourselves, others require changes from others, including Government.
- 1.31 We are one of only two cities in the UK to agree a more radical Devolution Deal with Government¹³. This gives Sheffield City Region more control over the vital areas of skills, housing, transport, and business support. This is also a fundamental step towards allowing Sheffield to better shape its own future and to fulfil its huge potential. This is the start of the conversation with Government and we will continue to work with Whitehall, and challenge them, to go much further to get the best deal for Sheffield.

¹¹ Sheffield City Region Combined Authority <http://sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/about/the-sheffield-city-region-authority/>

¹² Sheffield City Region Local Economic Partnership <http://sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/about/the-lep-board/>

¹³ Sheffield City Region Devolution Deal <http://sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/2014/12/city-region-agrees-devolution-deal/>

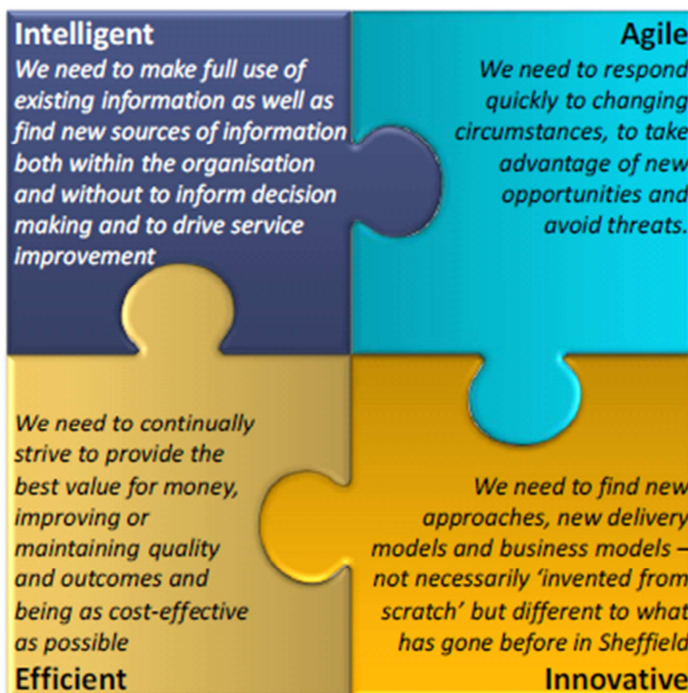
2 An in-touch organisation

2.1 Being an in-touch organisation means listening; being connected and being responsive to a range of people and organisations; ideas and developments. This includes local people, communities and Government, as well as keeping pace with technology. This means understanding the increasingly diverse needs of individuals in Sheffield so the services we and our partners provide are designed to meet these needs. It also means understanding how to respond. This priority is about empowering individuals to help themselves and providing opportunities to do this, so they and their communities are increasingly independent and resilient.

2.2 We need to be clear about the roles people can and should play. Helping people help themselves means working with communities to develop solutions and supporting people to be more self-reliant, using the knowledge, ideas and resources that exist in families and communities.

2.3 Budget pressures are being felt across all public services, and particularly acutely in Local Government. We expect this to continue, so making the best use of public money has never been more important. This includes getting the most from the money we spend on goods and service through others. To make the most of every pound the Council spends in this way we will look for wider opportunities including economic, environmental or social benefits for Sheffield.

2.4 But the challenges facing public services are not only financial. Expectations about public services are changing and we know how important it is for good services to be available locally¹⁴. To make the changes captured in this plan we need to find smarter ways to operate so we become more **innovative, intelligent, agile, and efficient**:



Our ongoing commitments:

As demands for services rise and grants from Government fall, it is challenging to maintain the regular services that people in Sheffield rely on. Over the next three years we will:

- Make sure that local people are informed of and able to influence decisions that affect their families, communities and the city.
- Promote and safeguard democracy by running safe and secure elections, and making sure that anyone who is eligible and wants to vote is able to do so.
- Broaden the options to access council meetings to increase transparency and accountability.
- Provide a range of ways to contact the council and our partners; assisting as best we can at the first point of contact.
- Gather information and feedback, to design how we deliver services.
- Set high standards for the use of public money and for satisfaction with our services and those our partners provide.
- Continue to collect Council Tax and Business Rates in line with other major English cities, ensuring cases of hardship are treated fairly and with sensitivity.
- Be open and transparent, making data and information available where we are able to, within the Council and to the public at <http://www.data.sheffield.gov.uk/>.

¹⁴ Ipsos MORI (2010) – What do people want, need and expect from public services? – commissioned by 2020 Public Services Trust

- 2.5 Being **intelligent** means having robust information about how we operate, the context we work in and making the most of that information. We need to know: how we compare to other places; what's happening over time and what might happen in the future. We also need to understand our relationships with others and have better access to knowledge and information across the organisation.
- 2.6 Being **agile** means using our intelligence to spot opportunities, challenges and changes earlier; drawing conclusions about our response and being able to implement this response more quickly.
- 2.7 Being **innovative** means finding new approaches and business models. We will be open to different ways of doing things and seek out new ideas, for both small and more fundamental changes in what we do.
- 2.8 Being **efficient** means checking we operate in the most cost effective way looking at both quality and cost, not just the cheapest way possible – to fulfil our duty to spend public money wisely. We want our services to be efficient, economic and effective.
- 2.9 To be increasingly in-touch and to work smarter, we will focus on some specific areas over the next three years: to listen and be responsive; public services that meet people's needs; making well informed decisions and changes; and ensuring our employees feel valued.
- 2.10 These changes will help us to better understand the impact services make. We will use this knowledge to constructively challenge ourselves at all levels. This means agreeing where changes need to be made and being accountable for ensuring we are a responsive, efficient and in-touch organisation.

To listen and be responsive

- 2.11 We know how important customer contact is. If we don't listen and communicate well we undermine our work even when we do the right things. Customers treated with respect and empathy are more likely to seek the services they need, but if people feel judged it can lead to them disengaging. Getting it right needs high quality services, staffed by professional and positive people.
- 2.12 Customers want us to get it right first time. Local people and businesses don't want to, and shouldn't have to, understand the council structure before they can access services. We will eliminate avoidable contact, working together as one council, not simply as individual services.
- 2.13 Time waiting on the phone or in queues isn't good for anyone. We will make online services simpler and ensure they cover the things customers contact us about most. Customers are ready for 24 hour self-service. 80% of Sheffield residents used the internet in 2012/13 and 40% of people who use our website do so on a smartphone or tablet.
- 2.14 We estimate that more than three million calls are received by council services each year. Improving self-service means people who really need our help can reach us quickly. We need to ensure people can resolve queries themselves, before they have to contact us. Where individuals need support using online services, we will offer this or be able to signpost to other people or organisations that can help.

Public services that meet people's needs

- 2.15 We need to reform public services to meet changing expectations and increasing demands for services while budgets reduce. This is why we are working with other organisations –

including the NHS, South Yorkshire Police, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, and both universities – to agree what we want to achieve, together, for the city.

- 2.16 We believe that the particular organisation that provides a certain service is almost always less important than the quality of the service itself. We also know that services are not joined up across different organisations. This is why we want a more cohesive public sector in Sheffield.
- 2.17 We will – with other organisations – be working to produce a growth and reform plan for the city, which will set out specific opportunities for reforming public services: looking, for example, at how the education, skills and employment systems should work better; and how we could provide a more integrated health and social care system. We will be working towards a single public budget for the city, and considering what changes are needed in how public services are governed and work together.
- 2.18 We know that an estimated £4.5 billion of public money is spent in Sheffield. We will look at how this is spent by local and national organisations, and whether spending it differently could improve lives and the quality of Sheffield’s public services. There are improvements to public services that we can fix within Sheffield; but we will also look at whether we have the right ‘tools to do the job’ – whether we have appropriate powers and control of public money to make sure that money spent in Sheffield is invested in the right way.

To make well informed decisions through business intelligence

- 2.19 It’s more important than ever to make the best use of public money and we need to become more responsive to the changes around us and within the organisation. We have two particular goals: Decisions are well informed with comprehensive, up to date and real time information and analysis; and that information is driving the decisions we make.
- 2.20 We want to better understand how we are working, and opportunities for improvement. Our work impacts on people’s lives and we need fully to understand this. We will use information to be more in-touch and improve our work in a wide range of different areas:
- In customer facing services, we will use information about how people use services to ensure they work as well as possible. We will ensure preventative services can use information to predict where problems may occur in future and we will join up information between our services for customers.
 - Internally, we will ensure our services are as efficient as possible; and
 - On longer term decisions, we will use information to predict future needs such as planning schools places, transport infrastructure or housing needs for a growing population.

Making changes to the right things, in the right way

- 2.21 To be responsive and relevant we need to adapt to changes in needs, expectations, legislation and policy; as well as making the most of technology. We need to make sure we prioritise our efforts and resources for the greatest impact. Changes are made within and by the council at all levels from frontline workers making changes, so our customers have the best experience possible, to strategic long term programmes.
- 2.22 We need to make sure the amount of change at any one time is achievable, and that our priorities are supported by comprehensive programmes that move us, and the city, towards our long term goals.

- 2.23 Therefore, by 2017 we will have an agreed, prioritised set of strategic changes that we will make to achieve our long term goals. We will make sure people who commission or deliver change understand these and their role within this so we work together to agree, share progress and measure the impact of these changes. We will also work with our suppliers and partners, where relevant, to ensure they can prepare, plan and be involved in the changes we make. This will enable us to be more responsive and in-touch with changing needs and circumstances.

Employees who feel valued

- 2.24 The council employs more than 7,000 people and our workforce has undergone profound, unprecedented and sometimes unpredicted change, whilst delivering high quality frontline services. We need to ensure what we ask of staff is sustainable.
- 2.25 We cannot accurately predict the future size of the council, as we may take on significant new responsibilities as well as responding to changes in Government grants for the services we already provide. So we will focus on valuing our employees who are vital to delivering high quality services for Sheffield.
- 2.26 We aim to significantly increase the proportion of employees who feel valued over the next three years. This means consistently providing visible leadership, communicating with and involving employees; and allowing individuals to develop and realise their career aspirations, by creating clear routes to progress within the council and supporting them develop the skills they need. We want our employees to feel productive, motivated and able to innovate and improve services to ensure we become increasingly an in-touch organisation.

3 Strong economy

- 3.1 A strong economy means creating the conditions for local businesses to grow and making Sheffield an attractive location to start a business. We want Sheffield to achieve our economic potential and for the pace of Sheffield's economic growth to quicken, particularly in the private sector. This means being well-connected, both physically and digitally, building on our success as a city that supports businesses to grow and playing a full, distinctive role in the global economy. We want local people to have the skills they need to get jobs and benefit from economic growth; and to make the most of the distinctive things Sheffield has to offer, such as cultural and sporting facilities.
- 3.2 The city centre has a unique place in the City Region economy. It has most of the high value, office-based businesses and provides a distinctive education, retail, cultural and leisure offer. It has undergone significant transformation, with improvements to the Moor's public realm and the new Moor Market, expansion of both University campuses and the final stage of office development at St Paul's. We want to see this continue, linking the Moor with Fargate via a new retail quarter to create the right mix of business and leisure, making Sheffield a vibrant and thriving place.
- 3.3 Sheffield is one of nine locations for a High Speed 2 Rail station. This is a unique opportunity to regenerate the city and to improve our connectivity to other cities, increasing Sheffield's attractiveness as a location for businesses and commuters. Research shows the exceptional potential of this station in terms of jobs during construction and in the associated investment in the surrounding area.
- 3.4 We are best placed to understand this potential for the city, which is why we will continue to make the case for locating the High Speed 2 Rail station in the city centre. This will increase the potential for regeneration and economic growth; creating an additional 6,500 jobs over and above the 3,500 that the station is likely to secure in another location. We will prepare also for High Speed 2 Rail and be ready to secure investment for the infrastructure needed.
- 3.5 We want to celebrate the distinctive things Sheffield has to offer. Our cultural and leisure assets help to make Sheffield unique within the city region and beyond, including the largest theatre complex outside London. These have an economic and social value for the city, growing creative industries and attracting talented people to live and work in the city; as well as creating a sense of place that helps to make Sheffield a more attractive city¹⁵.

Our ongoing commitments:

As demands for services rise and our grants from Government fall, it is more challenging to continue the regular services that people in Sheffield rely on. Over the next three years we will:

- Support existing businesses including small and medium sized business and green businesses that have the potential to grow, as well as individuals who are looking to start a business in Sheffield,.
- Continue to develop the RISE programme that places graduates into small and medium sized local businesses; working with universities to sustain and expand the programme.
- Support local businesses grow and expand into new overseas markets via our export programme; working with partners to create a single point of contact for this support across the Sheffield City Region.
- Support more young people to be job ready; so Sheffield continues to be the top major English city for apprenticeship recruitment.
- Maintain a diverse and vibrant cultural offer. Our level and type of support to venues may change but we want them to continue as some of Sheffield's most distinctive assets, including the Crucible and Lyceum theatres, our museums and galleries, City Hall and the Motorpoint Arena.
- Work with new and existing partners to sustain key sporting facilities like Ponds Forge, alongside specialist regional facilities such as the English Institute of Sport, and Ice Sheffield.
- Create and sustain events and festivals to boost visitor numbers.

¹⁵ World Cities Culture Report 2012; <http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/WorldCitiesCultureReport.pdf>

- 3.6 We want local people to contribute to and benefit from Sheffield's economic growth, by securing good jobs and supporting local businesses to grow. Over the last five years, the Government will have reduced its spending on skills by a quarter and this trend is set to continue. Employers are expected to invest in workforce training, but statistics suggest that this has been falling since 2011. At the same time, businesses report emerging skills shortages and hard to fill vacancies. We want to be a city and a City Region known for a first class skills system, where employers are confident the local workforce is properly equipped to meet the demands of local businesses.
- 3.7 We have already secured the third biggest Growth Deal in the country with our partners in Sheffield City Region and we are one of only two cities in the UK to agree a more radical Devolution Deal with Government – the next step towards Sheffield getting the tools to shape its own future and to fulfil its huge potential. We have been acknowledged as the 'Best Council to do Business With'¹⁶ and launched the first 14-19 University Technical College, specialising in Engineering, Creative and Digital.
- 3.8 To support local businesses we created the RISE graduate programme, placing 112 graduates into small and medium size businesses. Half of these placements have been extended or led to permanent employment, returning nearly six times of the money spent back into the local economy. We have the fourth highest proportion of teenagers in apprenticeships of any Local Authority in the country, following the launch of the Sheffield 100 programme. This has placed over 400 disadvantaged young people into apprenticeships alongside the City Deal which created another 700 new apprenticeships.
- 3.9 Underpinning our longer term ambitions are specific things that we will seek to achieve over the next three years: investment that drives economic growth; superfast digital connectivity; skills that meet the needs of local businesses; and increased access to decarbonised energy.

Investment to drive Sheffield's economic growth within the city region

- 3.10 There is significant potential for future economic growth and we will work with the best in the world to develop our plans and activity for a strong economy, including global experts and policy makers. To enable growth we will work with partners across the City Region to secure investment to improve the infrastructure and connectivity that will attract new businesses and people to the city.

Our ongoing commitments:

Over the next three years we will:

- Make the most of Sheffield's natural assets including its geography, green and open spaces and access to the Peak district; embracing our status as the UK's top Outdoor City. We want the outdoor economy to grow by supporting outdoor businesses; attracting visitors and attracting talented individuals who choose to live and work here.
- Work with partners to deliver the planned flood defence scheme for the Lower Don Valley; improving more than 50 locations along 8km of the River Don to protect 250 businesses and thousands of jobs.
- Maximise investment in Sheffield's flood and drainage infrastructure to make the city more resilient to climate change. As part of the national flood investment programme our plans will deliver £50 million of capital schemes by 2021 in the Don and Sheaf areas; protecting up to 6,000 homes and 2,000 businesses as well as key transport routes and critical infrastructure.
- Continue to ensure Sheffield is planning for, and able to respond and recover from, major civil incidents; whilst maintaining critical council services during emergencies.
- Work to attract investment to build a vibrant city centre and city more widely.
- Market and raise the profile of the city nationally and internationally, playing a key role in devolution and other big city issues through Core Cities UK and working with global experts through the International

¹⁶ Department for Communities and Local Government 'Best Council to do Business with' award <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/best-councils-to-do-business-with-awards>

- 3.11 With partners we will invest over £20m of the Sheffield City Region Investment Fund to deliver regeneration across the city centre, including both university campuses, the Riverside Business District, Castlegate and the Heart of the City project. We anticipate that this will lever in over £100m of additional private sector investment.
- 3.12 The Don Valley and the wider M1 corridor is home to some of the UK's leading advanced manufacturing and engineering businesses as well as major retail and leisure venues such as Meadowhall. It plays a key role in Sheffield's overall economy and attractiveness. We will work with organisations such as the University of Sheffield's Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre and major land owners to develop this area into one of Europe's leading industrial centres.
- 3.13 We will also help to create successful places and spaces through the Don Valley by investing up to £25m from the Sheffield City Region Investment Fund to enhance transport infrastructure, flood defences and an improved public realm.

People with the skills that meet the needs of local businesses

- 3.14 Over the next three years we will continue supporting more working age people to achieve qualifications¹⁷ than national averages. We will have more 19 year olds with good GCSEs and A levels¹⁸ closing the gap by two percentage points to the national average, and support more young people to continue to study and achieve in science, technology, engineering and maths to meet demand in the local economy.
- 3.15 Sheffield meets national averages for the skills held by its working age population, but higher skills are acknowledged as a major factor for economic growth. We need businesses to compete in a global economy where a highly skilled workforce is an advantage. The challenges remain considerable. The attainment of young people at 16 and 19 is below national averages; local employers report that young people are ill prepared for work; and we have too many adults with few or no qualifications. To tackle this we have worked to put Sheffield as the fourth highest Local Authority for the proportion of teenagers taking up apprenticeships and the Government has committed to build on Sheffield's approach¹⁹ to expand the apprenticeship system.
- 3.16 We need all young people to access high quality information, advice and guidance, so they can make the right education and career choices. Careers guidance has become fragmented, inconsistent and far from comprehensive. We will work with others to agree and create a youth portal so teenagers can access comprehensive and independent information about a full range of courses and careers.
- 3.17 To go further we also need to create an innovative and responsive skills system that meets the needs of employers and inspires them to invest more in training. We will create an employer-led Skills Bank and aim to have more employer investment in publicly supported training compared to other major English cities. We will support this by creating a Skills Hub to commission training provision and, using the council's spending on employment and training, secure at least £6m of external funding each year.
- 3.18 We will seek to identify inspirational schools and colleges to work with Sheffield's businesses to create a Made in Sheffield curriculum that better prepares young people for life and work. This curriculum will encourage entrepreneurship and enterprise, whilst driving up attainment in subjects that are critical to the city's ambitions for economic growth.

¹⁷ The number qualified to level 2 (equivalent to 5+ good GCSEs), level 3 (equivalent to 2+ A levels) and level 4 (equivalent to Degree)

¹⁸ Qualified to level 2 and 3

¹⁹ Sheffield City Region – City Deal <http://sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/city-deal/>

- 3.19 To deliver our ambitions, we want government to commit to the creation of a local Skills Partnership. Over the lifetime of this plan we aim to negotiate the devolution of responsibility for managing the skills system and associated budgets; to meet the specific needs of the city and the City Region.
-

A superfast, digitally connected city

- 3.20 We want Sheffield to be amongst the most connected cities in the UK where businesses can access the technology to grow, making the city region an attractive location to run a business and work in. We are working with private sector partners to accelerate the roll out of next generation broadband and will explore options for the city centre, including wireless technology. We also want to support local businesses and will explore ways to reduce their upfront costs of accessing this technology.
- 3.21 Improved connectivity provides a platform for the city to run better, enabling business, and individuals to create and co-create high quality, targeted, real time products. By 2018 97.9% of South Yorkshire's residential and business premises will be able to access superfast broadband.
- 3.22 Making the most of technology means having digitally literate local people; people with the ability and confidence to teach themselves and adapt to continually changing digital tools and services. This is essential because it:
- Supports existing businesses looking to adopt technology, enabling them to grow
 - Increases the attractiveness of the city to businesses looking to start-up
 - Enables local people to secure employment within new or growing businesses who will increasingly use this technology
 - Raises aspirations of young people as they prepare for education, training and work
 - Ensures people and businesses can access and use a range of services and resources, that are increasingly digitally enabled, in their everyday lives
- 3.23 The council's role in this is to:
- Develop digital literacy in our workforce and be responsive to local people and businesses
 - Bring partners together to collaborate and develop the tools, information and support that will enable local people to become more digitally included and literate.
-

Access to local, low carbon energy

- 3.24 Reducing dependency of Sheffield's businesses on imported fuel with decarbonised, locally generated energy sources will give Sheffield a competitive advantage over other locations and support future economic growth. Locally generated energy is not subject to the volatility of international energy markets and world events; so our longer term ambition is to increase Sheffield's energy generating and distribution capacity.
- 3.25 Over the next three years we will work with partners to expand Sheffield's energy network, increasing access to business and residents in the Lower Don area. We will work with experts to investigate the potential to invest, with others, and create a local Energy Services Company that generates and distributes energy locally; as well as other low carbon initiatives such as insulation schemes. In addition to the business benefits, residents will have access to stable long term energy pricing and supplies which will help those suffering from fuel poverty.

4 Thriving neighbourhoods and communities

4.1 Thriving neighbourhoods and communities means neighbourhoods where people are proud to live, with communities that support each other and get on well together. This includes good, affordable housing in areas that are well maintained and easy to get around. It means places with access to great, inclusive schools that act as community amenities and access to libraries and high quality sport and leisure facilities, including green and open spaces.

4.2 We want people living in Sheffield to feel safe and will continue to join with other agencies in the city to make it easier for local people and communities to get involved, so we can spot and tackle issues early. We want to celebrate the diversity of the city, addressing misperceptions and prejudice where individuals and communities are unfairly stigmatised to strengthen our approach to cohesion. We will also work with communities affected by large scale population changes, as we know when this happens in a short amount of time extra support can be needed to ensure communities are well integrated.

4.3 We are changing how we work in communities. We know people prefer a single point of contact so we are creating a single response team, Housing Plus, to work across organisations to support individuals, households and neighbourhoods. We also want to explore imaginative ways to use powers, such as environmental and health protection, pest control and trading standards, to improve the public health of people living in Sheffield.

4.4 To strengthen neighbourhoods across Sheffield we have supported developers to nearly double the number of homes built in the last two years and started the Streets Ahead programme, which has resurfaced 140 miles of road and 155 miles of pavement. We have also secured up to £30m investment in new community sports facilities; added 2,800 primary school places; and by changing how we work with local communities, kept all libraries open.

4.5 **Places and spaces where people enjoy being** help to create thriving neighbourhoods and communities. Being able to access green and open spaces as well as leisure facilities has a significant impact on how people feel about where they live, learn and work; along with wider benefits to their overall wellbeing.

4.6 We want local areas to be well maintained, working with others to ensure they are kept clean and tidy. This includes transforming Sheffield's roads and pavements through the Streets Ahead programme, as well as making sure public spaces in the city are well designed and promote active use such as walking and cycling.

Our ongoing commitments:

As demands for services rise and our grants from Government fall, it is more challenging to continue the regular services that people in Sheffield rely on. Over the next three years we will:

- Continue to provide sports and leisure facilities at key city and district sites and deliver the new developments at Graves and High Green.
- Continue to deliver community based physical activity programmes focussing on areas where health problems are greatest.
- Sustain major city and district parks that support Sheffield's outdoor economy and are enjoyed by lots of people.
- Promote schools as community assets, including wrap around provision such as breakfast and after school clubs.
- Continue the Streets Ahead programme; updating and maintaining 1,180 miles of roads, 2,050 miles of pavements and 68,000 street lights across the city.
- Although the way in which waste services are delivered may change, we will continue to support people to reduce their general waste and minimising how much waste we send to landfill. We will continue to support increased recycling and provide access to household waste recycling centre facilities seven days a week.
- Protect people's safety, health and welfare; targeting standards in food premises and tackling rogue traders, including the supply and sale of illicit tobacco and alcohol.

4.7 In addition to our ongoing work within local areas, over the next three years we want to: ensure all schools are becoming great schools; have more new homes built and new council houses; better connect transport across the city so people can choose how they travel; and reduce antisocial behaviour.

All schools becoming great schools

4.8 We want schools in Sheffield to be amongst the best in the country and by 2018 have more children and young people than ever before attending good or outstanding schools, whilst meeting new, higher OFSTED standards.

4.9 Our ambition is for every school in Sheffield to be good or outstanding. We know this may take time, as 73% currently meet this standard, compared to 81% nationally. In three years we want to be above this national average. We also want children at risk of underachievement to be better supported and the right number of high quality educational places to be available in the right areas across the city.

4.10 There has been much improvement in standards and attainment for children in Sheffield over recent years, but we started from a low baseline and a number of challenges remain. We want to have a strong role within Sheffield's school system to enable collaboration and partnership through the, already established, City Wide Learning Body.

4.11 We will work with others to increase the scope and potential of "school to school" improvement partnerships, so their knowledge and expertise can jointly lead the improvement needed. This means all our schools seeking improvement; so that outstanding schools truly excel alongside the best in the country and they also support other schools to improve.

4.12 We will work with schools to examine how to best deliver services to them, including the potential to create a new delivery arm for the City Wide Learning Body. We will also increase the quality, amount and transparency of performance data that is accessible to parents.

4.13 In partnership with early years' settings, schools, colleges and families, we will deliver a new system for supporting children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs or who are disabled. We will raise aspirations and ensure support is available so that they achieve well in their education and are able to lead happy and fulfilling lives.

4.14 Over the next three years we will ensure that outcomes at all key stages continue to improve at a faster rate than nationally; that attainment of free school meals pupils is among the best in the country; and reading at all key stages is in line with national averages.

Our ongoing commitments:

Over the next three years we will:

- Coordinate work across the council and partners to help keep streets and open spaces clean and tidy, targeting action to reduce litter, fly-tipping and dog fouling.
- Work with staff, community groups, partners and the voluntary sector to support libraries and archives in local communities and the city. This includes working with libraries to help people get online through free computer access and supported IT classes. We aim to be nationally recognised for the quality and innovative ways in which libraries are run.
- Tackle air pollution by working with partners, local businesses and the general public to address traffic-related emissions. We will develop our approach to a Low Emission Zone to help the city comply with air quality regulations and reduce the negative impact on people's health and the local environment.
- Work to improve levels of reporting in areas such as hate crime and domestic abuse. We will support people to come forward and provide good quality, responsive domestic and sexual abuse services for those who need them.

Build new homes and council houses

- 4.15 Over the next three years we will support developers to build 4,600 homes across the city, as part of a longer term plan for 15,000 new homes built over the next decade. Development will focus on larger sites that can deliver significant growth, including mixed housing in the city centre together with new services, to support this growing community.
- 4.16 There is demand for social housing and over the next three years we aim to increase the number of council houses by 750, building 120 new houses and purchasing more than 600 existing properties to renovate. New council housing will be designed to meet the shortfall of some housing types and specialist supported housing accommodation, including housing for young families and elderly customers.
- 4.17 We will work closely with partners and other organisations to free up land needed to deliver more affordable homes, and anticipate this investment will create between 500 and 1,000 local jobs. We will also review our planning guidance on affordable housing to make sure it can deal flexibly with changing housing market conditions.
- 4.18 Within Sheffield around 1,500 new private sector homes are needed each year. To make housing schemes viable to private developers in the current financial climate we will:
- Speed up the delivery of a new creative Local Plan to meet long term housing needs
 - Create an Investment Prospectus to raise Sheffield's profile
 - Make information on available land and sites accessible
 - Be more flexible with council owned land and assets, and bring sites to market in different areas across the city
 - Change how we work to help developers and landowners navigate the planning system
 - Signpost developers to existing funds and work with them to explore innovative funding, such as the Homes and Communities Agency and Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership funds
 - Develop a joint Housing Zone with Rotherham's council, focusing on five Attercliffe sites, with the potential to deliver around 600 homes in the next 5 to 10 years
- 4.19 We will also reinvest our New Homes Bonus, a Government grant based on the number of houses built, to accelerate future developments and support developers, for example by undertaking early planning work to support new schemes.

Better connected transport to increase travel choices

- 4.20 We want Sheffield's transport network to be integrated, connecting different modes of travel to encourage people to use public transport, cycle and walk. We know that transport needs to be accessible, affordable and safe for people to use. The city's Transport Capital Programme; around £12m annually, is focused on five broad themes designed to encourage more sustainable transport options: public transport; road safety; network management; cycling; and walking.
- 4.21 Buses and Supertram are the most popular alternatives to cars. We know that using public transport helps to reduce carbon emissions, and we want to support this choice. This includes working with Network Rail to progress the infrastructure needed to progress the agreed tram-train link between Sheffield and Rotherham. The link will be a national pilot and demonstrate opportunities for using heavy rail tracks to extend and integrate tram routes.

- 4.22 Sheffield's Bus Partnership has created a simpler, more coordinated bus network for the city and has seen continued improvements to bus punctuality, reliability and customer satisfaction. Over the next three years we will work with partners to focus on prices and different types of tickets that encourage more people to use public transport, to increase the number of bus passengers by two per cent each year.
- 4.23 As well as using public transport, we want to support people to take up more active ways of travel, particularly cycling. Extending and integrating cycle routes will promote the use of bicycles, helping to alleviate congestion and ease pollution. We will identify a new network of cycling routes by July 2015 and use these to prioritise investment, so cycling accounts for 10% of all journeys by 2025.
- 4.24 We need to get people of all ages and backgrounds in Sheffield cycling. To do this we also need to change the culture of how we use our roads so that people feel safe when they cycle. As part of this we will extend our 20 mph speed limit programme, with 30 additional schemes in place over the next three years working towards all residential areas being covered by 2025, at the latest.
-

Improve community safety by reducing antisocial behaviour

- 4.25 We want to work with partners to reduce the number of call outs to incidents and reported cases of antisocial behaviour by 10% over the next three years. We know that being a victim of crime can have a serious effect on people's lives and will focus our attention on victims and those in vulnerable situations.
- 4.26 To work more closely with other agencies we will introduce a multiagency service for antisocial behaviour and community safety, working with local communities to spot and tackle issues early. Together we will plan activity that supports our joint response to issues and share local knowledge to prevent isolated incidents escalating and coordinate risk assessments. This will better support victims and those most at risk of antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse by deploying our high risk response as needed.

5 Better health and wellbeing

- 5.1 Better health and wellbeing means reducing health inequalities and helping people to be healthy and well. When we talk about health inequalities we mean people who are already, or who have a higher risk of, experiencing poor health, illness and dying early due to a wide range of circumstances, such as living in poverty or poor housing.
- 5.2 Health and wellbeing matters to everyone. We will provide early help and look to do this earlier in life, targeted to those in greatest need to reduce the root causes of inequality and develop long term solutions. This is because we know how important it is to give every child the opportunity to have a great start in life and we remain committed to protecting children and young people, especially those who the council looks after. Working with children in their early years underpins our approach to help them achieve their potential.
- 5.3 Having a high level of wellbeing helps individuals to do the things they want to do and means everyone can play an active role in their families, communities and the city. We know that people are more likely to be happy and maintain good health if they have support from family, friends, neighbours and their wider community. We have a major part to play investing hundreds of millions of pounds to support those who struggle to live independently and, less directly, making sure the city has facilities and other amenities that help people stay healthy and well.
- 5.4 We are already establishing one of the most ambitious programmes in England to integrate health and social care in Sheffield and our aims are simple and bold:
- To promote good health
 - To prevent and tackle ill health
 - To enable all of us to make healthier lifestyle choices
 - To ensure that every contact that the council has with the people of Sheffield acts to promote their health
 - To develop Public Health capacity and know-how across organisations and communities to make a real difference.
- 5.5 Much of the council's work can have a positive impact on people's health. This section of our plan focuses on our priorities for direct investment in health and wellbeing: more children ready for learning and life; improving support to children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities; supporting people to be independent and well; improving mental wellbeing; flexible care that helps people to live their lives in the way they want; and better housing conditions to improve health.
- Our ongoing commitments:***
As demands for services rise and our grants from Government fall, it is more challenging to continue the regular services that people in Sheffield rely on. Over the next three years we will:
- Continue to keep children safe. We know how important it is that each child lives in an environment where they can thrive and form secure attachments, so they can develop socially and emotionally. Where necessary, we will look after children and young people within the care system, making sure they have a permanent placement that is right for them, as soon as possible. This includes placements within their own families, with foster or adoptive carers, as well as within residential homes.
 - Give individuals, their families, communities and frontline workers the tools and skills to identify where people may be at risk and are able to respond appropriately. We want people in Sheffield to be able to live independent and safe lives.
 - Ensure children and their families receive services at the earliest possible opportunity to prevent their needs from escalating. We will work with our partners to direct resources into early intervention and prevention services that improve outcomes, and are more cost effective.

More children ready for learning and life

- 5.6 We know a child's life from birth to two is the most critical phase of development²⁰ and that the gap between average attainment at Sheffield schools and the lowest 20% is too wide. What young people attain at age 16 has a significant influence on their outcomes in adult life and is heavily reliant on them being ready to start school with a good level of development²¹. Our long term ambition is for all children to be ready to start school, and over the next three years we will roll out our Best Start programme, to make sure that at least 68% of children in Sheffield start school with a good level of development²².
- 5.7 Best Start Teams located within Children's Centre areas will work alongside our broader prevention and early intervention services, including public health colleagues, health visitors, early years practitioners and parents to introduce a joint assessment²³ for two year olds. This will identify children who are at risk of being unready for school. Starting in three areas of the city this will initially focus on those in the greatest need and by 2017/18 we want all two year olds to receive this assessment.
- 5.8 For the first time we will better understand the needs of the city's children before they reach school, which is essential to target early help that can have the most impact. This joint work will support parents and focus the provision of free early learning for children who need it most. More than half of children in the city are currently eligible for free early learning and if 70% of children started this a year earlier, continuing to school age, this would mean 2,000 more young children learning across the city.
- 5.9 This approach will also help us prepare for new responsibilities for health visitors in 2015, strengthening the council's role as a public health organisation and supporting our educational work with targeted public health interventions during a child's early years.

Improved support for children and young people with special educational needs or who are disabled

- 5.10 We want all children and young people to achieve well in education and be able to lead happy, healthy, fulfilling lives. Those with special educational needs or who are disabled

Our ongoing commitments:

Over the next three years we will:

- Ensure all agencies work together effectively; raising awareness of safeguarding to protect people from harm, through Sheffield's Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board. Where individuals are unable to keep themselves safe we will work to agree the support that will minimise the likelihood of harm and respond promptly if necessary.
- Continue to work with schools, health and other partners; investing to strengthen families through our Successful Families initiative; including support on education, employment, as well as health and wellbeing.
- Work with NHS Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group towards a single budget for health and social care and jointly commission services for children and young people with special educational needs or who are disabled. We believe that integrated commissioning of health and social care will:
 - Ensure service users have a seamless, integrated experience of care
 - Achieve greater efficiency when delivering care, by removing duplication
 - Reduce reliance on hospital and long term care by redesigning how we support people's needs within a reduced budget

²⁰ Baby Bonds – a review of international studies of attachment, by Sophie Moullin (Princeton University), Professor Jane Waldfoegel (Columbia University and the London School of Economics) and Dr Elizabeth Washbrook (University of Bristol)

²¹ Effective Pre-School, Primary and Secondary Education (EPPSE)

²² Defined as having a Good Level of Development (GLD) which is an assessment of children's readiness to learn and an opportunity for maximising learning.

²³ This is an ages and stages assessment that measure development stages of young children and identified where they are below average levels

can need extra support, so we will develop a new approach to focus on their individual needs and provide opportunities for these children, young people and their families.

- 5.11 We will work closely with the Children's Hospital Trust, the Clinical Commissioning Group and families to develop and maintain our Local Offer of services and support for children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs or who are disabled. We will develop more joined up services to ensure these children and young people get the help and support they need, when they need it. We will also make joint commissioning arrangements with the Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure health and care services are coordinated to improve provision for families who need support from multiple services.

More people independent and well in their communities

- 5.12 By 2018 we want to help thousands of Sheffield people achieve a greater level of wellbeing and independence. We will provide accessible advice and information to enable people to make positive choices and live healthy lives. We will work with partners to be more joined up, reflecting that people's needs rarely fit neatly into individual services.
- 5.13 Some people are at higher risk of poor health and may be living with a range of long term conditions. This can lead to low expectations about health services, delaying access and reducing take-up of services.
- 5.14 We will help people most in need of support to access services at the right time and get early help. For example, we will help people struggling to live independently to access benefits they are entitled to, and work with GPs to proactively contact people at risk of declining health and wellbeing.
- 5.15 We recognise the positive effects of local social activities on health and wellbeing and will support more people to develop local activities and services. This work aims to help those at risk of declining health to live healthier and longer lives, helping reduce hospital admission rates by 3.5% amongst an estimated 18,000 people.
- 5.16 If people are ill, we will help them to access short term support in their communities and we will improve support for carers. This will help us prioritise support so we can continue to fund care for people that cannot live independently. Helping more people to stay independent and well means closer working with a range of organisations. We will use the £1m secured through the Transformational Challenge Award²⁴ to make this happen. This approach will reduce cost pressures on health and care services by an estimated £4.9m over the next 10 years.

Improved mental and emotional health and wellbeing

- 5.17 Sheffield is often considered one of the happiest cities in the UK, but too many people still suffer from poor mental wellbeing: with one in ten people reporting low levels of happiness and nearly a quarter reporting high levels of anxiety²⁵. We want to do more to help people improve and protect their mental wellbeing²⁶. Over the next three years we will develop and introduce a 'Five ways to Wellbeing'²⁷ (connect, give, take notice, learn, be active)

²⁴ Transformation Challenge Award press release: <http://www.sheffieldnewsroom.co.uk/one-million-boost-to-improve-citys-health-and-well-being/>

²⁵ Public Health Outcomes Framework 2012/13 <http://www.phoutcomes.info/public-health-outcomes-framework#gid/1000042/pat/6/ati/102/page/0/par/E12000003/are/E08000019>

²⁶ The Fairness Commission, Joint Strategic Health Assessment, Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Health Inequality Plan all recognise the need to improve mental health and wellbeing and improving emotional wellbeing is one of the five work programmes overseen by the city's Joint Health and Wellbeing board.

²⁷ Five ways to Wellbeing Approach <http://www.neweconomics.org/projects/entry/five-ways-to-well-being>

programme, which has been shown to improve mental wellbeing for individuals and communities.

- 5.18 It will include children and young adults to support their emotional development and increase confidence and resilience, so they are better able to manage pressures and change. We want fewer children and young people to say they feel sad most days²⁸, and to improve family functioning. We will work with our partners and communities to intervene early, delivering therapeutic work to support those struggling with life events. This includes working with schools and health partners to support the emotional health and wellbeing of young children.
- 5.19 The programme for adults will include building people's social networks to help them connect within their neighbourhoods and communities. We know that people who are socially isolated are between two and five times more likely to die prematurely than those who have strong social ties, as well as being associated with increased smoking and reduced physical activity.
- 5.20 Improving mental health and wellbeing is likely to have a number of wider benefits, such as improving perceptions of safety and improving physical wellbeing in the longer term, reducing future needs for health and social care services.

Flexible care that helps people to live their lives, in the way they want

- 5.21 Thousands of people in Sheffield need care and support to live their daily lives. Many have the means and support to arrange their own care but those who cannot, seek financial support and/or advice from the council. We want to ensure everyone in Sheffield who needs to, whether supported directly by the council or not, can access care and support that genuinely works with them to help them achieve their goals.
- 5.22 This means changing how care and support is typically provided and moving away from standardised care to arrangements that give people control of how and where their care and support is provided. 74% of our service users say they have control over their daily lives and we aim to significantly increase this by 2018. Over the next three years, we will improve the information and support provided to people with ongoing care needs so more people can arrange care and support that works for them.
- 5.23 We will make sure our staff, as well as care and support providers, work to agree care plans that set out what people want to achieve as well as how care and support providers will support them to achieve these goals. We will make this a condition of all contracts with care and support providers, and a key part of routine inspections. Therefore, within three years more than 500,000 hours of the home care we arrange each year will move from a 'time and task' approach to more flexible care arrangements. Everyone in a residential or nursing home, or supported accommodation, will also have a support plan focused on the goals they want to achieve.
- 5.24 We want to start work on more than 400 units of specially designed accommodation that will help people live more independently for longer. This will delay or avoid the need for frail, older people to enter residential or nursing care. And, we will help more than 100 people with learning disabilities move to more flexible 'supported living' care arrangements.

²⁸ Every Child Matters survey <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/education/about-us/plans-partnerships/pupil-and-parent-voice/every-child-matters-survey.html>

Better housing conditions to improve health

- 5.25 Homes in a poor condition are known to result in poor physical and mental health²⁹. By 2018 we will work with partners to improve the quality of around 1,000 private homes that would otherwise damage the health of those living there. Our long term ambition is to develop a revolving loan scheme to help owner occupiers and private landlords to improve the condition of their homes so they can, for example, use the money saved on heating to repay the initial loan. We will seek to use health and Government funding to match funds from energy grant assistance schemes to make homes dry and better insulated. This means making the case that investing money upfront to prevent people getting ill can save more in the long term.
- 5.26 We will establish a partnership between the council, NHS Sheffield, energy companies and the private sector to support improvements in private housing, such as free insulation schemes. We will also look to buy and renovate properties in poor condition to increase the number of council houses, whilst stimulating higher housing standards for landlords.
- 5.27 To support the people in the greatest need we want to understand better the current conditions of properties that are privately owned or rented. Using the knowledge of those working in communities, we will work to identify those whose health could benefit most from this approach. This fits with our wider work on a 'fit and proper' landlord's scheme, but we will take action where there are significant issues, such as using selective licensing to manage poor housing conditions.

²⁹ Sheffield Hallam University, Warm Well Families: <http://www.shu.ac.uk/research/hsc/ouexpertise/warm-well-families>

6 Tackling inequalities

6.1 Tackling inequality means making it easier for individuals to overcome obstacles and achieve their potential. We will invest in the most deprived communities and support individuals and communities to help themselves and each other, so the changes they make are resilient and long lasting. We will work, with our partners, to enable fair treatment for individuals and groups, taking account of disadvantages and obstacles that people face.

6.2 This section focuses on financial inequality, but we know inequalities are broader than economic circumstances. This priority underpins everything we do. We want to work with communities to strengthen our approach to cohesion and address stigmatisation so the city has **strong neighbourhoods and communities**, and to reduce health inequalities so everyone can benefit from **better health and wellbeing**. We will provide early help, listen and be responsive to become an increasingly **in-touch organisation**, so that we are aware of the issues local people face and able to support and respond promptly and appropriately. Social justice means fair treatment for everybody. Information on the council's approach and work on equality and fairness is available on our [website](#)³⁰.

6.3 We are committed to the principles of the Fairness Commission. The council and stakeholders must work together to improve access to opportunity for those who need it most. This means:

- Those in greatest need should take priority
- Those with the most resources should make the biggest contributions
- The commitment to fairness must be a long term one
- The commitment to fairness must be city wide
- Preventing inequalities is better than trying to cure them
- Being seen to act in a fair way as well as acting fairly
- Civic responsibility – all residents contribute to making the city fairer and all citizens have a say in how the city works
- An open and continuous campaign for fairness in the city
- Fairness must be a matter of balance between different groups, communities and generations in the city
- The city's commitment to fairness must be demonstrated and monitored

6.4 We have already worked with existing providers to create a single point for citizens' advice. This makes free, independent, high quality advice more accessible for issues such as debt, housing, and benefits. We have supported young unemployed people to get the skills they need, find a job and stay in employment through the Ambition programme.

6.5 We have also set up a network of Equality Hubs, supported by a new Equality and Fairness Grant programme, so under-represented groups are able to have their say on issues that affect them and influence the decisions that are made in the city. But we want to do more.

Our ongoing commitments:

As demand for services rise and our grants from Government fall, it is more challenging to continue the regular services that people in Sheffield rely on. Over the next three years we will:

- Work towards 'poverty proofing' our services, so we consider the impact on poverty in the city, particularly when this might be unclear or unintended. Our ambition is for everything we do to contribute to tackling the inequalities experienced by Sheffield people.
- Build on our Equality Hubs so that groups who face additional barriers have a stronger voice and influence, as well as continuing to consult on, and where possible coproduce, our plans for services.
- Continue to pay all our employees the living wage.
- Signpost people to all relevant benefits, so they receive the financial support that they are entitled to.
- Work with partners to prepare people in Sheffield to move to Universal Credit and support those who experience the worst impact

³⁰ Sheffield City Council website – Equality, diversity and inclusion <http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/your-city-council/policy--performance/how-we-will-deliver/other-strategies-plans-and-policies/equality-and-diversity.html>

- 6.6 As well as embedding principles of reducing inequality, there are specific things that will be our focus for the next three years: more young people in education, employment or training; tackling the underlying causes of poverty; working towards Sheffield being a Living Wage city; helping people who face barriers to get a job and making ethical, affordable credit available.

More young people in education, employment or training through integrated youth support for outreach and out of school activities

- 6.7 We have worked with young people, their families and schools to reduce the number of school leavers not in education, employment or training to an historic low. But nearly 2,000 16-18 year olds still need to be connected to further education or work with training. Many of these teenagers are Sheffield's most at risk young people; who most need support. We will develop our successful Community Youth Teams to deliver 'assertive outreach' that engages teenagers and young adults to better connect them to services.
- 6.8 By 2018 we will provide support to reduce the number of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training faster than any other major English city. This includes supporting more teen parents, young offenders, those leaving our care and young people with special educational needs or disabilities, move into post-16 education, employment or training and, as a minimum, meet national averages.
- 6.9 Targeted youth services are in greater demand, as public spending reduces because they help to divert teenagers away from antisocial behaviour, offending and gangs. Last year alone we supported more than 800 teenagers who were referred as at risk of causing harm to themselves or the communities in which they live. In the next three years we will create a new model of integrated youth support by establishing an innovative and independent Youth Trust. This will create partnerships with voluntary organisations that have a successful track record supporting at risk young people. We will secure external funding and work with the Government to demonstrate how early intervention supports disadvantaged young people. The trust will also support the work of the Youth Cabinet and our award winning Young Advisers.
- 6.10 For teenagers, realising their full potential relies on high aspirations, broad horizons and the confidence to pursue their ambitions. A wide range of extra-curricular activities encourages this, but too many young people do not have access to enriching activities outside of school and college. We will therefore harness the support of parents, communities and voluntary organisations, and build on the early successes of the *Sheffielddr* movement. This has already supported more than 300 new voluntary groups in its first year to deliver out of school activities to enrich the lives and raise aspirations of children and young people.

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- 6.11 **Tackling the underlying causes of poverty** is a significant challenge. Poverty and inequality continue to be an everyday fact of life for some people in Sheffield. Living in poverty as a child means an increased risk of poor health, low educational achievement, reduced employment prospects, and of living in poverty as an adult.

- 6.12 Our overall approach to tackling poverty has three themes. To:

- **Improve how we support those experiencing poverty or inequality:** including changing how we work so we make sure we listen and are responsive, and by helping individuals to help themselves and their communities.

- **Mitigate the worst effects of poverty:** with new council houses and reviewing our approach to affordable housing, accessible and affordable public transport, and promoting benefit take up.
 - **Tackle underlying causes to reduce future poverty:** by helping people to improve their mental wellbeing, more children being ready for learning and life, and working with others to make sure education prepares young people for work, including apprenticeships.
- 6.13 Evidence suggests that reducing poverty can be best achieved through a combination of approaches. These include: children getting the best start in life; preventing teenagers disengaging; and supporting adults to find employment and improve their skills so they can progress to better paid work. It also means: supporting struggling households with high quality, accessible and affordable childcare and transport; providing advice and support that helps them to maximise their income; and having an inclusive economic growth strategy that will deliver more and better paid jobs.
- 6.14 Many of the decisions needed are made nationally and lie outside our control, but over the next three years we want to be more ambitious and far reaching to alleviate hardship in Sheffield and break the link between being poor as a child and growing up to live in poverty as an adult. We will focus on areas where the council and our partners can have real impact, including:
- Focusing on early years to give our children the best start in life
 - Working with teenagers and young adults to make sure they remain engaged with learning and the jobs market
 - Connecting those who face the greatest barriers to work with job opportunities, including disabled jobseekers and those with health conditions
 - Helping teenagers and adults improve their skills so that they can secure better paid work
 - Maximising the income of struggling households by providing advice and support on affordable credit, benefits entitlements and money management.
- 6.15 We will do this by establishing which approaches have the most impact on people's lives and can be expanded to deliver longer term savings. In doing so, we will make the case to Government about how devolving powers and funds to a local level can reduce poverty.
-
- 6.16 We want **Sheffield to be a Living Wage city**, so that as many people as possible are paid enough money to live on. As a council, we have paid the Living Wage to all of our employees since January 2013. Although it may take time to achieve, our long term ambition is that people employed by organisations providing services on behalf of the council will also be paid Living Wage. We want others in the city to follow our lead and by 2018 for every public sector organisation in the city to sign up to the Living Wage, representing 29%³¹ of the city's workforce.
- 6.17 There are benefits to businesses from paying the Living Wage, including better quality of work, less absenteeism, improved customer perception, and greater ability to recruit and retain skilled staff³². We will promote these benefits with the private sector, support a Fair Employer Code of Practice and encourage businesses to champion the Living Wage with other business leaders in Sheffield. Over the next three years, we will also use our procurement processes to embed the Living Wage with more of our contractors and suppliers.

³¹ All persons employed in public sector as % of all persons in employment in Sheffield <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

³² Living Wage Foundation www.livingwage.org.uk

To help people who face barriers to get a job

- 6.18 Unemployment damages health and self-confidence. The longer it lasts, the less likely an individual is to find sustainable, well paid work. During the recent recession, unemployment in Sheffield increased by 155% and rates are still one and a half times higher than the national average. Unemployment remains concentrated in some areas.
- 6.19 By 2018, we aim to support 7,000 people into sustained employment by developing a local Progress to Work programme that works with communities and employers to support those facing the greatest barriers find work. We want this support to double the number of disabled people and those with mental health conditions moving into employment. We aim to double the number of young people leaving our care who progress to work or further learning and help 2,000 18-24 year olds to find a job.
- 6.20 We also want to raise aspirations for young people with special educational needs or who are disabled. We will develop quality local provision and support – including Supported Internships – that will enable many more of them to find paid employment.
- 6.21 In the next three years we will show how a locally organised employment programme can make a real difference for individuals facing the greatest barriers to work, through:
- Connections for jobseekers to the right combination of health, housing, advice, training and support to become job ready
 - Motivation, self-confidence, skills and resilience to secure and sustain employment
 - Work experience that evidences achievement and enhances job applications
 - Supported employment opportunities for people to move closer to the labour market
 - Promoted recruitment of jobseekers who face barriers to work
 - In-work support for both the employer and employee to make work sustainable
 - Key workers who can advocate for the individual; connect them to services and offer challenge and support
- 6.22 We want to: demonstrate to Government that locally organised solutions can have greater impact; support those who are most disadvantaged in the labour market to access job opportunities; and ensure at least 3,600 fewer adults claim out of work benefits by 2018.

To make ethical, affordable credit available

- 6.23 We know that in Sheffield around 50,000 people use non-standard credit, including payday and doorstep loans, store credit and loan sharks. This can be because they are unable to access traditional forms of finance through mainstream banks. In three years we want up to 5,000 people to take out an ethical, affordable loan, rather than relying on high cost payday and doorstep providers. We will work with partners to establish Sheffield Money; a new not for profit organisation.
- 6.24 Sheffield Money will provide an alternative and offer a wide range of products – including savings and loans. Because it will be a not for profit agency, working with a small number of partner³³ affordable credit organisations, it will be able to charge less than half the interest of high cost credit providers. This will allow people to keep more of their income, at a time when poverty is expected to rise. Sheffield Money will act ethically and signpost customers to advice or other forms of support where they are not in a position to pay back a loan. We expect to generate 25,000 new customer enquiries and over time Sheffield Money aims to support customers towards sustainable financial management.

³³ At launch its partners will include a credit union, and a Community Development Finance Institution, plus white goods provision.

7 How we'll use this plan

"To be the best we can be, we must deliver our promises and meet our challenges"

- 7.1 The purpose of the plan is to set the overall direction of the council for the next three years. This will inform our more detailed plans such as Service and Budget/Business Plans as well as our change programmes. The Corporate Plan will also form the basis for how we communicate to employees, local people and businesses, as well as others regionally and nationally.
- 7.2 It is essential to know what we are doing is working and that we are delivering on the promises made. Performance indicators, or measures of success, provide an objective way of defining what we are trying to achieve and what we think 'good' performance looks like, by setting ambitious but realistic targets.
- 7.3 Delivering the Corporate Plan will be a priority for the council over the next three years and measures of success will be defined and used as part of the council's approach to performance management. This includes quarterly reporting, where possible, which will be publicly available. These measures will also be included within our annual Service Plans to provide clear accountability, and we will publish our overall progress in a report at the end of each financial year.

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**Cabinet Report**

Report of: Eugene Walker

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 18 March 2015

Subject: Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2014/15 – As at 31st December 2014

Author of Report: Dave Phillips (ext. 35872)

Key Decision: YES

Reason Key Decision: Expenditure/savings over £500,000

Summary:

This report provides the month 9 monitoring statement on the City Council's Revenue and Capital Budget for 2014/15.

Reasons for Recommendations:

To formally record changes to the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme and to gain Member approval for changes in line with Financial Regulations and to reset the Capital Programme in line with the latest information.

Recommendations: Please refer to paragraph 22 of the main report for the recommendations.

Background Papers:

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Dave Phillips
Legal Implications
NO
Equality of Opportunity Implications
NO
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human Rights Implications
NO
Environmental and Sustainability implications
YES/NO
Economic Impact
NO
Community Safety Implications
NO
Human Resources Implications
NO
Property Implications
NO
Area(s) Affected
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Lead
Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press Release
NO

REVENUE BUDGET & CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2014

Purpose of the Report

- This report provides the Month 9 monitoring statement on the City Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for December. The first section summarises the position and the detailed Revenue Budget Monitoring and the Capital Programmes are reported in the Appendices.

REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

Movements from Month 8

- At month 8 the overall Council position was for a reduction in spending of £144k. The position at month 9 shows an adverse movement of £257k on the previous month, with a forecast potential overspend of £113k to the year end. Given the size and challenges of the budget, this still represents a broadly balanced budget.
- The forecast by portfolio is summarised in the table below:

Portfolio	Forecast Outturn £000s	FY Budget £000s	FY Variance £000s	Movement from Month 8
CYPF	80,675	81,136	(461)	↔
COMMUNITIES	165,696	163,578	2,118	↓
PLACE	167,827	166,159	1,668	↔
POLICY, PERFORMANCE & COMMUNICATION	3,003	2,922	81	↔
RESOURCES	63,184	62,940	244	↓
CORPORATE	(480,272)	(476,735)	(3,537)	↑
GRAND TOTAL	113	-	113	↑

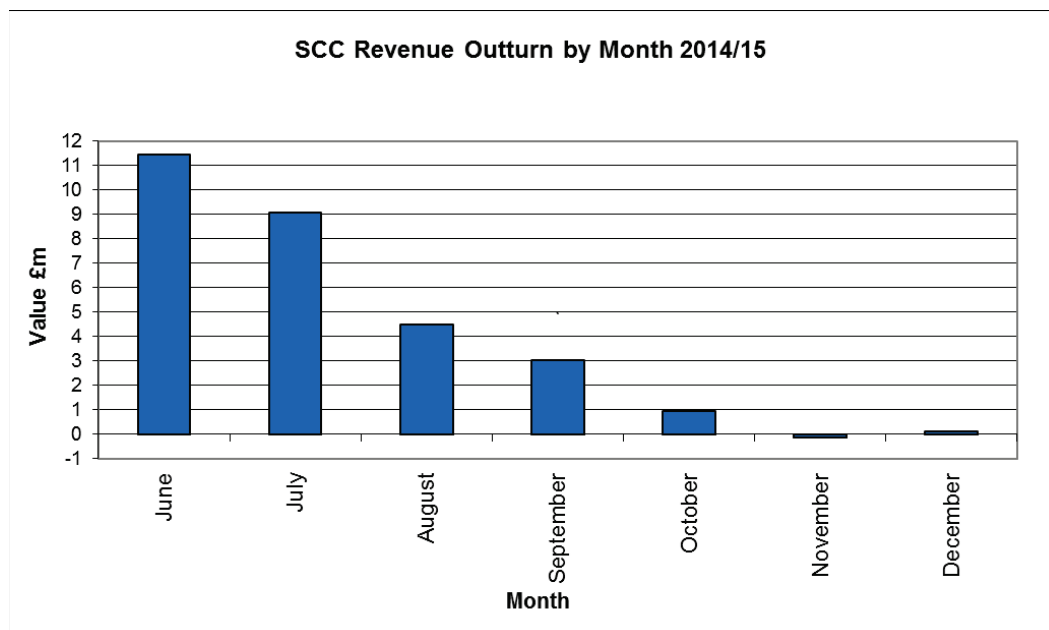
- The main variations since month 8 are:
 - Communities are forecasting an improvement of £541k, which is mainly due to the declaration of a number of small reductions in spending across the Care and Support services, as a result of ongoing challenge to Business Managers.
 - Resources are forecasting an improvement of £179k, which is mainly due to an improvement of £650k as a result of a Department of Works and Pensions led data-matching initiative which is generating high value overpayments to be recovered. This improvement is

offset by an adverse movement of £471k due to variations in forecast Council Tax and Business Rate court costs recovery.

- Corporate budgets are forecasting an adverse movement of £1m, which is mainly due to a temporary contribution towards the early repayment of the pension deficit account required to deliver £2.6m of savings over the next two years. These funds will be fully repaid during 2015/16.

Movements from initial forecasts at month 3

5. The forecast outturn shows an improving position from the £11.4m overspend reported in month 3 to the £113k overspend in month 9. This improvement reflects Portfolios' attempts to reduce spending but also the receipt of additional grant income within the Corporate budget area to help offset the significant pressures within the Communities and Place portfolios. The position month by month is shown in the following chart:



6. In terms of the month 9 overall forecast position of a £113k overspend, the key reasons are:
 - Children Young People and Families are forecasting a £461k reduction in spending mainly due to additional ESG income of £608k due to a delay in academy conversions, and £323k within the Inclusion and Learning Service predominantly due to additional traded income. These reductions in spending are partly offset by a forecast overspend on SEN Transport of £450k.

- Place are showing a forecast overspend of £1.7m, due mainly to delays in delivering the planned cost reductions to the waste contract as a result of protracted negotiations with the provider.
- Communities are showing a forecast overspend of £2.1m, due predominately to a £4.4m overspend in Care and Support relating to Learning Disability Services and the purchase of Older Peoples' care. This overspend is partly offset by significant improvements in the Adults Assessment & Care Management, which is forecasting a reduction in spend of £1.1m and a reduction in expenditure on Housing Related Support Contracts of £558k as a result of contract negotiation activities.
- Resources are showing a forecast overspend of £244k, due mainly to £256k forecast reduced forecast income from cashable procurement savings and £449k overspend in Central costs due in the main to Council Tax and Business Rates court costs recovery. These overspends are partially off-set by a £123k reduction in spending in Human Resources due to increased income in the Moorfoot Learning centre and £436k underspend in Housing Benefit due to high value over payments as a result of a DWP data-matching initiative .
- Corporate budgets are reporting a forecast reduction in spending of £3.5m, due mainly to the receipt of additional grant income awarded to the Council as compensation for business rates related measures introduced or extended in the 2013 Autumn Statement and the release of a year end provision, which is no longer required and was taken to cover any possible stamp duty liabilities resulting from the reacquisition of the Don Valley Stadium under the Major Sporting Facilities refinancing. The release of this provision and additional income has been partly offset by the aforementioned need to temporarily contribute £1m towards the early repayment of the pension deficit account in order to deliver significant savings over the next two years.

Public Health

7. The Public Health ring-fenced grant is currently forecasting a potential £1.4m underspend. However it was approved via the month 6 monitoring report that £400k of this underspend be made available to fund food bank and fuel poverty projects in 2015/16. In addition to this approval, three further projects totalling £121k are being proposed for approval in this report. Further details of these requests and the forecast outturn position can be found in **Appendix 2**.

8. The approved £400k and £121k proposed carry forward requests are not currently reflected within the forecast figures and will therefore reduce the Public Health underspend to approximately £900k. It was previously approved that the balance of this underspend would be considered in the context of the 2015/16 budget savings on public health.

Housing Revenue Account

9. The 2014/15 budget is based on an assumed in year surplus of £6.9m which is to be used to fund the HRA capital investment programme. In accordance with the HRA's financial strategy any further in- year revenue surplus / savings generated by the account will be used to provide further funding for the future HRA capital investment programme.
10. As at month 9 the full year forecast outturn is a predicted £6.2m overall improvement from budget. As such, the funding contribution to the capital investment programme will be revised from £6.9m to £13.1m Further details of the HRA forecast outturn can be found in **Appendix 3** of this report.

New Homes Bonus Fund

		£m
Income	Reserves as at 1/04/14	-5.1
	2014/15 NHB Grant Received	-1.9
	14/15 Anticipated NHB Grant	<u>-4.5</u>
	Total Income	<u>-11.5</u>
Expenditure	2014/15 Spend to date at Month 9	2.5
	Forecast to Year End	1.7
	Future Years' Commitments	<u>5.3</u>
	Total Expenditure	<u>9.5</u>
	Funds Available for Investment	<u><u>-2.0</u></u>

11. The major change in the fund position is on the former Don Valley Stadium Remediation project where the spend has been re-profiled following receipt of the detailed construction plan following the award of the construction contract. Approximately £0.5m of expenditure has been moved into future years.

Collection Fund

12. As at the end of quarter 3 the Collection Fund is forecasting a £0.4m year-end surplus on Council Tax primarily due to a combination of student exemptions decreasing compared to budget and an increase in properties since the tax base was set.
13. As at the end of quarter 3 the Collection Fund is forecasting a year-end surplus on locally retained Business Rates. There has been significant growth in the potential Business Rates yield in 2014/15 but this has been largely offset by expected increases in reliefs and appeals.
14. Further details about the quarter 3 performance of the Collection Fund can be found in **Appendix 5**.

Capital Summary

15. At the end of December 2014, the end of year position forecasts a variance of £35.6m (18%) below the approved Capital Programme. Project managers are forecasting to deliver a capital programme of £169.1m.
16. This has been reduced by £20.3m from the previous forecast of £189.4m. The main changes arise from a £1.2m reduction in the overspend on Bus Rapid Transit North project, £10m on the NRQ project where land purchases will slip into 2015/16, and a £5.7m re-profiling of spend into 2015/16 on projects following the receipt of detailed construction programmes from contractors who have just been awarded contracts. The remaining level of slippage is £3.4m.
17. Further details of the Capital Programme monitoring and projects for approval are reported in **Appendices 4 and 4.1**.

Implications of this Report

Financial implications

18. The primary purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the City Council's Budget Monitoring position for 2014/15 and, as such it does not make any recommendations which have additional financial implications for the City Council.

Equal opportunities implications

19. There are no specific equal opportunity implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Legal implications

20. There are no specific legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Property implications

21. Although this report deals, in part, with the Capital Programme, it does not, in itself, contain any property implications, nor is there any arising from the recommendations in this report.

Recommendations

22. Members are asked to:

- (a) Note the updated information and management actions provided by this report on the 2014/15 Revenue budget position.
- (b) Approve the use of £121k of Public Health forecast reduction in spend, as noted in paragraph 8 of **Appendix 2** of the report.

- (c) In relation to the Capital Programme:

- (i) Approve the proposed additions to the Capital Programme listed in **Appendix 4.1**, including the procurement strategies and delegations of authority to the Director of Commercial Services or nominated Officer, as appropriate, to award the necessary contracts following stage approval by Capital Programme Group;
- (ii) Approve the proposed variations and slippage in **Appendix 4.1**.

and note;

- (iii) The latest position on the Capital Programme; and
- (iv) the slippage requests authorised by the Cabinet Member for Finance under his delegated authority.

Reasons for Recommendations

23. To formally record changes to the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme and gain Member approval for changes in line with Financial Regulations and to reset the capital programme in line with latest information.

Alternative options considered

24. A number of alternative courses of action are considered as part of the process undertaken by Officers before decisions are recommended to Members. The recommendations made to Members represent what Officers believe to be the best options available to the Council, in line with Council priorities, given the constraints on funding and the use to which funding is put within the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

Dave Phillips
Interim Director of Finance

Portfolio Month 9 Budget Monitoring Reports

Children Young People and Families (CYPF)

Summary

1. As at month 9 the Portfolio is forecasting a full year outturn of a reduction in spending of £461k on cash limit, an improvement of £40k from the month 8 position (after taking into account the carry forward request for the Apprenticeship schemes agreed last month), and DSG is forecast to be overspent by £215k. The key reasons for the forecast outturn position are:
 - **Business Strategy:** £60k forecast reduction in spending, additional Education Services Grant (ESG) income to that budgeted of £608k and £77k on Insurance due to the timing of academy conversions and a reduced level of pump priming of £63k for Vulnerable Groups with activity now being picked up by schools. This underspend is partly offset by a forecast £150k overspend on Bus Passes and £450k overspend on SEN Transport due to demand increase, redundancy costs against Music Service £79k and under recovery of traded income Advice and Conciliation Service £43k.
 - **Children and Families:** £2k forecast overspend. Overspending areas are Management and Business Support £169k due to delay in the Business Support MER, Legal Fees £132k (based on previous year's trends), Fieldwork Service Areas and Permanence and Throughcare £662k net overspend mainly due to difficulties in achieving vacancy monitoring targets, Placements £73k due to costs being significantly greater than the external funding available, Direct Payments £213k due to parents accessing their own care arrangements. These overspends are being partially offset by a reduction in spending on Contact Contracts £530k due to more efficient management using contact centres and Placements £561k due to the positive trends in the numbers and costs of placements .
 - **Inclusion and Learning Services:** £323k forecast reduction in spending due to £197k as a result of additional traded income in Educational Psychologists, £91k in Advocacy and Challenge and £142k in SEN Placement Team due to vacancies. These are partly offset by an overspend in In City SEN Provision £134k due to additional High Risk Learners identified.
 - **Lifelong Learning and Skills:** £80k forecast reduction in spending due to £220k underspend in Youth Teams which is unallocated budget partly offset by overspends in the Training Units £135k, these are under review and as delivery reflects changes in provision an MER will be undertaken .

- DSG Budgets:** Overall a £215k overspend made up of a £675k reduction in spend in Business Strategy due mainly to a £968k reduction in spending on 2 Year Old FEL offset by £258k overspend on SEN Transport. A reduction in spend of £97k in Children and Families in MAST due to a saving identified on staffing. An anticipated overspend of £879k in Inclusion and Learning overall, made up of overspends of £562k in Banded Funding, £242k Independent Placements and £369k in In City SEN Provision due to demand pressures, partially offset by reduction in spends on Sensory Services £49k and £130k Inclusion and Learning Services due to vacancies and £51k in Pupil Admissions. An overspend in Lifelong Learning and Skills of £107k due mainly to increased numbers of Post 16 High Needs learner placements £130k partially offset by a small under spend in Extended Learning £16k.
- City Deal:** City Skills funding carry forward of £275k has been used to pump prime City Deal and this funding has all been spent. City Deal is currently forecasting to budget with approximately £300k of spend to take place between January and March. Currently the funds held on the balance sheet are £6.5m with the EFA taking back £2m imminently.

Financials (Non-DSG activity)

Service	Forecast Outturn £000s	FY Budget £000s	FY Variance £000s	Movement from Month 8
BUSINESS STRATEGY	548	608	(60)	↔
CHILDREN & FAMILIES	64,862	64,860	2	↔
INCLUSION & LEARNING SERVICES	5,403	5,726	(323)	↓
LIFELONG LEARN, SKILL & COMMUN	9,862	9,942	(80)	↔
GRAND TOTAL	80,675	81,136	(461)	↔

Commentary

- The following commentary concentrates on the key changes from the previous month.

Non-DSG Budgets

- As at month 9 the Portfolio is forecasting a full year outturn of a reduction in spending of £461k on cash limit. This compares with last month's position £423k, (after taking into account the carry forward request for the Apprenticeship schemes agreed last month), a movement of £38k.

Business Strategy

4. As at month 9, Business Strategy is currently forecasting a reduction in spend of £60k (shown in the table above) relating to cash limit. This is a reduction of £90k from the previous month.
5. The reduction this month is due mainly to additional pressure on SEN Transport £209k due to forecasting in additional volumes of client, £72k on Bus Passes due to previous forecast being based on 2013/14 academic year where 2014/15 actuals now available. These reductions are offset by additional income from Education Services Grant £210k due to reduced levels of academy conversions to that budgeted.

Children and Families

6. As at month 9, Children and Families is currently forecasting a £2k overspend (shown in the table above) relating to cash limit. This compares to last month's forecast.
7. Whilst the overall Children and Families position remains the same as month 8 there has been an additional reported overspend of £124k against Direct Payments due to increased level of activity which is offset by improvements in Policy and Service £50k and Prevention and Early Intervention £72k due to reductions in forecast expenditure.

Inclusion and Learning

8. As at month 9, Inclusion and Learning Service is currently forecasting £323k reduction in spend (shown in the table above) relating to cash limit. This is an improved position £109k from previous month.
9. The reduction this month is due to additional income on Educational Psychologists £53k, reduction in expenditure against both Learning Support £32k and Advocacy and Challenge £40k.

Lifelong Learning and Skills

10. As at month 9, Lifelong Learning Skills and Communities Service is currently a £80k reduced spend (shown in the table above) relating to cash limit. This is an improved position of £21k.
11. The key reason for the improved position is an under spend against Performance and Analysis £12k and Youth £8k due to vacancies.

DSG Budgets

12. The month 9 position is a £215k overspend, which is a worsened position of £390k from the position reported at Month 8. This worsened position is predominantly due additional spend against SEN Transport, SEN on Banded Funding, In City SEN Provision and Independent Placements. The position has also been impacted by a spending moratorium and removal of budget to provide for the SEN pressure in year, which has the impact of increasing the reserve on DSG going forward.

Place

Summary

13. As at month 9 the Portfolio is forecasting a full year outturn of an £1.6m overspend, broadly in line with previous month. The key reasons for the forecast outturn position are:
 - **Business Strategy & Regulation:** £1.5m over budget largely due to delays in delivering the planned cost reductions to the waste contract as a result of protracted negotiations with the provider.
 - **Capital & Major Projects:** £623k over budget largely due to income and cost pressures within the markets activity.
 - **Regeneration & Development Services:** £447k under budget largely due to vacancy management of £200k and additional forecast income of £300k primarily in planning and building regulation fees.
 - **Place Public Health:** whilst the net position is balanced, forecast spend and grant income at £3.1m is £0.8m below budget, largely due to below target performance on the Stop Smoking Contract.
14. All Directors have now completed a review of their spending plans for the remainder of the financial year. This has identified a range of planned actions / improvements with the potential for up to £1.1m of cost reductions compared to the month 8 forecast, of which to date £0.6m has been forecast in the month 9 position.

Financial Results

Service	Forecast Outturn £000s	FY Budget £000s	FY Variance £000s	Movement from Month 8
BUSINESS STRATEGY & REGULATION	30,693	29,235	1,458	↔
CAPITAL & MAJOR PROJECTS	1,173	550	623	↔
CREATIVE SHEFFIELD	2,941	3,037	(96)	↔
CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT	45,174	45,241	(67)	↔
MARKETING SHEFFIELD	1,003	806	197	↔
PLACE PUBLIC HEALTH	-	0	0	↔
REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT SER	86,843	87,290	(447)	↔
GRAND TOTAL	167,827	166,159	1,668	↔

Commentary

15. The following commentary concentrates on the changes from the previous month.

Business Strategy & Regulation

16. The forecast for this activity is £1.5m over budget, an £80k adverse movement on the previous period, due additional one-off pressures.
17. The forecast reflects an assumed £1.2m risk pending agreement with the Contractor on new terms to reflect the revised waste collection arrangements.
18. Other cost pressures have to a large extent been mitigated, through one-off savings / additional income including the finalisation of the prior year sale of heat income due to the Council. However, risks remain around underlying waste volumes and diversion of waste should further maintenance be required on the Energy Recovery Facility.
19. Work is progressing on developing further the range of options for negotiation with the contractor with a view to implementation towards the end of the financial year.

Capital & Major Projects

20. The forecast for this activity is £622k over budget, broadly in line with the previous period.
21. The forecast position largely reflects income pressures within the markets service of £700k. There may be further risk here if stall lettings cannot be held at current levels. The business model for the market is currently under review

balancing lower rents against the need for more flexibility in location to ensure let space is maximised.

Culture & Environment

22. The forecast for this activity is £67k under budget, an improvement of £93k this period, largely due to lower spend now forecast on supplies and services across the whole service.
23. The Service has been working with Sheffield International Venues to finalise a three year funding commitment to enable them to deliver a significant package of savings. The three year funding commitment should remove the requirement for the Council to pick up risks associated with reductions in profit at the Motorpoint Arena or trading deficits within the SCT / SIV group, which would be absorbed by the Trust as part of its 3 year plan.
24. The Director continues to work closely with SIV to ensure that these plans are progressed and risks are mitigated.

Marketing Sheffield

25. The forecast for this activity is £197k over budget, broadly in line with the previous period. The forecast for this activity is £197k over budget, broadly in line with the previous period and largely reflects not securing planned reductions in subsidy for major events.

Public Health

26. The net forecast for this activity remains balanced since spend is covered from the Health grant. However, it should be noted that forecast spend and grant income at £3.1m is £0.8m below budget. This largely reflects a forecast reduction in spend on the Stop Smoking Contract due to below target performance on this contract.

Regeneration & Development Services

27. The forecast for this activity is £447k under budget, broadly in line with the previous period. The key variances include vacancy management of £0.2m and additional forecast income of £0.3m primarily in planning and building regulation fees. The forecast does not include at this stage a potential Streets Ahead contract performance deduction relating to problems at the bus lane at London Road during July / August.

Communities

Summary

28. As at month 9, the Portfolio is forecasting a full year outturn of an overspend of £2.1m, an improvement of £541k from the month 8 position. The main reason for this outturn position is due predominately to a £4.4m overspend in Care and Support relating to Learning Disability Services. The overall position can be summarised as follows:

- **Business Strategy:** Currently reporting a forecast reduction in spend of £228k against the full-year budget. This is mainly due to a reduction in spend on the mail / insurance and legal SLAs of £185k, forecast reduced spending in salary and related expenditure across the Directorate of £343k, offset by one-off expenditure of £300k used for business improvement activity.
- **Care & Support:** An overspend of £3m is currently forecast due to ongoing pressures and issues in Adult Social Care primarily relating to increased demand on care purchasing budgets. These budgets continue to be the focus of recovery action led by the Adult Social Care Savings Board and the LD Commissioning Board. Recovery action has helped improve the position by £1.7m from a forecast overspend of £4.7m earlier in the year at month 4.
- Significant improvements have been made in the Adults Assessment & Care Management, which is forecasting a reduction in spend of £1.1m by the end of March 2015, due to 2014/15 savings proposals. Contributions to Care is showing a small surplus against budget, with the main offsetting factors being a shortfall in income of £1m due to numbers of contributing service users being less than had been forecast because of business demand management and appliance of eligibility criteria and a surplus in income from CHC of £0.9m due to more joint funded cases where services are commissioned by the Council.
- There remains a significant overspend of £4.4m within the Learning Disabilities Service relating to increased demand on care purchasing budgets of £3.4m and in-house care provision £1m.
- **Commissioning:** Currently reporting a forecast reduction in spending of £560k against the full year budget. The reduction in spend can be attributed to a reduction in expenditure on Housing Related Support Contracts of £558k as a result of contract negotiation activities; surplus income from

Water Rates collection services of £74k and reduction in spending on staffing costs of £79k and non-pay costs of £40k.

- This reduction is offset by forecast overspend of £152k relating to the agreed sharing of SHSCT unachieved savings dating back to 2013/14 and an overspend related to staff joining the LD Re-Provision Team of £39k.
- **Community Services:** Reporting a forecast reduction in spending for the year of £93k due mainly to reduction in spending of £79k on pay-related costs in Locality Services due to vacancies not now being filled this financial year.

Financials

Service	Forecast Outturn £000s	FY Budget £000s	FY Variance £000s	Movement from Month 8
BUSINESS STRATEGY	4,296	4,524	(228)	↑
CARE AND SUPPORT	119,556	116,556	3,000	↓
COMMISSIONING	32,183	32,743	(560)	↓
COMMUNITY SERVICES	9,661	9,754	(93)	↓
GRAND TOTAL	165,696	163,578	2,118	↓

Commentary

29. The following commentary concentrates on the changes from the previous month:

Business Strategy

- **Executive and Portfolio-wide Services:** £79k favourable move in month as a result of realignment of budgets for the management structure and reduction in expected cost of the legal SLA.
- **Planning and Performance:** £250k net adverse move in month, primarily relating to one-off business improvement expenditure of £300k, partly offset by a £50k reduction in forecast pay costs

Care & Support

- **Assessment & Care Management:** In the month, there has been a favourable movement of £42k, as a result of additional income and savings on salaries.
- **Contributions to Care (income):** There has been an improvement of £201k from the previous month, due to improvements in service users' contributions of £85k and a review of income due from property charges of £100k.

- **Housing Related Services:** A favourable movement of £267k due to the movement of Housing Services to Assessment & Care Management of £115k, further reductions in forecast expenditure on the Local Assistance Scheme of £43k and a full review of all anticipated expenditure.
- **Joint Learning Disability Services:** An adverse movement of £54k arising from an adverse movement in purchasing forecast of £101k following a review of expected expenditure, offset by an improvement in Provider Services of £56k. There were also some minor increases in other areas totalling £9k.
- **Provider Services:** There has been an adverse movement of £57k, primarily due to additional staffing costs due to winter activity and very high sickness levels.

Commissioning

- **Housing Commissioning:** £90k favourable movement in month due to reduction in spend on Housing Related Support contracts.
- **Social Care Commissioning:** £50k favourable movement as a result of revision of pay forecasts.

Community Services

- **Libraries:** £170k favourable movement mainly due to review of pressures previously included in forecasts of £117k, £20k favourable move on utility costs and review of payroll and income resulting in £25k favourable move.

Year to Date

30. The Year to Date position as at Month 9 is as follows:

	December		
Service	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
BUSINESS STRATEGY	2,854	2,816	38
CARE AND SUPPORT	89,391	88,731	660
COMMISSIONING	23,033	23,494	(461)
COMMUNITY SERVICES	7,308	7,742	(434)
Grand Total	122,586	122,783	(197)

Resources

Summary

31. As at month 9 the Portfolio is forecasting a full year outturn of an of £244k, an improvement of £178k from the month 8 position. The key reasons for the forecast outturn position are:

- £256k overspend due to reduced forecast income from cashable procurement savings;
- £449k overspend in Central costs due in the main to Council Tax and Business Rates court costs recovery.

Offset by:

- £123k reduction in spend in Human Resources due to increased income in the Moorfoot Learning centre.
- £436k under spend in Housing Benefit due to high value over payments as a result of a DWP data-matching initiative.

Financials

Service	Forecast Outturn £000s	FY Budget £000s	FY Variance £000s	Movement from Month 8
BUSINESS CHANGE & INFORMATION SOLUTIONS	(8,184)	(8,184)	(0)	↔
COMMERCIAL SERVICES	1,090	1,069	21	↔
COMMERCIAL SERVICES (SAVINGS)	(1,195)	(1,451)	256	↔
CUSTOMER SERVICES	4,752	4,711	41	↔
FINANCE	2,614	2,611	3	↔
HUMAN RESOURCES	2,481	2,604	(123)	↔
LEGAL SERVICES	3,984	3,935	49	↔
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT & PLANNING	187	205	(18)	↔
TRANSPORT AND FACILITIES MGT	34,977	34,977	0	↔
TOTAL	40,706	40,477	229	↔
CENTRAL COSTS	22,186	21,736	450	↑
HOUSING BENEFIT	291	727	(436)	↓
GRAND TOTAL	63,184	62,940	244	↓

Commentary

32. The following commentary concentrates on the changes from the previous month.

Central Costs

33. A forecast £450k overspend. This is an adverse movement of £471k from the previous month. The adverse movement this month is due to variations in forecast Council Tax and Business Rate court costs recovery. It should be noted that 2013/14 saw an unprecedented level of Council Taxpayers being taken to court for non-payment of Council Tax almost entirely due to the introduction of Council Tax Support (CTS) but also due to the impact of other welfare reforms such as the bedroom tax. This has created a significant degree of uncertainty in predicting payment behaviour in 2014/15 which, to date, has seen fewer cases being taken to court compared to the same time last year (when budgets were set). The Council Tax service continues to come to terms with increased volumes of low level debt and is exploring the most effective ways of recovering it without adding to the financial burden of taxpayers through the imposition of additional court costs. This situation continues to be closely monitored and it is hoped that the decision to make no changes to our CTS scheme in 2015/16 will help to provide greater stability for taxpayers and therefore allow more certainty in predicting payment behaviour in the future. This, in turn, should allow for more accurate forecasting of court costs.

Housing Benefit

34. A forecast £436k reduction in spending. This is an improvement of £650k from the previous month. The improvement this month is largely due to a Department of Works and Pensions led data-matching initiative which is generating high value overpayments to be recovered. This trend is likely to continue to the end of the year but as this is a new initiative the forecast value is unknown so the position is being closely monitored.

Policy, Performance and Communications

Summary

35. As at month 9 the Portfolio is forecasting a full year outturn of an overspend of £81k, an improvement of £8k from the month 8 position. The key reasons for the forecast outturn position are:
- £99k overspend in Communications mainly due to insufficient income to cover employee costs;
 - £22k overspend in CEX office due to LGYH costs;
 - £52k overspend in Electoral registration due to the costs of canvas staff and IT support costs consistent with previous years.

Offset by savings in:

- Savings through vacancy management & reduced supplies & services spend across other business units.

Financials

Service	Forecast Outturn £000s	FY Budget £000s	FY Variance £000s	Movement from Month 8
ACCOUNTABLE BODY ORGANISATIONS	0	0	0	↔
POLICY, PERFORMANCE & COMMUNICATION	3,138	3,057	81	↔
PUBLIC HEALTH	(135)	(135)	0	↔
GRAND TOTAL	3,003	2,922	81	↔

Corporate items

Summary

36. The table below shows the items which are classified as Corporate and which include:

- **Corporate Budget Items & Corporate Savings:** (i) corporate wide budgets that are not allocated to individual services / portfolios, including capital financing costs and the provision for redundancy / severance costs, and; (ii) the budgeted saving on the review of enhancements and the budgeted saving from improved sundry debt collection.
- **Corporate income:** Revenue Support Grant, locally retained business rates and Council tax income, some specific grant income and contributions to/from reserves.

Financials

	<u>FY Outturn</u> £'000	<u>FY Budget</u> £'000	<u>FY</u> <u>Variance</u> £'000
Corporate Budget Items & Savings Proposals	69,235	69,622	(387)
Income from Council Tax, RSG, NNDR, other grants and reserves	(548,900)	(545,751)	(3,149)
Total Corporate Budgets	(479,666)	(476,129)	(3,537)

Commentary

- The £3.5m reduction in spending reported in month 9 is an adverse movement of £1.0m, which is mainly due to a temporary contribution towards the early repayment of the pension deficit account required to deliver £2.6m of saving over the next two years.

PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGET MONITORING AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014 (MONTH 9)

Purpose of the Report

1. To report on the 2014/15 Public Health grant spend across the Council for the month ending 31 December 2014.
2. The report provides details of the forecast full year spend of Public Health grant compared to budget. Key variances are explained and any financial risks are discussed in the risk section.
3. The net reported position for each portfolio/service area would normally be zero as public health spend is matched by a draw down of public health grant. For the purposes of this report and in order to identify where corrective action may be necessary, we have shown actual expenditure compared to budget.

Summary

4. At month 9 the overall position was a forecast under spend of £1.4m. The position shows a reduction in forecast spend of £106k on the previous month. This is summarised in the table below.

All figures £000s					
Portfolio	Forecast full year expenditure	Full year expenditure budget	Full year variance	FY variance at month 8	Movement from prior month
CYPF	11,167	11,281	(114)	(30)	(84)
COMMUNITIES	13,126	13,314	(188)	(171)	(17)
PLACE	2,945	3,728	(783)	(746)	(37)
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH (inc PH Intelligence)	2,187	2,519	(332)	(364)	32
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	29,425	30,842	(1,417)	(1,311)	(106)

5. Key reasons for the forecast under spend are:
 - Contract slippage in Director Public Health Office (£202k);
 - Lower than budgeted take up on GP Health checks (£87k);
 - Unallocated vacant post budget and vacancy management in DPH office (£99k);
 - Unbudgeted income from CCG (£52k);

- £649k under spend on Stop Smoking Service contracts;
- £120k staff savings in Place due to vacancy management; and
- £188k under spend in Communities due to staff savings in Private Sector Housing (£39k), PH Commissioning (£53k), DACT and savings on DACT contracts (£96k).

This is offset by:

- £135k savings target (under DPH Office) to be met from under spends across all public health spend.
6. The forecast is a reduction in forecast spend of £106k from month 8 and the key reasons for the movement are:
- Communities reduction in forecast spend of (£17k) due to net minor reductions in expenditure in various areas;
 - £81k reduction in forecast spend in CYP mainly due to vacancy management and new income stream for IUCDs; and
 - £37k reduction in forecast spend in Place due to the 50% contribution to interim consultant payment no longer required (£40k).

Offset by:

- £32k increase in forecast spend in Director of Public Health office, mainly in GP Health Check spend.

Carry Forward Requests

7. For 2015/16, CMT have approved £400k of the current year underspend is to be allocated to Food Banks (£300k) and Fuel Poverty (£100k).
8. In addition other carry forward proposals are being considered:
- £10k to Bridge Employment for funding for managerial capacity;
 - £30k to address environmental health and pest control problems;
 - £31k for interim senior public health staffing; and
 - £50k for refurbishment of Sidney Street Premises.

Housing Revenue Account

Summary

1. The HRA Business Plan is based on the principle of ensuring that investment and services required for council housing is met by income raised in the HRA.
2. The 2014/15 budget is based on an assumed in year surplus of £6.9m which is to be used to fund the HRA capital investment programme. In accordance with the HRA's financial strategy any further in- year revenue surplus / savings generated by the account will be used to provide further funding for the future HRA capital investment programme.
3. As at month 9 the full year forecast outturn is a predicted £6.2m overall improvement from budget. As such, the funding contribution to the capital investment programme will be revised from £6.9m to £13.1m (shown in the table). This has been factored into the HRA Business Plan which sets out the council's ambitious plans and priorities for council housing over the next five years. Capital investment is to be made on improving council housing with a focus on works such as replacement heating systems, insulation and energy efficiency, new roofs, improvements to communal areas as well as building or buying new/replacement council housing.
4. The areas contributing to the improvement are: higher than budgeted net dwelling income (£941k) mainly as a result of revised year end assumptions on the profiling of the of bad debt provision; a net forecast of (£218k) on other income; a saving of (£1.9m) on repairs and maintenance which is partly due to a reduced volume of responsive repairs. This is in accordance with HRA's Business plan of increasing capital investment in properties which would result in savings on responsive repairs any further savings will be reported in due course. A (£2.9m) forecasted saving on overall running costs is predicted primarily due to staff vacancies and turnover , delays in some projects and lower than expected recharges; and a forecast reduction of (£283k) for interest on borrowing due to continued favourable interest rates is also expected.

Financial Results

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (EXC COMMUNITY HEATING)	FY Outturn £000's *	FY Budget £000's *	FY Variance £000's *	Movement from Month 8
1.NET INCOME DWELLINGS	(146,834)	(145,893)	(941)	↔
2.OTHER INCOME	(6,539)	(6,321)	(218)	↔
3 REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	35,060	36,998	(1,938)	↑
4.DEPRECIATION –CAP PROG FUNDING	37,967	37,967	0	↔
5.TENANT SERVICES	52,172	55,047	(2,875)	↑
6.INTEREST ON DEBT	14,994	15,277	(283)	↔
7.CONT TO CAPITAL PROG	13,180	6,925	6,255	↑

Community Heating

5. The budgeted position for Community Heating is a draw down from Community Heating reserves of £348k. As at month 8 the forecast position is a draw down from reserves of £136k resulting in a decrease in expenditure of (£211k). This is a movement of (£32k) from last month.

COMMUNITY HEATING	FY Outturn £000's *	FY Budget £000's *	FY Variance £000's *	Movement from Month 7
INCOME	(3,299)	(3,440)	141	↔
EXPENDITURE	3,436	3,788	(352)	↑
Total	137	348	(211)	↑

CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2014

Summary

1. At the end of December 2014, the end of year position forecasts a variance of £35.6m (18%) below the approved Capital Programme. Project managers are forecasting to deliver a capital programme of £169.1m.
2. This has been reduced by £20.3m from the previous forecast of £189.4m. The main changes arise from a £1.2m reduction in the overspend on Bus Rapid Transit North project, £10m on the NRQ project where land purchases will slip into 2015/16, and a £5.7m re-profiling of spend on the new Through School and Remediation projects on the site of the former Don Valley Stadium reflecting the contractors construction plan following the award of the contracts.
3. The current forecast assumes key projects such as Grey-to-Green and Leisure and sport facilities deliver to budget. Discussions are taking place with the accountable body for one of the main funders of the leisure facilities and it is possible that a re-profiling of this spend will lead to a further reduction next period of around £7m – 8m.
4. The Year to Date position shows spending to be £21.1m below the approved programme profile. The programme has fallen a further £2.3m behind the budget in the month although the level of spend was above previous months.
5. The Finance report at month 6 predicted an Outturn of around £175m (+/- the NRQ) and the December results suggest this was optimistic.
6. In the CYPF programme, the main changes from last month's forecast (£5.6m) reflect £4.1m slippage on the Don Valley Through School, £0.6m slippage in the primary maintenance programme at Lydgate and £0.3m on capacity expansion at Hallam. The projects will catch up and deliver the necessary improvements for the relevant school year. The Foster Carers Homes expansion project has been reviewed after several delays, and the service has concluded that it can achieve the reduction in out- of- city placements by other means. It is therefore reducing the scope of the project by £0.9m to £0.3m
7. The Place forecast has decreased by £12.1m primarily as a result of the slippage on the NRQ and potential savings on the Don Valley Stadium

Appendix 4

remediation projects. The Highways programme has fallen by £1.4m mainly as a result of revised forecast cost for the Bus Rapid Transit North project where projected overspend has been reduced.

Financials 2014/15

Portfolio	Spend to Date	Budget to Date	Variance to Date	Full Year Forecast	Full Year Budget	Full Year Variance	Change on last Mth Budget	Change on last Forecast
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
CYPF	17,103	20,794	(3,691)	24,534	35,493	(10,959)	(5,727)	(5,649)
Place	16,009	24,776	(8,767)	36,839	49,690	(12,852)	(11,815)	(12,098)
Housing	16,617	22,310	(5,693)	40,115	49,085	(8,970)	(231)	(248)
Highways	17,967	18,923	(956)	28,011	29,676	(1,665)	(1,461)	(1,427)
Communities	1,143	1,657	(513)	1,804	1,893	(89)	(36)	(36)
Resources	2,805	4,314	(1,509)	4,929	5,969	(1,040)	(610)	(828)
Corporate	26,304	26,304	-	32,883	32,883	-	-	-
Grand Total	97,948	119,077	(21,129)	169,115	204,689	(35,575)	(19,881)	(20,287)

Capital Programme

Capital Programme

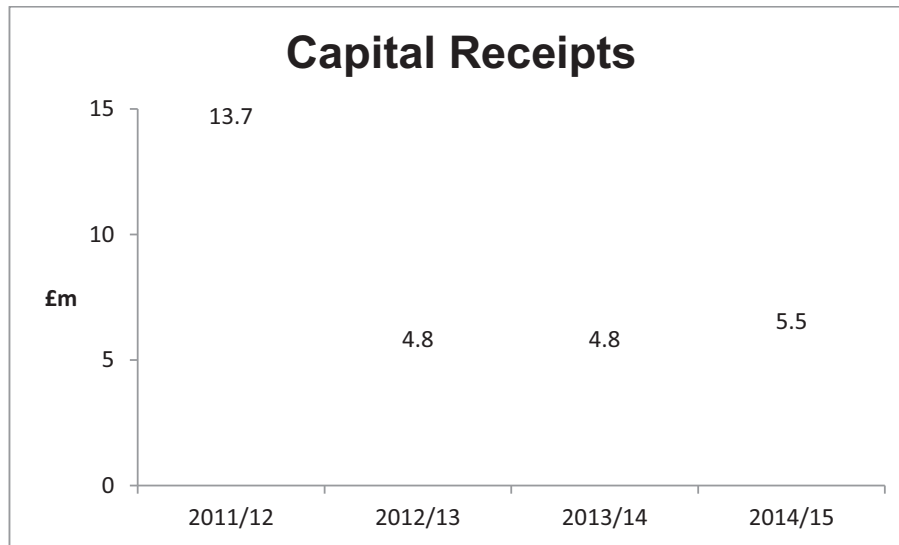
	2014-15	2015-16	Future	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Month 8 Approved Budget	205.1	210.3	311.3	726.7
Additions	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.3
Variations	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	-1.0
Month 9 Approved Budget	204.7	210.6	310.8	726.0

8. There was no significant variation to the five year capital programme last month with a net decrease of £0.7m.

9. Of the significant projects in the Capital Programme the key variances are:
- The overspend on the BRT North due to the discovery of contaminated land and an unchartered sewer. Officers are working with South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive on a variety of alternative funding sources which will mitigate the overspend; the scale of the overspend has been reduced by £1.2m.
 - Despite being behind schedule at the end of November both Norfolk Park School rebuild and the Additional Secondary School Places will deliver the required capacity in time for the relevant academic years;
 - The acquisition of additional council housing stock is behind schedule due to delays in identifying suitable properties, conveyancing process delays and cheaper purchases but is expected to recover and spend the full amount through buying more properties out of the underspend.

Funding the Capital Programme

10. Projects are not entered into the capital programme unless they are fully funded. Where external funding is used, the funding will be secured by a contract. Those projects backed by the Council's own internal funding source of the Corporate Resource Pool rely on the Council generating sufficient capital receipts from the sale of assets.
11. The Capital Programme Group recommends to Cabinet the speed at which bids for support can be approved based on the rate at which capital receipts are realised. The target for 2014/15 was £10.1m. The actual achieved to date is just under £3m with a possibility of another £2.5m to come before the year end. This reflects a downward trend over the last three years.



12. The shortfall has been reflected in the financial planning for the 2015-16 programme where members have been recommended not to commit to projects beyond 2015/16 if funded by CRP.

Approvals

13. A number of schemes have been submitted for approval in line with the Council's agreed capital approval process. The December (Month 8) report approvals included significant adjustments to the Capital Programme which will go to Special Budget Council in March and further detail is included in the 2015-16 Capital Programme Report.
14. Below is a summary of the number and total value of schemes in each approval category:
- 3 additions of specific projects to the capital programme with a gross value of £44.7m.
 - 10 variations to the capital programme creating a net increase of £223k
 - 22 slippage requests moving £15.2m into future years.
15. Further details of the schemes listed above can be found in Appendix 4.1.

Finance

January 2015

Scheme Description	Approval Type	Value £000	Procurement Route																		
GREAT PLACE TO LIVE																					
Homes																					
<p>Kitchen/ Bathroom/Windows /Doors Planned Replacement</p> <p>The Works comprise improvements and refurbishment to Council-owned dwellings (Houses, Flats, Bungalows, Maisonettes) across the City, generally where whole house works or elements of work were omitted, missed or refused under the Decent Homes Programme (2004-13), and includes new external doors & frames, windows, kitchen & bathroom fittings, flooring, plasterwork, redecoration, re-wiring, plumbing and sundry associated works.</p> <p>The refurbished and improved dwellings will provide a safer and more pleasant environment for tenants and visitors. The work will also improve the security and thermal properties of dwellings.</p> <p>These works will be funded from the HRA</p>	Addition	29,467	The project will be split into two Contracts, of similar size and value, one open via OJEU (Contract 1) and one utilising the new EN Procure Framework (Contract 2).																		
<table> <tr> <td></td> <td>2015/16</td> <td>2016/17</td> <td>2017/18</td> <td>2018/19</td> <td>2019/20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Profile (£k)</td> <td>3,000</td> <td>6,900</td> <td>6,800</td> <td>6,800</td> <td>5,967</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. of properties</td> <td>547</td> <td>1,255</td> <td>1,616</td> <td>1,653</td> <td>1,620</td> </tr> </table>		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	Profile (£k)	3,000	6,900	6,800	6,800	5,967	No. of properties	547	1,255	1,616	1,653	1,620			
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20																
Profile (£k)	3,000	6,900	6,800	6,800	5,967																
No. of properties	547	1,255	1,616	1,653	1,620																

<p>Windows & Doors Replacement The Works comprise improvements and refurbishment to Council-owned dwellings (Houses, Flats, Bungalows, Maisonettes) across the City, generally where whole house works or elements of work were omitted, missed or refused under the Decent Homes Programme (2004-13). Specifically this Business Unit relates to properties where only new external doors & window frames are required. These works will be funded from the HRA.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>2015/16</td> <td>2016/17</td> <td>2017/18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Profile (£k)</td> <td>300</td> <td>4,100</td> <td>4,100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No. of properties</td> <td>191</td> <td>2,466</td> <td>2,918</td> </tr> </table>		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Profile (£k)	300	4,100	4,100	No. of properties	191	2,466	2,918	<p>Addition</p>	<p>8,500</p>	<p>This will be procured under the Restricted Procedure via OJEU</p>
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18												
Profile (£k)	300	4,100	4,100												
No. of properties	191	2,466	2,918												
<p>Kitchens Bathrooms Windows & Doors This adjustment to allocation of funding from the block provision in the programme to the two projects above .</p>	<p>Variation</p>	<p>-37,967</p>	<p>n/a</p>												
<p>Former Norton Aerodrome The demolition and site remediation works have been delayed until at least 2015/16 due to the Master-Planning being rescheduled to coincide with the public consultation on the Sheffield Local Plan. Options for consulting on the master plan and timescales for the marketing and sale are currently being presented to the Cabinet Member.</p>	<p>Slippage</p>	<p>-229</p>	<p>n/a</p>												

<p>Approval is being sought to slip £229k into 2015/16 and re-profile the budget as shown below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2014/15</th> <th>2015/16</th> <th>Future Years</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Approved Budget</td> <td>247</td> <td>110</td> <td></td> <td>357</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Revised Budget</td> <td>18</td> <td>259</td> <td>80</td> <td>357</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Variance</td> <td>-229</td> <td>149</td> <td>80</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The project is funded from the New Homes Bonus incentive payments.</p>		2014/15	2015/16	Future Years	Total	Approved Budget	247	110		357	Revised Budget	18	259	80	357	Variance	-229	149	80	0			
	2014/15	2015/16	Future Years	Total																			
Approved Budget	247	110		357																			
Revised Budget	18	259	80	357																			
Variance	-229	149	80	0																			
<p>Highways</p>																							
<p>Little Don Link Cycle Route This project was initially approved by Cabinet in January 2014 for £450k to create a new cycle route along the Little Don River to link Stocksbridge and Deepcar to Barnsley, Northern Sheffield and the Peak District. It forms part of the larger £1.1m scheme for South Yorkshire, funded by a Department for Transport (DfT) grant awarded to Derbyshire County Council.</p> <p>The project was initially funded from £350k DfT grant and £100k Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>The overall scheme has experienced significant delays on a section in Barnsley which has resulted in approximately £350k of DfT funding being returned. It has been agreed the reduction in the allocation will be split between Sheffield and Barnsley authorities.</p> <p>As a result, the project funding from DfT has been reduced by £177k.</p> <p>The original scope included four interventions. As a result of the reduction in funding only one will be delivered - the Stocksbridge link. The remaining three will be delayed</p>	<p>Slippage / variation</p>	<p>Slippage Variation -222 -174</p>	<p>Covered by the original strategy. Competitive Tender (£170k) and waiver to use Steel Valley Project</p>																				

<p>until other funding options have been explored.</p> <p>The Service has bid for other external funding which would permit the scope to be extended in the future.</p> <p>Approval is also being sought to slip £222k (£100k LTP and £122k DfT grant) into 2015/16.</p>			
<p>Bridge Strengthening</p> <p>The overall project is to replace/strengthen bridge decks. The bridges belong to Network Rail, but as they carry public highways over railway tracks, the Highway Authority (Sheffield City Council) is responsible for funding the works.</p> <p>Network Rail are only able to carry out works to the value of £100k in 2014/15 therefore, approval is being sought to slip the remaining LTP budget allocation of £200k into 2015/16.</p>	Slippage	-200	n/a
<p>CCTV Parking Enforcement</p> <p>The capital programme includes a provision for the replacement of life expired parking meters. The development of a strategic business case by the service to demonstrate that the proposal delivers value for money and will adopt the most appropriate technology given the current state of the market is taking longer than anticipated and so the project has slipped behind schedule.</p> <p>Approval is being requested to slip this funding into 2015/16 to complete the Smart Parking element and seek approval further approval for the cameras via the Capital Approval Gateway process.</p>	Slippage	-106	n/a

<p>BN962 Bus Agreement This scheme has current approval for £2.2m for the development of Interventions to enable the improvement of bus journey time which is in conjunction with SYPTE and bus operating companies as part of the Sheffield Bus Partnership.</p> <p>Funding is currently from Local Sustainable Transport Funds (LSTF), Local Transport Plan (LTP) in 14/15 and from Better Buses Area Fund (BBA) through to 2017.</p> <p>Delays have occurred with the design contractor, Amey on Greenhill BBA scheme originally programmed for 14/15 and as a result, approval is being sought to slip £100k of Better Buses funding into 2015/16.</p>	Slippage	-100	n/a
<p>Accident Saving Scheme The Road Safety Accident Savings programme is a Citywide strategy to reduce personal injury accidents, particularly focused on reducing killed and seriously injured (KSIs) by implementing road safety engineering schemes at sites with the highest injury collision rates in the City.</p> <p>Schemes undertaken this year include Wordsworth Avenue Road safety Scheme and the design of Coisley Hill, Firth Park Rd and Barnsley Rd Road Safety schemes.</p> <p>Slippage has occurred on Coisley Hill, Firth Park Rd and Barnsley Rd Road Safety schemes due to delays in the detailed design of the schemes and a public objection.</p> <p>Approval is being requested to slip £89.4k Local Transport Plan (LTP) funding to enable the delivery of these schemes in 2015/16.</p>	Slippage	-89	n/a
<p>Streets Ahead Related Cycle The primary aim of this project is to deliver minor works to improve local cycling accessibility funded from Local Transport Plan (LTP) and Local Sustainable Transport</p>	Slippage	-36	n/a

<p>Funds (LSTF).</p> <p>Works currently undertaken this year include 16 small schemes in the following areas:- Broomfield, Manor, Meadowhead, Greystones, Manor and Darnall.</p> <p>Delays have occurred within the Amej construction programme for the schemes in Wybourn and Tinsley, hence approval is being sought to slip £36k of LTP funding into 2015/16.</p>			
<p>Peak Park Anniversary Crossing</p> <p>This route has been identified as part of the strategic Green Route cycling network. The project is to deliver designs which improve the comfort of users of the Sheffield Round Walk when crossing the following areas – Hangingwater Road, Ivy Cottage Lane and Quiet Lane.</p> <p>Delays have occurred due to staff resource issues which resulted in delays within the design element. The works are now scheduled to be delivered in August 2015.</p> <p>Approval is being sought to slip £25k Local Transport Plan (LTP) funding into 2015/16.</p>	Slippage	-25	n/a
<p>SE Accessibility</p> <p>Works on the planned Coisley Hill zebra crossing have been delayed due to prolonged public consultation.</p> <p>Approval is therefore required to slip £70k of LTP funding into 2015/16.</p>	Slippage	-70	n/a
<p>SW Accessibility</p> <p>Works planned at the junction of Harcourt Road and Crookes Valley Road will now be programmed to coincide with the carriageway works on Crookes Valley Road. These</p>	Slippage	-30	n/a

are now scheduled for completion in March 2016.				
Approval is being sought to slip £30k LTP funding into 2015/16.				
Zone A08 Accessibility Works on the planned Dyche Lane pedestrian crossing improvements have been delayed due to discussions regarding the price of construction of the scheme. It is possible this scheme may go out to tender.	Slippage	-25		n/a
Approval is therefore required to slip £25k of LTP funding into 2015/16.				
Parks				
Angram Bank Improvements This project is for the creation of a new play area aimed at toddlers with the installation of new playground equipment. Other works include improvements to access, provision of seating and bins, drainage improvements. Delays have occurred due to reduced project management capacity in Parks and extended consultation on the project. As a result, approval is being sought to slip £39k S106 funding into 2015/16. Project delivery is now due April to June 2015.	Slippage	-39		n/a
Urban Nature Parks The primary aim of this project is to create savings to the Revenue Budget in reaction to the public expenditure reductions. Anticipated savings are £100k p/a for three years.	Slippage	-123		n/a

<p>The project plans to change the management of 300 hectares over 55 sites from formal amenity management to naturalist planting / management. The project will also increase the number of trees, access improvements, path creation and upgrades, improved signage, improved security, new and enhanced habitats.</p> <p>Phase 1 and 2 of the project have taken longer to deliver than planned so the project timescales have slipped. In addition, Parks officer time has been channelled into delivering Forestry Commission contract. The service has still made its revenue budget saving by other economies.</p> <p>Approval is being sought to slip £123k Corporate Resource Pool (CRP) funding into 2015/16.</p>			
<p>Woodlands S106 The aim of this project is to improve eight woodlands across Sheffield, covering four Community Assembly areas. The scope of works includes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade and enhance key footpaths • To improve access links for all in Roe Woods, Wincobank Common, Jervis Lumb, Rivelin Valley, Chancet Wood, Gleadless Valley and Brincliffe Edge. • To secure the boundary at Jervis Lumb, preventing illegal fly tipping. • To improve signage and interpretation to Brincliffe Edge Woods and Rivelin Valley, linking in with Sheffield Round Walk literature <p>Delays this year have occurred due to resource issues which resulted in a review of the delivery of Parks programmes, as a result approval is being sought to slip £50k into 2015/16.</p> <p>Further S106 monies of £20.6k will be added to 2015/16 to continue the works and enable the delivery of boundary improvement works to Jervis Lumb.</p>	Slippage / Variation	Slippage -50k Variation 20.6	n/a

<p>Crookes Valley Park The overall scope of the project is to :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the Sheffield Standard score of both sites • Provide improved facilities in response to increased use as a result of local development (S106 funded) • Improve bio-diversity across the two parks • Improve accessibility within both parks <p>Delays have occurred due to resource issues which resulted in a review of the delivery of Parks programmes. As a result, approval is being sought to slip £20.2k funding into 2015/16</p> <p>The delayed works, including signage, interpretation and the table tennis implementation will now be delivered mid-2015.</p>	<p>Slippage</p>	<p>-20</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>Wincobank Phase 1 No works have been carried out on this project this year due to a capacity and resource issue in Parks.</p> <p>There is also a requirement to plan the project around the bird nesting season (later this year), approval is therefore being sought to slip £9k S106 funding into 2015/16.</p>	<p>Slippage</p>	<p>-9</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>COMPETITIVE CITY:-</p>			
<p>Brook Hill Area Highways and Public Realm Improvements - Phase 1 These works will create a world class pedestrian/cycle landscaped spine linking University of Sheffield (UoS) Campus from the Arts Tower to St Georges, extending the 'Gold Route' and increasing the competitiveness of the University in student</p>	<p>Addition</p>	<p>6,776</p>	<p>It is proposed that a tender list be sourced from YORCivils. This will ensure that regional contractors</p>

<p>recruitment and research income which will create an economic benefit for Sheffield as a whole.</p> <p>The project comprises a linked programme of interventions in the highway and public realm including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • construction of an over 1km 'core' of high quality landscaped pedestrian/cycling core connecting the four quarters of the campus and creating an attractive setting. • two new and two re-designed controlled pedestrian/cycle crossings of the major radial and ring roads which run through the campus • diversion of three bus routes around the central campus to facilitate pedestrianisation with necessary off-site junction works and TROs • un-locking of sites for three new Science Buildings and an extension to the Information Commons, amounting up to 48,000m² of building development in the Hounsfield Triangle / area by the University to support its continued growth. • creation of a high quality public realm setting for the new Engineering Schools now under construction • creation of a new public square in the Hounsfield Triangle and major improvements to the Arts Tower Forecourt, and the North Campus providing an attractive arrival experience and many spaces for creative cross disciplinary interaction. <p>To facilitate the above improvements several significant changes to the current highway arrangements are required,</p> <p>The proposed works ('the Works') consist of enhancements to the following areas , most but not all of which are currently adopted Public Highway:</p> <p>a) <u>Highway Works</u></p>		<p>are selected and that outcomes for Employment and Skills are achieved.</p> <p>Design work to be sourced via waiver/direct appointment of the existing design consultant</p>
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<p>Leavygreave Rd East/Portobello St/Victoria St/Gell/ St Regent Terrace pedestrianisation, repaving, landscape and public art enhancements (remain adopted public highway subject to restriction on vehicles)</p> <p>Hounsfield Rd/Favell Rd/Leavygreave Rd West (proposed pedestrianisation, repaving, landscape and public art enhancements and eventual road closure in connection with new development but retaining a public right of way for walking/cycling and servicing)</p> <p>Mappin St/Portobello St/Congress St improved surfacing, new bus stops and shelter, removal of two-way running at southern end, raised platform crossing and point closure of Portobello St at Mappin St junction, relocation of UoS surface car park access (remains as adopted public highway with Traffic Regulation Orders to restrict vehicular access)</p> <p>Two improved crossings of Upper Hanover St and the tramway including cycle facilities (remain as public adopted highway/tramway)</p> <p>Two new Crossings of Western Bank (remain as adopted public highway)</p> <p>The Whitham Rd/Clarkson St and Clarkson St/Durham Rd junctions reformed to allow bus only use including a small strip of University land within the curtilage of the Octagon (remains or becomes adopted highway)</p> <p>St George's Square/Brook Hill footways (remains public adopted highway)</p>		
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	<p>b) <u>Off Highway Works</u></p> <p>The Arts Tower precincts, pedestrianisation, repaving, landscape and public art enhancements (remains as University property with existing public rights of way for walking and cycling)</p> <p>The former Red Hill street in the North Campus pedestrianisation, repaving, lighting, landscape and public art enhancements (UoS property to be reopened as public right of way with improvements for walking and cycling linked to improvements to the Broad Lane cobbled area and the Montgomery Fountain)</p> <p>St George’s Green additional planting, landscaping and seating (remains University property with informal permissive public access)</p> <p>These proposed works will be delivered under a Section 278 agreement and Traffic Regulation Orders. A highways scheme and TRO consultation will be undertaken in march with a view to seeking approval at Highways Cabinet in May 2015. Officers have presented the scheme to both the bus operators and Supertram for their consideration, as the scheme requires the rerouting of buses and improvements to an existing tram crossing at Upper Hannover Street. It is proposed that the City Council take the lead on delivery of the highways works and procure a contractor by competitive tender. The University will undertake the public realm works on their land at the Arts Tower Forecourt and North Campus (reopening of Red Hill)</p> <p>The outcome of these Highways consultations will be subject to a separate Highways Cabinet Report in May 2015.</p> <p>Sheffield City Council will enter into an additional legal agreement with the University of Sheffield to ensure that liability for any potential cost overruns is passed to the</p>	
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<p>UoS.along with other costs such as officer time associated with development and delivery of the project. The university will also pay for the commuted sums due under the Streets Ahead programme. The scheme will result in the removal of some on-street parking which will lead to a loss of revenue of approximately £102k per annum which, due to the fixed nature of parking services will create a pressure in the annual Revenue Budget which the service has not yet mitigated.</p> <p>The University of Sheffield has appointed Faithful and Gould to design and deliver the project and to ensure continuity it is proposed that they will work for both the University and Sheffield City Council. They will produce the entire Tender Document which will then be checked and formatted to fit into Sheffield City Council standards. Sheffield City Council & Sheffield University will then oversee the project until its completion.</p> <p>This project is funded from: Sheffield City Region Investment Fund (SCRIF) - £2,892k University Of Sheffield Contribution - £3,884 Sheffield City Council will enter directly into an agreement with Sheffield City Region for the SCRIF funding and the University of Sheffield will make a contribution to the scheme for their element of the funding. This will be supported by a legal agreement ensuring any cost overruns are to be covered by additional funds from the University of Sheffield.</p> <p>A further £1.6m investment from the University is going into works on its own campus.</p>			
<p>New Retail Quarter 2</p> <p>The Council's aim is to deliver a New Retail Quarter that will fundamentally improve the retail offer in the city centre, thus making a step change and lifting Sheffield back up</p>	Slippage	-10,000	n/a

<p>the national retail ranking index.</p> <p>The New Retail Quarter will provide a high class regional shopping and leisure facility which would compete with other city centres such as Manchester, Leeds and Nottingham. The scheme will drive private sector investment in the City Centre and create a high quality retail and leisure led, mixed use scheme and consolidate the prime retail offer.</p> <p>The development of a New Retail Quarter also enhances the status of the City Centre in itself and should in turn stimulate office, commercial and leisure opportunities/activity/development in the City Centre. This stage of the project involves feasibility, outline design, business case development and selection of a development partner as well as purchase of land.</p> <p>Due to contractual issues arising within the negotiation of the purchase of Telephone House, Charter Square approval is being sought to slip £10m into 2015/16.</p> <p>The project is fully funded from Prudential Borrowing.</p>			
<p>DVS Remediation</p> <p>The Council resolved to close the Don Valley Stadium (DVS) as part of the 2012-13 Budget saving £700k per year and has already funded the demolition of the stadium and site feasibility works. The cleared site is contaminated from the time it was used for heavy manufacturing which has left a toxic legacy along with mine workings, historic watercourses and sewers.</p> <p>This project will reclaim 7.6 hectares of land including approximately 4 to 4.8 hectares (10-12 acres) available for immediate development. This will improve the attractiveness of a key access route into the City of Sheffield and create a high quality and safe environment. It will increase the value of the land and is seen as a key component in the strategy to create the appropriate environment for Attercliffe to be redeveloped.</p>	Slippage	-1,648	n/a

<p>The main project works include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove of ground contamination • Removal of ground obstructions • Land re-profiling • Installation of stone capping layer, topsoil and seeding • Purchase of an adjacent property to create a contiguous site <p>Due to the decision taken to issue tenders for the contamination aspects, delays have been experience which has lead to changes in project timescales.</p> <p>Approval is being sought to slip £1,648k into 2015/16</p>			
<p>Culture & Environment</p>			
<p>M1 Gateway In recognition of the significance of the Tinsley Cooling Towers to the City of Sheffield, EON UK Ltd pledged £0.5m to Sheffield City Council for a public art project on the former site. The project is to create a major work of public art that will be part of the regeneration of the Blackburn Meadows / Tinsley Locks area.</p>	<p>Slippage</p>	<p>-110</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>Due to delays in finalising the funding agreement with EON PLC, approval is being sought to slip £110k into 2015/16.</p>	<p>Slippage / Variation</p>	<p>Slippage -44 Variation 62</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>Women of Steel This project will deliver a memorial to recognise and celebrate the contribution of thousands of local women to the war effort in the form of a bronze sculpture in Barkers Pool.</p>			

<p>The contract with the artist has now been agreed however due their workload, the project will not complete before September 2016 and approval is sought to slip £44k of funding into 2015/16. The commencement of the installation is now scheduled for June 2016.</p> <p>The South Yorkshire Community Foundation has raised £62k to complete the project. The remainder of the funding has come from s.106 Development Agreements, donations and some from the city council.</p>			
<p>SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE :-</p>			
<p>Additional Pupil Places- Secondary This project is a £3m scheme to cover the costs incurred in the provision of additional secondary school places across the Sheffield estate and was set up as part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.</p>	<p>A variation is now requested to reflect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1.8m slippage from 14/15 into 15/16, to reflect the delay on the remaining Tapton School works following extended discussions on the associated pupil led revenue funding between the school and CYPF. 	<p>Slippage</p>	<p>-1,844</p> <p>n/a</p>
<p>Foster Care Housing Enhance This project was originally set up as a £1.2m invest to save scheme to provide enhancements to various private or council owned Foster Carers homes, in order to facilitate an increase in numbers of children fostered within the city.</p>		<p>Variation & Slippage</p>	<p>-900 & -100</p> <p>n/a</p>

<p>A variation is now requested to reflect the fact that since project inception the recruitment of new, and retention of existing foster carers, has improved substantially, thus increasing capacity in the sector. This has greatly reduced the requirement to invest in order to generate the required increase in places. The impacts of this are as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction in the scope of the project from an estimated 40 home alterations to 10 leading to a £900k reduction in the programme to £300k. • £100k slippage from 14/15 into 15/16, recognising that the final batch of homes to be improved has not yet been decided upon due to the large change in scope of the project. <p>The project was to be funded entirely through prudential borrowing as an invest to save scheme and so the reduction in scope will reduce the demand on Prudential Borrowing by £900k.</p> <p>The Revenue Impact working has been re-based on an approximate basis for now to reflect 75% reduction in scope, and split over the two years 14/15 and 15/16 in proportion to the cost incurred.</p>			
<p>Expansion – Free School Meals This project was set up to purchase capital equipment and to adapt school premises in order to widen the Free School Meal (FSM) uptake so that it includes all Infant School pupils. This followed a Department for Education (DfE) announcement on 18 December 2013 which allocated Sheffield £1,119k in Capital Grant.</p> <p>This variation is to request an additional £186k, as additional revenue contribution to capital, to cover the final total cost of works from Kier; thus the total revenue contribution is to be increased from £196k to £382k, bringing the total revised cost to</p>	Variation	186	n/a

<p>£1.5m.</p>			
<p>PROCUREMENT STRATEGY</p>			
<p>Homes</p>			
<p>Disconnection of gas services prior to demolition The Works comprise excavating for; cutting, capping and purging of gas supply services; backfilling and reinstatement of surfaces/pavings disturbed, prior to demolition, to mainly domestic properties; houses, and flats on schemes within the Housing Demolition Programme (Sweeney House, SWaN and Arbourthorne 5M's estates). Orders may be issued for non-domestic properties, work in/on the Public Highway and meter removal. From the date an Order is placed to the date of confirmation that the Order has been carried out the period shall be no longer than 6 weeks.</p>	<p>Proc Strategy</p>	<p>Circa 200</p>	<p>Competitive Tender</p>
<p>The contract has a number of safeguards to limit the payment from the Council including no guaranteed workload and no continuity of work. Some properties identified in the Tender Document may not be handed to the Contractor due to them having been previously disconnected prior to the commencement of the Contract, or withdrawn from the Contract.</p> <p>A full competitive tender process for this Project will achieve the best current market price and quality. Contractors will be invited via YORtender to complete a simple Pre-qualification Questionnaire (PQQ). An evaluation panel will consider the responses and score the responses against agreed criteria. The scores will be weighted and aggregated to determine a single overall mark for each prospective Tenderer's responses. The six highest aggregate scoring prospective Tenderers will be selected and invited to Tender.</p>			

INFRASTRUCTURE :-												
<p>Workplace Programme: Workplace has operated for 3 years with continuing expansion of scope following earlier successes. There are greater savings to be achieved by vacating Derwent House and Cathedral Court in 15/16 with the appropriate support provided and further refurbishment in Moorfoot.</p> <p>The variations listed below seek authority to revise the scope of the project and reflect this by varying the approved sum across the different Workplace headings workstreams of Moorfoot, Howden, Project Delivery Costs and IT Workstreams.</p> <p>A net total of £1.028m extra expenditure in 2014/15 to 2016/17 will be funded from Capital Borrowing. Revenue savings will be incorporated into the revised Business Plan and associated Invest to Save scheme will be submitted.</p> <p>The following projects are to be varied to reflect the overall changes proposed across the Workplace Programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moorfoot • Howden House Accommodation Strategy • Project Delivery Costs • IT Workstreams 												
			Variation Variation Variation Variation <u>1,028</u>	n/a n/a n/a n/a								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Business Unit</th> <th>Approved Budget £000</th> <th>Proposed Budget £000</th> <th>Variation £000</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Moorfoot</td> <td>7,975</td> <td>8,590</td> <td>615</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Business Unit	Approved Budget £000	Proposed Budget £000	Variation £000	Moorfoot	7,975	8,590	615			
Business Unit	Approved Budget £000	Proposed Budget £000	Variation £000									
Moorfoot	7,975	8,590	615									

Howden	1,050	409	-641			
Project Costs	1,500	2,318	818			
IT Workstream	480	716	236			
TOTAL	11,005	12,033	1,028			

Collection Fund - 2014/15 - Quarter 3

Introduction

1. Following the implementation of the Government’s Business Rates Retention Scheme on 1 April 2013, steps have been taken to monitor the Collection Fund more closely however the overall position is subject to change due to the impact of national austerity measures on Business Rates income and the impact of the introduction of the local Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme on Council Tax collection rates.
2. There have also been a variety of challenges accurately forecasting the collection fund in 2014/15 to date; some of these are new issues, some longer term. These include, in brief, difficulty in capturing information around changes to appeals and CTS, challenges in reconciling Capita reports to each other and therefore OEO and difficulties over the formatting of reports. Officers are working with Capita to resolve these issues. The figures that follow therefore need to be caveated by the above.

Summary

3. In 2014/15 approximately £266m of our expenditure is forecast to be financed directly through locally collected taxation, out of a total of £452m. This taxation is initially collected by the Council and credited to the Collection Fund. The Government receives 50% of the business rates collected (the “Central Share”) and uses this to finance grant allocations to local authorities. The Fire Authority receives 1% of Business Rates collected and the Council retain the remaining 49% as below:

Income Stream	2014/15 Budget £m	Year to Date £m	Forecast Year End Position £m	Forecast Year End Surplus £m
Council Tax	-164.38	-137.90	-164.83	-0.45
Business Rates Locally Retained	-100.84	-89.10	-100.87	-0.02
RSG/Business Rates Top Up Grant	-265.22	-227.00	-265.70	-0.48
	-185.80	-139.35	-185.80	0.00
TOTAL	-451.02	-366.35	-451.50	-0.48

4. As at the end of quarter 3 the collection fund is forecasting a £0.4m year-end surplus on Council Tax primarily due to a combination of student exemptions decreasing against budget and an increase in properties since the tax base was set.

5. As at the end of quarter 3 the collection fund is forecasting a very marginal surplus on locally retained Business Rates. There has been growth in the potential Business Rates yield in 2014/15 but this has been largely offset by expected increases in reliefs.

Business Rates

6. The following table shows in more detail the elements involved in the determination of the business rate position. This examines the current position and then compares the resultant year end forecast with the 2014/15 budget for business rates income.

Collection Fund - Business Rates	Budget 2014/15 £m	Year to Date £m	Forecast Year End Position £m	Variance £m
Gross Business Rates income yield	-249.96	-250.82	-250.84	-0.88
- Additional yield from small business supplement	-5.12	-5.17	-5.17	-0.05
	-255.08	-255.99	-256.01	-0.93
LESS Estimated Reliefs	36.89	33.63	36.83	-0.06
Small Business Rate Supplement	5.12	5.17	5.17	0.05
Transitional Relief	0.00	1.46	1.46	1.46
Losses and Cost of Collection	2.24	1.55	2.05	-0.19
Losses on Appeals re Current Year Bills	5.03	3.17	4.65	-0.38
Net Collectable Business rates	-205.80	-211.01	-205.85	-0.05
Appropriation of net business rates:				
1% SY Fire Authority	-2.06	-2.11	-2.06	0.00
50% Government	-102.90	-105.50	-102.92	-0.02
49% Sheffield City Council	-100.84	-103.39	-100.87	-0.02
Additional SCC Income from Government:				
Section 31 Grant Income	-4.20	-4.25	-4.30	-0.10
Enterprise Zone retained income	-0.06	0.00	-0.06	0.00
Cost of collection allowance	-0.78	-0.78	-0.78	0.00
Total SCC Appropriations	-105.87	-108.42	-106.00	-0.13

Gross Rate Yield

7. The Gross Rate Yield (GRY) represents the Rateable Value of the City multiplied by the Business Rates Multiplier. This is a measure of the total business rates billed in the city before taking account of reliefs, discounts and other adjustments.

8. The gross income of the city has increased by around £0.9m compared with the estimated gross income forecast at the start of the year. There have been some substantial new entries into the ratings list but there has also been decline in other areas of the city.

Reliefs and Discounts

	Budget 2014/15	Year to Date	Forecast Year-End Outturn	Variance
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Small Business Rates Relief	5.06	5.61	5.83	0.77
Mandatory Charity Relief	18.98	18.06	18.52	-0.46
Discretionary Relief	0.51	0.19	0.24	-0.27
Empty Property / Statutory Exemption	9.79	7.98	9.55	-0.24
Partly Occupied Premises Relief	1.34	0.55	1.35	0.01
New discretionary reliefs	1.20	1.24	1.34	0.14
	36.89	33.63	36.83	-0.06

9. Most reliefs and discounts are awarded in full at the point of billing at the start of the year. The total level of reliefs awarded in the first three quarters of the year amounts to £33.6m which is below the £36.9m assumed in the budget. These are expected to rise to £36.8m by year end, just under the original budget.
10. The level of reliefs and discounts awarded can be affected by economic conditions, court rulings and businesses' behaviour and will be closely monitored throughout the remainder of the year.

Appeals

11. Appeals are notoriously difficult to forecast due to the lack of available information. The way that appeals are applied and then recognised in the system is significantly undermining the collection fund monitoring framework. If refunds due to appeals were always paid in cash to tax payers at the point of award, then the system would be straight forward. However, the system of refunds is more complicated and refunds due to appeal are awarded through a variety of means.
12. The 2014/15 Council budget anticipates £5m of refunds in year resulting from appeals. This is based on historical trend analysis. So far in year the Council have paid out £3.2m refunds as a result of appeals. This has now been forecast to reach £4.7m by year end.
13. There is also a prudent provision of £13.6m carried forward into 2014/15. This should cover the back dated element of any appeals refunds in 2014/15 or later

years which relate to 2013/14 income or earlier. The Business Rates Retention Scheme brought with it a requirement to account for these back dated appeals.

Collection Rates

14. The Net Collectable Debit (NCD) is the Gross Rate Yield less any discounts and reliefs applied. The amount of Business Rates collected at the end of quarter three stands at £181.8m, of which £89.1m is the Council's share. This represents a collection rate of 83.8% of the Net Collectable Debt. This is comparable to previous year's figures so we are well placed to achieve budgeted levels of collection.

Losses in Collection

15. Write offs to date amount to £0.8m. This is forecast to increase to £1.3m. This is in addition to the £0.8m cost of collection calculated by the government. This will bring us close to the budgeted figure for Losses in Collection. Avoidance remains a significant risk to business rates income and some significant historic write offs have occurred this year that have previously been provided for.

Overall Forecast Outturn for Business Rates

16. Bringing together the elements identified above results in a marginal surplus compared to budget. If this position materialises it would be in addition to the £1.3m SCC surplus already carried forward from 2013/14 on the Collection Fund. However due to the variable nature of the Collection Fund and to apply prudence, no additional surplus has been forecast in government returns.

Council Tax

17. Council Tax is being monitored closely by the Revenues and Benefits team. This monitoring involves analysis of the discounts and exemptions, movements on the tax base and collection rates. Deductions for elements such as student exemptions can swing the year end forecast significantly from month to month.

Collection Rates

18. Council Tax collected to quarter three of this financial year stands at £160.1m of which £137.9m is the Council's share. This represents a collection rate of 78.4%. This is comparable to the same point last year.

Overall Forecast Outturn for Council Tax

19. The forecast shows that outturn will be a £0.4m surplus compared to budget. If this position materialises it would result in an additional surplus to the £2m SCC surplus already carried forward from 2013/14 on the Collection Fund. However due to the variable nature of the Collection Fund and to apply prudence, no additional surplus has been forecast to preceptors.



Cabinet Report

Report of: Laraine Manley – Executive Director – Communities

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 18-03-2015

Subject: Deferred Payment Scheme

Author of Report: Ellie Fraser (07770 544729)
Customer Accounts Team Manager, Communities

Key Decision: YES

Reason Key Decision: Expenditure/savings over £500,000
Affects 2 or more wards

Summary:

Under sections 34 – 36 of the Care Act 2014, and the Care and Support (Deferred Payments Agreements) Regulations 2014, the Council is required to offer Deferred Payment Agreements to people who meet certain criteria governing eligibility for the scheme from April 2015.

A Deferred Payment Agreement enables a person who meets the criteria to defer or delay paying the cost of their care until a later date by taking out a loan from the Council against the value of their house. Offering a Deferred Payment Scheme means that people are not forced to sell their home in their lifetime to pay for their care.

This report seeks approval to implement a Deferred Payment Scheme in Sheffield to meet the requirements of the Care Act, which provides for interest and administration costs to be charged and treated in the same way as the deferred amount, to replace the existing loan schemes on offer. It also seeks delegated authority for the Executive Director of Communities to make operational decisions to allow the scheme to run.

Reasons for Recommendations:

The reasons for these recommendations are:

1. Meets the requirements of the Care Act 2014.
 2. 1st April 2015 timescales can be achieved by giving the Executive Director of Communities the delegated authority to implement the policy and systems required to run the scheme.
 3. The Department of Health are issuing national information sheets and contract templates to promote national consistency in the running of the scheme. The Social Care Accounts Service has the subject matter expertise to tailor these documents to meet local requirements and to ensure that any financial or legal concerns are addressed.
-

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Notes the contents of this report.
 2. Approves the implementation of a Deferred Payment Scheme in Sheffield, which provides for interest and administration costs to be charged and treated in the same way as the deferred amount, to replace the existing loan schemes on offer.
 3. Delegates' authority to the Executive Director of Communities to make operational decisions in order to put the Scheme in place.
 4. Delegates' authority to the Interim Director of Care and Support in her capacity as the Council's Statutory Director of Social Services to instruct Legal Services to complete the necessary documentation and register charges at the Land Registry.
-

Background Papers:

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Hugh Sherry
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Andrea Simpson
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES Cleared by: Phil Reid
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human Rights Implications
NO
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic Impact
NO
Community Safety Implications
NO
Human Resources Implications
NO
Property Implications
NO
Area(s) Affected
All wards
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Lead
Mary Lea
Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
No
Press Release
NO

REPORT TO THE CABINET

The Care Act: Deferred Payments Scheme

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Under sections 34 – 36 of the Care Act 2014, and the Care and Support (Deferred Payments Agreements) Regulations 2014, the Council is required to offer Deferred Payment Agreements to people who meet certain criteria governing eligibility for the scheme from April 2015.
- 1.2 A Deferred Payment Agreement enables people who meet the criteria to defer or delay paying the cost of their care until a later date by taking out a loan from the Council against the value of their house or other agreed asset. Offering a Deferred Payment Scheme means that people are not forced to sell their home in their lifetime to pay for their care.
- 1.3 This report seeks approval to implement a Deferred Payment Scheme in Sheffield to meet the requirements of the Care Act, which provides for interest and administration costs to be charged and treated in the same way as the deferred amount, to replace the existing loan schemes on offer. It also seeks delegated authority for the Executive Director of Communities to make operational decisions to allow the scheme to run.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE

- 2.1 Deferred Payment Agreements will be universally available throughout England and are designed to prevent people from being forced to sell their home in their lifetime to pay for the cost of their care. Instead people will be able to take out a loan from the Council to enable their care costs to be paid and this loan will be repaid at a later date when the owner chooses to sell their property or from their Estate on their death. This scheme gives people flexibility, choice and time to sell their home when they feel ready and able to do so. People will also have the choice to rent out their property whilst they are in residential care, which may reduce the amount they need to borrow in order to meet their care costs.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

- 3.1 The Council must have a Deferred Payment Scheme in line with its statutory responsibilities however the scheme will also help the Council to achieve the outcomes outlined in the Corporate Plan with regards to 'better health and wellbeing'. This will be achieved by enabling the individual to live somewhere that is appropriate to meet their health and social care needs without the stress of being forced to sell their family home during the later stages of their life.

The scheme may also encourage people to rent out their properties subsequently improving the areas private rented market. As the scheme develops the Social Care Accounts Service will work with the Housing Solutions team to explore how people could be supported to do this.

4.0 MAIN BODY OF THE REPORT

4.1 Purpose of the report:

The relevant provisions of the Care Act 2014 come into force on 1st April 2015. The Care Act makes it compulsory for all local authorities to offer Deferred Payment Agreements to people who meet the defined eligibility criteria laid out in the regulations made under the Care Act.

The purpose of this report is to request approval to implement a Deferred Payment Scheme which meets the requirements of the Care Act, includes charging interest and administration fees, and replaces the existing schemes which are in place. It is requested that the Executive Director of Communities is given delegated authority to make operational decisions to allow the scheme to run.

4.2 Care Act requirements

A Deferred Payment Agreement enables people who meet the criteria to defer or delay paying the cost of their care until a later date by taking out a loan from the Council against the value of their house or other agreed asset.

A Deferred Payment Agreement will be available to people who receive care and support arranged by the local authority as well as people who arrange and pay for their own care, subject to the eligibility criteria. A Deferred Payment Agreement must be offered to eligible people who are able to provide adequate security for the loan. A First Legal Mortgage Charge against a property must be accepted as adequate security. A person is eligible for a Deferred Payment Agreement if:

1. They are assessed by the local authority as having eligible needs which the local authority agrees should be met through a care home placement
2. They have less than, or equal to, £23,250 in assets excluding the value of their home
3. They have a property which is not disregarded as part of the local authority's financial assessment process (in line with the charging regulations made under the Care Act), e.g. where a spouse or a dependant is living at the property.

Deferred Payment Agreements are optional to owners who meet the criteria, who can choose whether they want to sell their property or enter into a Deferred Payment Agreement.

The Council has a responsibility to ensure that information about the Deferred Payment Scheme is widely available, and that people who are likely to meet the eligibility criteria are actively offered a Deferred Payment Agreement.

People who accept the offer of a Deferred Payment Agreement must enter into a written agreement setting out its terms. Where a property is used as security this includes an agreement for the Local Authority to

register a Legal Charge against the property with the Land Registry in order to protect the financial interest of the local authority. Owners will also be required to suitably maintain and insure the property. The Council will recover full costs of the care provided to the individual, plus interest and an administration fee, when their property is sold.

Some owners who enter into a Deferred Payment Agreement may choose to rent out their property, creating additional income which can be used to pay towards their care costs and reduce the amount they need to borrow from the local authority.

Department of Health guidance states that Deferred Payment Schemes should be cost neutral to the local authority. The legislation permits the local authority to charge (a) interest on the loan (at a rate set out in the regulations) and (b) administration costs, both of which may be treated in the same way as the deferred amount, and it is proposed to make such charges in order to achieve cost neutrality.

4.3 **Current position**

Sheffield currently operates two discretionary residential loan schemes, a Deferred Payment Scheme and a Personal Capital and Recovery Loan Scheme.

The current Deferred Payment Scheme has not been reviewed since 2006 and there are currently no Care Home residents in Sheffield with a Deferred Payment Agreement. There are however approximately 149 people with a Personal Capital and Recovery Loan.

A review of the current Deferred Payment Scheme shows that it does not meet any of the new detailed requirements set out in the regulations made under the Care Act.

The Care Act replaces powers of recovery of charges under the Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983 and the discretion to enter into a deferred payment agreement under the Health and Social Care Act 2001, and this affects the financial robustness of the current Personal Capital and Recovery Loan Scheme.

It is recommended that the current Personal Capital and Recovery Loan Scheme is removed in light of these legislative changes and a new Deferred Payment Scheme that meets the legal requirements of the Care Act is introduced. It is recommended that the Executive Director of Communities is given delegated authority to make operational decisions, including the decision whether to offer people with an existing Personal Capital and Property Loan the opportunity to transfer over to the Deferred Payment Scheme.

4.4 **Financial Implications**

It is difficult to estimate how many people will choose to enter into a Deferred Payment Agreement because:

1. Eligible owners will be able to choose whether they want a Deferred Payment Agreement or not.
2. People who choose to enter into a Deferred Payment Agreement will incur interest and administration charges and it is not known how attractive this offer will be to eligible owners.
3. The requirements set out in the Care Act are very different to the terms of the existing scheme making financial forecasts more difficult.
4. The Care Act requires high quality information and advice about the scheme to be available and actively put forward to people who may benefit from the scheme, whereas the current scheme is not widely promoted.

Financial analysis has been completed for year one of the scheme using estimated take up figures, average care home costs and a fixed administration fee of £750 (at this time this is an estimated administration fee and a more specific figure will follow). The estimated cash cost to the Council is £832,250 in year one (see appendix one), which is based on an assumed total of 103 new DPA requests.

This is not a true cost as the scheme is designed to be cost neutral with the Council recovering the full cost of the care provided, plus interest and administration costs, from owners who choose to enter into a Deferred Payment Agreement when their property is eventually sold, either by the person receiving care or their Estate. This means the real financial implication for the Council is cash-flow. The Council Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2015 will include a debtor, which will represent the amount owed under these Deferred Payment Agreements.

A Deferred Payment Grant of £770,616 has been included within the 2015-16 Revenue Support Grant Settlement to alleviate cash-flow pressures. Furthermore, the grant is due to be an annual grant for ten years which is currently projected to increase for the first four years before tapering off towards year ten.

Long term financial forecasts have not been completed as volume predictions would not be robust at this stage. It is felt that the risk of volumes increasing rapidly in year two is low as there will be a natural ceiling for how many people choose to enter into a Deferred Payment Arrangement, and if take up is as forecast in year one it is estimated that this level will quickly be reached. This prediction is based on data showing that the national average length of a Deferred Payment Agreement is 1.5 years, and the estimated number of self-funded care home residents in Sheffield is 1,500.

The Care Act eligibility criteria mean that the Council has a duty to offer a Deferred Payment Agreement to eligible individuals even if they do not have the capacity to enter into a Deferred Payment Agreement. In these

circumstances the Council cannot enter into an Agreement with the individual. Unless there is already a person with a relevant Enduring Power of Attorney or Lasting Power of Attorney who can sign the agreement on behalf of the individual the Council will have to make arrangements to pay the Care Home the full cost of the individual's care until a Deputy appointed by the Court of Protection is in place. This means the Council will be incurring costs which are not protected by a Deferred Payment Agreement until such time that a Deputy is appointed.

This risk already exists under the existing loan schemes and continues to be an unavoidable risk under the new Deferred Payment Scheme. The financial risk of bad debt is minimised by close management of these loan arrangements leading to prompt legal intervention where required. The result of this unavoidable risk is higher administration and legal costs to the Council to secure this income.

4.5 **Equal Opportunities Implications**

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and approved by Communities Business Strategy. This assessment shows that the running of a Deferred Payment Scheme does not have a detrimental effect on people in Sheffield and does not negatively impact or exclude any minority groups. The assessment recommends that the take up of the scheme is monitored and public information about the scheme is reviewed to ensure it is accessible to all

4.6 **Legal Implications**

The relevant provisions of the Care Act 2014 come into force on 1st April 2015. The Care Act makes provision for deferred payments; the Care and Support (Deferred Payment) Regulations 2014 set out the detailed requirements. It is compulsory for all local authorities to offer Deferred Payment Agreements to people who meet the defined eligibility criteria set out in the regulations.

The Department of Health has issued detailed guidance relating to the Care and Support provisions in Part 1 of the Care Act; the local authority has a duty to act under this general guidance in the exercise of its functions under the Act.

From 1st April 2015 the statutory framework replaces powers of recovery of charges under the Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Act 1983 and the discretion to enter into a deferred payment agreement under the Health and Social Care Act 2001. The Council has used these powers to set up its current Deferred Payment and Personal Capital and Recovery Loan Schemes.

There are certain legal requirements in setting up a Deferred Payment Agreement. The agreement should be in writing and must include sufficient information for the individual to be able to ascertain their rights and obligations under the agreement. In particular the agreement must include the terms specified in the regulations. If the deferred amount is to be secured by a legal charge on the property then that must be

registered at the Land Registry. The Department of Health has issued a draft sample deferred payments legal agreement, which may be adapted and refined to meet local requirements, to ensure consistent application of the scheme nationally. It is intended that Sheffield City Council will use the Department of Health sample agreement with local refinements.

4.7 Dependencies

Further funding reforms will come into force in 2016 and there will be further changes to the financial regulations. This includes a change to the capital limit; which is the financial threshold below which a care home resident is asked to pay towards their care; and the funding cap, which is a maximum amount anyone can be asked to contribute towards their lifetime care costs. These changes are subject to national consultation and the detail of these reforms is not known at this time.

The capital limit change will affect eligibility of those who are required to pay towards the costs of their care and therefore how many people will be eligible for the Deferred Payment Scheme. Policy documents, contracts and information will need to be updated accordingly and financial forecasts will need to be revisited once the financial impact of these funding reforms has been analysed.

The cap on care costs will affect how many people in residential care are required to pay towards their care costs, for how long, and how much they will be required to pay. Policy documents, contracts, information and financial forecasts will need to be reviewed in light of these changes.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The Council could continue to run its existing schemes. This would leave the Council open for legal challenge for failing to meet the requirements set out in the Care Act and failing to offer people a Deferred Payment Agreement they are entitled to under statute.

Where new Personal Capital and Recovery Loans are set up changes to legislation would leave the Council exposed to non-payers, increasing the risk of uncollectable debt.

- 5.2 The Council could contract a third party to run the scheme on the Council's behalf. The setting up and running of the scheme is very closely linked to the in-house services which co-ordinate individual financial assessments, payments to care homes, bad debts to care homes and assessments of clients care and support needs. It is believed that a successful Deferred Payment Scheme must be integrated with these services and the systems they use. It would not therefore be advisable for this to be outsourced to a third party organisation. The timescales involved for tendering for this activity does not make it viable for this to be in place by 1st April 2015 when the Care Act becomes law.

6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The reasons for these recommendations are:

1. Meets the requirements of the Care Act 2014.
2. 1st April 2015 timescales can be achieved by giving the Executive Director of Communities the delegated authority to implement the policy and systems required to run the scheme.
3. The Department of Health are issuing national information sheets and contract templates to promote national consistency in the running of the scheme. The Social Care Accounts Service has the subject matter expertise to tailor these documents to meet local requirements and to ensure that any financial or legal concerns are addressed.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Notes the contents of this report.
2. Approves the implementation of a Deferred Payment Scheme in Sheffield, which provides for interest and administration costs to be charged and treated in the same way as the deferred amount, to replace the existing loan schemes on offer.
3. Delegates' authority to the Executive Director of Communities to make operational decisions in order to put the Scheme in place.
4. Delegates' authority to the Interim Director of Care and Support in her capacity as the Council's Statutory Director of Social Services to instruct Legal Services to complete the necessary documentation and register charges at the Land Registry.

Ellie Fraser
Customer Accounts Manager
26-02-2015

DEFERRED PAYMENT SCHEME: FINANCIAL IMPACT ANALYSIS YEAR 1

	Apr-15	May-15	Jun-15	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Total 2015/16
New DPA Requests	1	2	3	4	5	7	9	12	15	15	15	15	103
In-Month cost of DPA	£ 1,667	£ 5,000	£ 10,000	£ 16,667	£ 25,000	£ 36,667	£ 51,667	£ 71,667	£ 96,667	£121,667	£146,667	£171,667	£755,000
Administration costs	£ 750	£ 1,500	£ 2,250	£ 3,000	£ 3,750	£ 5,250	£ 6,750	£ 9,000	£ 11,250	£ 11,250	£ 11,250	£ 11,250	£ 77,250
Total monthly cost of DPA scheme	£ 2,417	£ 6,500	£ 12,250	£ 19,667	£ 28,750	£ 41,917	£ 58,417	£ 80,667	£107,917	£132,917	£157,917	£182,917	£832,250
Cumulative Number of DPA	1	3	6	10	15	22	31	43	58	73	88	103	103
Note - Does NOT include the implementation costs of setting up the new Deferred Payment Scheme (governance, guidance, policy, training etc).													

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**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL****Cabinet Report**

Report of: Jayne Ludlam

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 18th March 2015

Subject: Primary School Places in Southwest Sheffield

Author of Report: Joel Hardwick (2735476)

Key Decision: NO

Reason Key Decision: n/a

Summary: Consultation on a proposal to increase pupil places at Dobcroft Infant and Dobcroft Junior schools finished on 11th February 2015. This report outlines the issue and details the response to the consultation. The report recommends a pause while the Council takes more time to explore all possible alternatives, as well as continuing to explore the implications of expansion at Dobcroft. This is to ensure we have enough local school places from September 2016 onwards in the South West of the city.

Reasons for Recommendations:

The level of concern in response to the proposal to permanently expand Dobcroft Infant and Junior schools from Dobcroft parents and local residents has clearly been high. The City Council needs further time to explore in more depth all options for providing extra primary school places in this part of the city.

A number of concerns have come forward during the consultation from the Dobcroft school community about the potential implications of expansion. There were also several alternative proposals for the expansion of school places across the area and beyond. At present a viable and positive alternative option to Dobcroft remains unconfirmed. Some parents asked the Council to extend the consultation period. Under the statutory process the Council is not able to do this

and so a pause is the way to allow a further period to explore the options in more detail. This will help shape the right long term solution for the area.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Note that a single extra Reception class is being offered at Dobcroft Infant School in September 2015 and that an extra class will be provided at Dobcroft Junior when this year group transfers to Year 3 in September 2018.
 - (ii) Agree that the proposals to permanently expand Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools from 2016 should be put on hold by formally withdrawing them allowing officers time to review and explore all options for future school places expansion in the South West of the City, including the Dobcroft plans and others suggested in the consultation process. Following this process a further consultation will take place.
 - (iii) Anticipate a further report (to Cabinet or Individual Cabinet Member) on the expansion of primary school places in the southwest of the city by May to propose a further 4-week consultation on providing places by September 2016.
-

Background Papers:

Category of Report: **OPEN**

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Paul Schofield
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Nadine Wynter
Equality of Opportunity Implications
NO Cleared by:
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO Cleared by:
Human Rights Implications
NO Cleared by:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO Cleared by:
Economic Impact
NO Cleared by:
Community Safety Implications
NO Cleared by:
Human Resources Implications
NO Cleared by:
Property Implications
NO Cleared by:
Area(s) Affected
Ecclesall
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Lead
Cllr Jackie Drayton
Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Children & Young People
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press Release
NO

REPORT TO THE CABINET

PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN SOUTHWEST SHEFFIELD

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Consultation on a proposal to increase pupil places at Dobcroft Infant and Dobcroft Junior schools finished on 11th February 2015. This report outlines the issue and details the response to the consultation. The report recommends a pause while the Council takes more time to explore all possible alternatives, as well as continuing to explore the implications of expansion at Dobcroft. This is to ensure we have enough local school places from September 2016 onwards in the South West of the city.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE

- 2.1 Providing enough school places is essential to the Council's focus on enabling children to have a great start in life, achieve their full potential, and contribute to the success of the city. At the heart of the vision for increasing primary school places in Sheffield is the council's role in guaranteeing excellent education outcomes and equitable access for all.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

- 3.1 The outcome would be to ensure consultation with parents and local residents on proposals to provide enough primary school places in the areas described to meet demand in 2016 and beyond. This includes an assessment of whether the solution is sustainable in the long-term.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Pressure on the southwest primary schools has risen over the last two years. In the 2014 Reception application round this resulted in 29 children who could not get a place at their catchment school (Dobcroft 8, Dore 6, Greystones 8, Totley 7). This led to a high number of admission appeals. Only 6 other primary schools in the city turned away catchment applicants in that year and all have related plans to create more local places.
- 4.2 The Council is putting in place one extra class at Dobcroft Infants in September 2015 in order to relieve pressure on the local schools in the short-term. This allows time for the permanent expansion to be explored in more detail and, as a small-scale change, can be implemented without statutory consultation processes.
- 4.3 The expected pressure on places in the medium-term is complicated by two key factors:
- (i) No single catchment area demand is expected to increase by 30 pupils per year. The pressure is anticipated in small numbers across a wide area from Greystones, Ecclesall, Dobcroft out to Dore and Totley.

- (ii) Forecast demand is normally based on the current pre-school populations matched to trends in parental preference from each primary school catchment area. In this area of the city there is a significant additional factor that makes the forecasting less reliable and therefore more open to interpretation. Over the last few years there has been a trend of young families moving into the local catchment areas with pre-school children. This has meant that cohorts of children have grown by 14% each year in the Dobcroft catchment area as they move towards school age. The picture is similar in neighbouring catchments, with Ecclesall and Totley growing by an average 13%, and Dore by 10%.

4.3 This in turn leads to two issues to consider when looking at potential solutions:

- (i) Addressing the issue through small expansions of up to 15 places in two or more schools would require those schools to operate mixed-age classes and/or classes above 30. The starting point has been to try to accommodate the growth through additional classes of 30.
- (ii) If this trend of young families moving into the area does not continue or reduces significantly then additional places may not be required in the medium to long term. Equally, if the trend of growth were to continue at the recent rate then, based on the current pre-school cohorts, it is likely that more than 30 places would be needed across this area.

4.4 The starting point for consultation, based on the variability of the forecast model and the wide area of pressure, was that Dobcroft provided a central location, with a history of 2nd and 3rd preferences from the Ecclesall and Dore areas, and with sufficient space on site to accommodate additional building.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 A consultation newsletter was distributed to Dobcroft families through the schools, residents neighbouring the site by post, and copies made available at neighbouring schools and local nurseries. A more detailed document, advertised in the newsletter, was made available on the Council website. A notice was published in the Sheffield Telegraph and at the school gates. Following the first week of responses a Frequently Asked Questions document was made available on the Council website and this was kept up to date during the process as more questions came through (see appendix 2). Four well-attended drop-in sessions were held at the Dobcroft schools week commencing 26th January. In addition, meetings were held with Governing Bodies of the Dobcroft schools and neighbouring schools by request. A document on the complex data behind the proposal was put together independently by the Dobcroft Infant Governing Body data and evidence lead. This document was appended to the Frequently Asked Questions document in order to share this publically during consultation.

- 5.2 In all around 180 emails and letters were received and the vast majority of these were from Dobcroft parents or residents raising concerns or directly opposing the proposal. A petition against the proposal set up by a local person on www.change.org had 359 signatures. A further petition on the same website supporting an increase at the Ecclesall/Clifford schools had 378 signatures. The responses to consultation are included at appendix 1.

Issues Raised During Consultation

Traffic around Dobcroft Schools

- 5.3 The infant and junior schools share an entrance at the top of a residential cul-de-sac with St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary nearby. The concerns raised were around drop-off and pick-up times with the volume of traffic and inconsiderate parking already said to be a major problem for local residents. There have also been concerns raised around the health and safety of families, local residents, and access for emergency service vehicles at busy times.
- 5.4 Any agreement to proceed following consultation would be "subject to the proposal receiving planning permission". The following phase of design work would therefore consider any mitigation proposals. Ultimately these issues around the wider impact of the development would be considered through the planning permission process. This would follow the same pattern as previous proposals such as the expansion of Hallam Primary School where traffic was raised as a significant issue. Following the decision in principle to expand Hallam Primary, further work was undertaken with local residents to consider how issues might be eased. As a result action is being taken to provide a new drop-off/pick-up point in a position that is aimed at reducing traffic around the residential streets near the school entrance. During the consultation some residents and parents have suggested ideas for how the issue could be managed or reduced in relation to Dobcroft and these would need to be picked up and considered in more detail were the proposal to proceed.

The need for places

- 5.5 Responses ranged from there being no evidence of growth and therefore no need for places, all the way to there being the need for more than just expansion at Dobcroft. A number of responses highlighted the growth in Ecclesall, particularly in 2015, and a number of people were supportive of providing extra places in other parts of the southwest to meet that local demand. Many people highlighted concerns about meeting demand across a number of catchment areas at one school and expressed doubt that a single proposal at Dobcroft would or should meet needs across the wider area. Most responses who considered the issue appeared to understand the general principle behind trying to provide places in batches of 30 and there was little, if any, support for smaller expansions at two or more schools in the area.
- 5.6 The data behind this is complex and can therefore be used to support a number of different conclusions. There are two key issues as outlined above, (i) the forecast that shows a need for extra places is based on the

current trend for young families moving into the area and this is inherently variable, (ii) that forecast, and the pressure in 2014, shows a small deficit in places across a number of catchments that does not lend itself to a simple solution.

- 5.7 In order to support understanding of the complex data behind the proposal, the data and evidence lead from Dobcroft Infant School governors undertook a piece of work to give a view of the information independent from the Council. This was then shared with the wider parent body during consultation through the Frequently Asked Questions document on the Council website. The FAQs, including this document can be found at appendix 2.

Buildings, design, & sites

- 5.8 A number of concerns were raised around the impact of expansion on the Dobcroft buildings and site. These are wide-ranging and cover both potential issues around expansion and a view that the current site and buildings are less than ideal. The issues raised include any reduction in extra-curricular space, the potential reduction in playspace, provision of sufficient toilets, difficulty of existing dining arrangements including the current use of classrooms for dining, sufficient hall space for assemblies and performances, as well as the overall concern that any new building is high quality and supports good outcomes. There was also concern around accommodation for the after-school club and a number of responses were keen to ensure that this remained or increased as part of any proposal.
- 5.9 The work to bring forward designs for a school expansion is a labour-intensive process that often starts with a list of concerns from heads and governors. The key for the consultation on a proposal such as this is to listen carefully to the wider concerns of families and then, if proceeding, to begin working positively with the school leadership through the concerns as part of the overall design process. Following the process for previous projects, the intention would then be to engage further with parents and local residents with the initial designs prior to submitting any designs for the planning permission process.

Temporary extra class in September 2015

- 5.10 The consultation was around a permanent increase from September 2016 onwards. The Council has commissioned an extra class at Dobcroft Infants in September 2015 as a temporary measure to alleviate pressure in advance of a permanent arrangement. As a single extra class there is no requirement for consultation on the September 2015 additional class and the lack of consultation has been criticised by some. This has been done in a number of schools in the recent past without significant difficulty and without adversely impacting everyday school life. There is no legal requirement to consult on a change of this scale and the most important effort goes into ensuring that the extra class can be accommodated and resourced properly – this is an ongoing discussion with the school leadership and governors who are being rightly challenging to make sure the result is right for everyone.

Impact on the school and children's outcomes

- 5.11 Many of the concerns and issues raised ultimately come back to the potential impact on children's outcomes. This covers many different aspects, amongst them is a perception that 120 places per year is too big and 'impersonal' and that this along with impacts on the building and site will ultimately lead to a reduction in children's outcomes. There is also a view that Dobcroft is currently underfunded compared to other Sheffield schools. Some responses suggest that the school is unfairly funded based on the current mechanism and that this is magnified by a higher than expected proportion of pupils with special educational needs. The contention has been that issues such as these would be exacerbated by expansion. Most responses are supportive of the schools in their current form and many very positive comments have been received about the education currently offered.
- 5.12 In terms of the overall size, whilst the Dobcroft schools share a site, the schools are separate infant and junior schools. This means that 120 per year would mean the infant school has capacity for 360 pupils and the junior for 480, each with their own Head and leadership team. For comparison, a standard 2 form entry (60 places per year) 'through' primary school with a nursery would have around 480 pupils. The Lydgate schools are a local example of split infant and junior schools that operate successfully with 120 per year. In terms of the funding, the formula is designed to match the relative challenge and need of a school's intake. Additional pupils through any school expansion proposal would be funded on the same basis as all Sheffield pupils and therefore should not adversely impact the school.

Decision-making process & consultation

- 5.13 Many of the responses were critical of the process. Mainly this related to the length of the process and the information available. As described above, efforts were made throughout the process to make more information generally available, including an overview of the questions that were coming through the consultation. The volume and level of detail of responses suggests some parts of the process worked well. The key issue that came up towards the end of the consultation process was a request to extend the consultation period to incorporate a more detailed consideration of alternative options.
- 5.14 The 4-week consultation period is laid down in the statutory guidance around changes to schools such as the expansion proposed at Dobcroft. The legal process requires that a final decision is made within 2 months of the end of that 4-week period. Therefore a final decision is required by 11th April 2015. The Council was not therefore in a position to simply extend the consultation by any significant period as some respondents suggested and must therefore formally decide next steps as outlined in this report, following the end of the statutory 4-week consultation period.

Alternative options

- 5.15 During consultation a number of options for adding places have been put

forward. These have been expressed both as alternatives to the proposal at Dobcroft and in addition, where the respondent considered the need for places goes beyond the extra 30 places proposed. There were a variety of options that were discussed during consultation, including the proposal to expand the Dobcroft schools, alternative ways of creating additional places at one or more of the neighbouring schools, and some people asked about creating a new school for the wider area.

- 5.16 In terms of the consultation response, there has been a view from some members of the Clifford and Ecclesall school communities that these schools should be expanded instead or as well as Dobcroft. This has then been picked up by some of the Dobcroft parents who have seen this as their preferred option given the apparent support in the Ecclesall area and the opposition around Dobcroft. Part of the support revolves around providing places local to the growth within the Ecclesall catchment. It has also come from Clifford Infants who are very positive about the idea of adding a junior phase as part of an expansion proposal. A number of responses raised the option of a new school for the wider area, particularly as an alternative to expansion at Dobcroft where the perception for some is an already overcrowded site.
- 5.17 Overall, the rationale for additional places in this area is complex and any solution is therefore unlikely to meet all potential needs equally well. The addition of 10-15 places at two or more schools has not received any support during the consultation process. Whilst an addition of 30 places per year at two schools may offer more certainty in meeting individual catchment needs and may indeed be required in the near future, the basis for this around young families moving into the area remains an unstable variable. This has consequences for both the Council's overall targeting of education capital and the potential negative aspects of overproviding places on the schools that may end up carrying surplus places. The addition of 30 places per year could therefore be seen as a more cautious response to the issue and this would need to be tested as part of a further exploration of the options.

Conclusion & next steps

- 5.18 Whilst the consultation has brought forward many concerns, particularly around protecting the current educational experience and outcomes, providing additional places at Dobcroft remains a viable option. The alternatives put forward would need further development to test whether these offer a viable solution to the places needs of the area. Having listened carefully to all of the responses and the discussions that have been held it is clear that a continued period of development work would be helpful in making sure that all alternative options can be fully assessed and that any solution is the best option for children, families, residents, and schools across the area.
- 5.19 The next steps would be to continue exploring all the existing options, plus any others that come forward. This would include a discussion with the Church of England Diocese about their future plans for their two local

school sites, Clifford Infants and Ecclesall Junior. There would be further discussions with the local school communities in the area before any further decision.

- 5.20 If the recommendation to explore all options further is accepted, any proposal brought forward to add places would require a fresh statutory process. This would mean a further 4-week period of consultation on the proposal. The aim would be to complete that process and take a final decision in principle before the end of the current academic year in order to allow time for the additional places to be created for September 2016.

Legal Implications

- 5.21 Local Authorities have a duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to secure sufficient primary schools are available for their area. The proposals to reorganise school provision to meet this requirement, such as expansion and closure, are governed by the procedures set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 (“Prescribed Alterations Regulations”), and the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 (“Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations”) and relevant statutory guidance.
- 5.22 The recommendation of a pause to the Dobcroft proposal requires formally withdrawing the proposal in line with the procedures laid out in the Prescribed Alterations Regulations and statutory guidance described above. This would mean that any further plan to add school places, including at Dobcroft, would require a further publication of proposals and further attendant 4-week consultation period prior to a final decision in due course.

Financial Implications

- 5.23 The costs related to this are the costs of continuing design work around the Dobcroft schools and the costs of further exploration of the alternatives prior to any further formal decision to proceed with one of the options. This would be estimated at a maximum of £14k further costs around Dobcroft and a maximum of £10k costs of continued exploration of alternatives. These would be met within the CYPF capital programme as part of the overall scheme to add primary school places in this part of the city.
- 5.24 By continuing the design work in the next phase, the overall scheme budget or ability to deliver the project should not be affected by the recommendation to further explore options. Any alternative proposal that came forward would need to be considered in relation to the overall cost and value for money of the related scheme.

6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 The recommendation is to allow a further consideration of the alternative options to add places. We believe that extra places remain a requirement from September 2016 and that doing nothing is not therefore a viable option.

7.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The level of concern in response to the proposal to permanently expand Dobcroft Infant and Junior schools from Dobcroft parents and local residents has clearly been high. The City Council needs further time to explore in more depth all options for providing extra primary school places in this part of the city.
- 7.2 A number of concerns have come forward during the consultation from the Dobcroft school community about the potential implications of expansion. There were also several alternative proposals for the expansion of school places across the area and beyond. At present a viable and positive alternative option to Dobcroft remains unconfirmed. Some parents asked the Council to extend the consultation period to consider such options in more detail. Under the statutory process the Council is not able to do this and so a pause is the way to allow a further period to explore all options further. This will help shape the right long term solution for the area.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Cabinet is recommended to:
- (i) Note that a single extra Reception class is being offered at Dobcroft Infant School in September 2015 and that an extra class will be provided at Dobcroft Junior when this year group transfers to Year 3 in September 2018.
 - (ii) Agree that the proposals to permanently expand Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools from 2016 should be put on hold by formally withdrawing them allowing officers time to review and explore all options for future school places expansion in the South West of the City, including the Dobcroft plans and others suggested in the consultation process. Following this process a further consultation will take place.
 - (iii) Anticipate a further report (to Cabinet or Individual Cabinet Member) on the expansion of primary school places in the southwest of the city by May to propose a further 4-week consultation on providing places by September 2016.

Joel Hardwick
School Organisation Manager
March 2015

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School Places at Dobcroft Infant & Junior Schools

Consultation Responses

Dobcroft Infant School Governing Body:

We refer to the ongoing consultation process in respect of the proposed expansion of Dobcroft Infant school.

As a governing body we recognise the pressure on spaces that has evolved over recent years in the South West of the City. We do not wish to see any 'in- catchment' children turned away from a school within the region. Equally, we have a duty to ensure the wellbeing of pupils at Dobcroft Infant School both now and into the future.

We outline the governors' considerations as follows.

2015 decision

We note the temporary expansion of Dobcroft Infant School in 2015 has already been decided and will make separate representation in this respect. The council should, however, be aware that the absence of any consultation and openness in the decision making process has alienated parents. The lack of trust and sense of betrayal cannot be underestimated. The decision is a short sighted fix to a perceived immediate problem that is not evident from the data. Current forecasts suggest that 2015 will have no greater pressures than 2014. This temporary expansion will result in more 'out of catchment' admissions building pressure in later years, due to increased sibling preferences.

The perceived need for this temporary expansion stems from 2014 applications, which were with the council in January 2014. It is of immense frustration that it took almost 12 months for the council to reach a decision, and then leave just 6 months for the school to put all the necessary resources in place. The school will cope with these enforced changes primarily because we have a proactive staff and leadership team. Although we would expect the council to provide sufficient funds to support the accommodation of 30 more children who will be with both schools for a total of 7 years, whatever the 2016 decision.

2016 consultation

We welcomed the opportunity to consult on the 2016 decision. We appreciate the time taken by council officers to address our numerous questions and opportunity to analyse their data. The drop in sessions also enabled parents to air their concerns.

The length of the process is up for debate but the lead in period of less than a week has not helped alleviate the scepticism of the process held by many. The school had little time in which to liaise with parents and no information with which to allay any fears. At no point have the council attended our school to explain the issues to parents. Those officers who attended drop in sessions were able to write things down, but not set out the issue in a way that enables parents to engage in consultation based on evidence.

The lack of detailed information through the whole process has been frustrating to all involved. The data that was made available (current numbers in age cohorts from 0-3) led many parents to reach the conclusion that there is no issue in our catchment. This has created considerable anger and frustration amongst parents and the wider community. Staff and governors at the school have borne the brunt of this anger, which seems wholly unjust and avoidable had future forecasts been presented in a way that estimated the impacts of inward migration and priority applications.

In essence, we as a governing body are being asked to consult on the extension of the school without sight of any detailed solutions to address the obvious impact of 120 more children in a school.

The need for additional spaces- data analysis

The council published population numbers by age and by catchment. When pushed, it made available previous year's population data and percentages of what proportions of children in each catchment chose their catchment school. Our governing body had to piece all this together in order to estimate future pressure in the absence of the council doing that work or putting estimates in the public domain. Whilst the council did usefully publish our analysis under FAQs, it seems unsatisfactory that we had to do this work.

Based on analysis we agree that there is a need for more spaces in the South West region. We equally recognise that this will in part be a result of pressure on the Dobcroft intake. However, the data shows far more pressure on Totley and Ecclesall catchments. It has not been demonstrated at all how the extension of Dobcroft will therefore solve the areas with greatest problems within South West Sheffield. It is also likely to detract from schools such as Holt House and Nether Edge.

We do not want to turn away children from catchment as in 2014. However, the data suggests that the current proposal appears to only solve one part (and not the greatest part) of the problem in the South West Sheffield area. It is completely unclear at present how the anticipated high numbers of catchment applications that are unsuccessful in Totley and Ecclesall will be reduced as a result of expanding a neighbouring catchment school. The forecast pressures based on our analysis are presented in Annex One.

DIS capacity to accommodate 90 additional children.

The infant school site is tight with limited external area. The school buildings are tired and require constant maintenance stretching an already pressurised budget. The school has two mobile units which are in total 36 sq m smaller than government guidance.

There is an opportunity through a thorough planning process to improve the learning experience with new modern classrooms and improved external areas to mitigate any reduction in space. Unfortunately, the council to date has not provided meaningful proposals which might address some of the schools concerns. The initial indicators are that the mobiles will be retained, the community hub extended and utilised as a class room. These proposals fall well short of an acceptable solution and will put unacceptable pressure on the children's learning environment.

We understand the consultation is part of a longer process. However, in order to provide meaningful feedback it is reasonable to expect a decent level of information about how a solution might look.

Impact on children's learning environment of a larger cohort and school

We trust the council has taken due consideration of the impact of year sizes of 120. This will change the school dynamics and impact on the environment particularly for the FS intake. This will put our school alongside Lydgate as the biggest intake in the city. We have concerns about such large intakes being overwhelming for young children, particularly in the transition from pre-school setting into foundation.

The teaching staff are confident that a further class per year can be managed. However, the school will need to be adequately adapted requiring sufficient funding to address the significant issues arising from an increase of 90 pupils. Our concerns about the learning environment include:

- Playground congestion created by extra pupils
- Sufficient classroom space rather than use of mobile units
- Ensuring ratios of toilets & showers to pupils & staff is satisfactory
- Ensuring intervention spaces are within the school
- Pressure on the hall & dining space, which is already extremely congested in terms of lunchtime and PE provision
- Potentially reducing communal resources such as the library and IT space
- Threats to play space as a result of increased buildings on the site, and/or additional car parking

Requirements for the extension of Dobcroft Infant School

Despite the major issues, still not addressed by the council, we acknowledge the permanent extension of DIS may go ahead. In such circumstances, the governing body, leadership and staff team will work with council officers to deliver the best solution for the pupils of this school.

We have considered at great length what would be required as a **minimum** to maintain a positive learning environment.

- To limit congestion in the playground better use of the rear area of the school is required.
- Four new classrooms (removing the 2 existing mobiles) for foundation. Covered areas from each classroom, landscaped areas and outside storage for equipment to meet with the requirements of the foundation stage curriculum.
- New classrooms require their own toilet block with shower facility.
- Intervention spaces in recognition of a number of children's needs.
- A hall area and dance space that can accommodate at least 120 pupils for year group assemblies as well as have enough slots for PE and lunchtime.
- The removal of the library and resultant loss of mitigation space will need to be accommodated elsewhere in the school for KS1 children.
- Additional staff toilets and increased PPA/staffroom space.

Highways

Road safety, traffic congestion and parking are serious concerns. The current situation is less than satisfactory with inconsiderate driving and parking the norm. The addition of 210 pupils many of whom could be out of catchment will only add to the pressure on the surrounding road networks.

We appreciate that traffic issues will be considered as part of any planning application. We also understand that a range of traffic calming, safety and parking initiatives can be put in place to alleviate many problems. They do, however, need to be considered in the context of the current consultation to address issues raised by parents and residents. Additionally, any measures will carry a significant cost.

We note the need for more on site car parking has been discussed by the council. We further acknowledge that there are solutions but primarily to the detriment of the pupil's external environment. To replace playground space with car parking whilst encouraging healthy life styles would be hypocritical. Any solution needs to avoid loss of play space unless the loss is suitably mitigated elsewhere on site.

Funding

We understand the council has budgeted a sum of £2.1m for the extension of both the infant and junior schools. Having spent time reviewing the requirements of both schools we have serious reservations that this figure is sufficient. If the council take the decision to proceed with the extension of the two schools we would expect sufficient funds to be made available to deliver a comprehensive solution which will maintain and hopefully improve the quality of the children's learning environment. A cheap fix for a serious situation, requiring long term sustainable solutions, is not the answer.

Conclusion

As a governing body we entered the consultation process with an open mind. We welcomed the opportunity to discuss details of the council's proposals with its officers and hoped they would in turn fully consult with the schools parents.

We recognise that SW Sheffield has a shortage of places going forward and do not wish to turn away 'in- catchment' children.

The consultation process has been disappointing. The lack of information has left the governing body and parents frustrated, with many unanswered questions.

We are not convinced, from the data, that a Dobcroft expansion solves the problem.

We have yet to have it explained to us by SCC how they assess the impact Dobcroft expansion will have on the surrounding catchments with greater pressure.

Equally, there has been no consideration as to the impact any expansion will have on schools which are perceived to have spare capacity, namely Holt House and Nether Edge. Parents from these catchments are just as likely to change their preference to Dobcroft as those parents in oversubscribed catchment areas which is likely to be detrimental to the subject schools and could affect their long term viability.

We note that council officers had stated they would explore alternative options in case Dobcroft was not viable. These other options seem to have now been dismissed despite certain schools, with fewer pupils, wishing to expand.

We are of the opinion that Dobcroft School has simply been chosen for its geographical location in the middle of the SW region rather than in catchment pressures or the ability to accommodate an expansion on an already tight site.

We are in the dark about the amount of money available for building work and how the council will mitigate the risks and issues we have set out.

The fact proposals have met such strong opposition, combined with the data showing that Dobcroft expansion will solve only a small part of south west pressures mean we urge you to recognize that at present, you are not consulting on the right solution to

the problem. We encourage you to delay a decision to allow time for other options, including those initially not favoured, to be given due consideration.'

In view of the above, we are not able to support the councils proposals to expand Dobcroft Infant School.

Dobcroft Junior School Governing Body:

The Governors of Dobcroft Junior School recognise their social responsibility to the need for extra places in the SW of the city. In 2014 there were children from the Dobcroft area who were unable to attend the school, and without the planned expansion this would again be the case for 2015. We support in principle that children should be able to attend their local school. However, we also have a specific responsibility for the well-being of children at Dobcroft both now and in the future.

Following the end of the consultation period on Wednesday February 11th, there will be a Cabinet Meeting which is likely to be held on 18th March 2015. This is a public meeting. If the proposal is approved at the meeting, it will then be subject to planning permission which will include consultation about, and impact on, local highways.

At this point initial designs would be drawn up and displayed in and around schools which staff, parents and local residents can comment on and input into the final design.

Although the council continues to explore alternative solutions to the lack of primary places in the SW of the city, the Governing Body of Dobcroft Junior School has raised the following concerns should the proposal proceed here:

Congestion around the school gates and surrounding neighbourhood

- If the proposal goes ahead, there will ultimately be 840 pupils attending the Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools.
- The above numbers would increase the pressure on the existing roads in the neighbourhood making parking increasingly challenging and potentially dangerous. This is already a well-documented problem for the two schools. Being on a cul-de-sac and in close proximity to both St Wilfrid's and Mylnhurst School, this would compound the issue. Furthermore, the issues around parking are not confined to the Pingle Road entrance but are also in evidence on Dobcroft Road where it meets Silverdale Road and also on Millhouses Lane.
- The proposed extension will accommodate increased demand from outside the catchment, which will guarantee that the majority of additional children are arriving in vehicles.
- The cul-de-sac situation of the school and the tight residential area is an ongoing and significant concern for all existing children and parents at the school and increasing the size of the school to cover the whole of the South West will lead to disproportionate and unsafe conditions in the surrounding neighbourhood.
- We have safety concerns: access to the school is already limited by the fact that it is on a cul-de-sac and due to the sheer numbers trying to park on the neighbouring streets at drop off and pick up times, the proposition would need to be approved by the fire brigade and parking services. Access by the emergency services would be

further hampered by increasing the numbers from 580 to 840 plus the additional staff needed and the additional traffic this would create.

- Suitable modifications would need to be made to the surrounding roads such as one way streets or drop off zones to combat the above issues.

What measures do the council intend to put in place to deal with these issues?

Can the council give us an irrefutable guarantee that the safety of children and residents would not be compromised in any way by the expansion of the schools?

Will the council commit to regularly enforcing parking regulations?

Impact on the school building and site including Health and Safety issues

- While restructuring the school building could prove positive for pupils and the funding currently put aside to improve our buildings would be welcome, none of this is guaranteed and would depend on grants available at the time and negotiation between the school and the architects.
- If expansion were to take place at Dobcroft, additional car parking places would be required for additional staff and this would have to be taken from the existing play area making the playground smaller, yet still having to accommodate additional children.
- If expansion were to take place at Dobcroft Junior School, then additional toilet facilities would be required as the existing toilets were only built to accommodate 240 children.
- Is the kitchen able to cope with the additional numbers and where would the additional children sit to eat lunch as it is already overcrowded in the dining area which doubles as 2 classrooms. If we have a staggered lunchtime, children will have to queue up in the classroom whilst children are working in there, impacting on their learning which would not be satisfactory. We anticipate that this would realistically mean having to install an additional 6 classrooms as opposed to four to ensure the dining room is separate. If replacing the current mobile classrooms were also within the plans, an additional 9 classrooms would have to be built. Does the funding support this or will compromises have to be made?
- Additional children would mean additional staff and support staff. This would affect the day to day management of school, the need for a larger admin team and the requirement of a larger staff room and admin area.
- The school is open plan which means that children need to walk through classrooms to get to other parts of the school. We already struggle with this and the proposed scale of expansion and the impact on lack of circulation space in a school which has no corridors is not feasible without a significant impact on the quality of teaching and education.
- The proposed expansion would lead to less space for the children to play, yet there will be additional children using this space. (490 instead of 370). The field has poor drainage and cannot be used between October and April.
- Our Dobcroft After School Hours (DASH) provision will no longer be able to cope with the additional numbers without itself having an extension.
- After school extra-curricular clubs also have a limited number of places and so an increase in children would make it even harder to get a place at a club.

- Should the proposal go ahead, the school would welcome newer, purpose built classrooms which were self-contained, together with additional toilets and hall space, if there were sufficient funding to support these developments.

What level of design / planning has taken place?

Will expansion cover toilets, dining, hall and sports provisions for an additional 210 pupils and staff?

Will the changes to school design take into account the increased pupil traffic and its impact on the children in an open plan school?

How do the council intend to deal with the need for extra staff parking?

Will there be increased hard areas for the children to play?

Funding implications

- Any expansion at Dobcroft would need to be fully funded by the LA as both schools have a low revenue funding. This would need to include all resources for the new classrooms.
- Although the expansion would be fully funded initially for the first year, we have concerns that in the future, should numbers drop to between 90 and 120, the per-pupil funding would not be enough to support having an extra teacher. This could result in having to support classes well in excess of 30 pupils.
- Children at Dobcroft Junior School only receive £3,394 per pupil compared to the Sheffield average of £4,000. This shortfall of £606 times 370 pupils has a massive impact on our budget. (£224,220 shortfall). If this figure is multiplied by 490 children (370 + additional 120), this shortfall is magnified (£296,940 shortfall). We do not receive much funding from Pupil Premium to soften this blow as we are in an advantaged area, **so we consider lack of funding to be a major concern to this proposal.**
- Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools both have a larger percentage of children with additional needs (22.3%) compared with both Sheffield (21.4%) and nationally (17.4%). Both schools are popular and are seeing a further increase in children with additional and complex needs due to changes in the SEN Code of Practice. This allows parents to choose a suitable school for their child without having to go through the usual admissions appeal system. Creating additional spaces at these schools will attract additional children with complex needs from across the city, who may need 1:1 or additional adult support, further impacting on both space and budget. The reduction in space on both sites will have an impact on these children and especially those with an Education and Health Care Plans. (EHCP).
- Surveys/research show that pupils with SEND cope and progress well in the smaller, nurturing environment provided by primary schools but cope less well once at the larger, impersonal environment of secondary. Smaller schools are better able to adapt their systems to respond appropriately to the needs of vulnerable pupils.
- A main concern for the Junior School would be the division of the funding. We are concerned that once the infant option has been built, there may well be insufficient funding left to expand the junior site, or that the funding may be withdrawn by future governments.

How can the council reassure Governors on these issue?

How can the council reassure Governors that SEN children at Dobcroft will not be affected by the plans?

Can the council reassure us that the SEN withdrawal areas that the school has already created will not be swallowed up by the creation of and need for additional classrooms?

Can the LA commit to providing the school with additional space, staffing and resources to ensure that the rights and needs of our vulnerable pupils are not compromised?

What assurances will be put in place that funding will be agreed for both schools and will not be reduced after this agreement?

Impact on the Curriculum- inclusion

- At the moment Dobcroft Junior School runs an annual residential in every year group. Sometimes it is a challenge to find accommodation to support taking 90 children away on a residential experience but each trip is fully inclusive. If a suitable venue for 120 children is required this will impact on residential visits and may mean that residential visits will no longer be able to take place.
- Dobcroft Junior School currently holds two productions each year. We stage plays to accommodate 90 children performing and their parents in the audience. It would be impossible to stage a play with a cast of 120, meaning that we would have to be selective.
- The Hall is not sufficient to allow 16 classes to access 3 hours of PE a week, especially when the weather does not allow children to use the outdoor yards.
- The hall is not large enough to hold whole school assemblies for 120 additional pupils and the staff.
- Planning Preparation and Assessment time for teachers would have to change. At present, staff plan together and the classes rotate around three activities during the afternoon, led by three specialist teachers. If there were four activities, these lessons would become less than half an hour in length, making them less effective for learning.

How can the council reassure Governors that residential visits will not be impacted?

How can the Council reassure Governors that mandatory PE classes and school performances will not be impacted, for example by including expansion of the school hall in building plans?

Possible Implications for schools in the neighbourhood

- If places at Dobcroft increased and were not filled by children from the catchment area, it will have a domino effect of attracting children from the Holt House and Carterknowle Schools and this in turn would allow children to make the transition from the Nether Edge School to Holt House and Carterknowle Schools, possibly leaving Nether Edge School with empty places and threatening them with possible closure.

- From the chart made available, the figures for the area look set to decrease over the next four years from 487 pupils in 2015/16 to only 400 by 2018/19.

Other considerations

- The schools would both become too large and not as personable as at present. 4 form entry (120 pupils per year) is considered by some as too big for a primary. Should the two schools become a through primary school in the future, as others have done, it will be enormous i.e 7 year groups times 120 pupils per year = 840 pupils on roll. This is the size of some secondary schools. In the initial meeting on 5th November, it was stated by members of the council that their preferred option with primary schools is to have 30 children per class and for there to be a maximum of three form entry in each school.

Alternative options

- We would prefer a solution to be found in the Ecclesall schools whereby the Infant School also became three form entry. This would mean that all children in Ecclesall Infant School (3 forms) would be able to move into Ecclesall Junior School (3 forms). The children who currently attend Clifford Infant School would need to be found a suitable junior school for transition. However, this accommodation would not be needed until 2018, allowing plenty of time to find a solution. Could the funding (£2.1 million) that is proposed in the expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools be better spent extending Ecclesall Infant school by three classes and an additional junior school be built on a suitable nearby site e.g. The Bannerdale Centre, or the old Primary Inclusion Centre which is located close to Clifford Infant School? From the chart, the main expansion appears to be in the Greystones area making Ecclesall a nearby suitable alternative if Greystones reaches capacity in the future.
- An alternative solution would be swapping Ecclesall Infant School with Ecclesall Junior School site. This would allow a three form entry at the new Ecclesall Infant site and then an expansion on the current Ecclesall Infant site to house the additional junior school children, including the children from Clifford. Again, part of this expansion would not be needed until 2018.

To support our proposal for a preferred option to take place at an alternative location, please see the chart below which was prepared by a Governor at Dobcroft Infant School, Iain Bradley, Data and Evidence Lead. He has presented a responsible estimate of catchment demand in future years, based on a blend of the best available data as follows:

- a) The number of children in the catchment area population of a particular pre-school age
- b) A weighting for the amount of inward/outward migration that one could anticipate before that group reach school age. This can be done in two ways. Growth as a percentage based on past trends, or growth in absolute terms based on past trends. Modelling both and splitting the difference seems sensible. [let's call this a population growth factor].
- c) A weighting for the proportion of children in catchment who are likely to apply to the school, to estimate the anticipated demand for a place in each catchment school. This can be based on the total number of 3 year olds and the number of those who put their catchment school down as 1st preference in each catchment in the last three years. [let's call this a 1st preference factor].

Expressed as a formula this is as follows for any future intake:

$$\frac{[\text{Children in Catchment} * \text{population growth \%age factor} * \text{1st preference factor}] + [(\text{children in catchment} + \text{recent migration absolute numbers}) * \text{1st preference factor}]}{2}$$

2

Table 1: Predicted numbers of in catchment applications in future years.

	Intake	Catchment population 1st pref forecast					4 year average places Vs 1st pref catchment apps
		2015	2016	2017	2018	4 year average	
Nether Edge	60	25	27	28	26	27	-33
Hunter's Bar	90	40	37	47	46	42	-48
Lowfield	60	28	27	27	25	27	-33
Totley	30	39	41	52	49	45	15
Ecclesall	60	84	64	86	78	78	18
Holt House & Carterknowle	60	48	42	34	34	39	-21
Dobcroft*	90	82	99	105	101	97	7
Springfield	30	22	19	20	23	21	-9
Greystones**	90	80	79	63	68	73	-17
Dore	60	61	68	62	57	62	2
Sharrow	60	36	42	40	35	38	-22

*Modelled at 90 per year, i.e. ignoring the temporary expansion in September 2015

**Current intake of 60 is returning to 90 from 2015

This evidence indicates that although there is a demand for places at the Dobcroft schools in the future, the real demand comes from the Totley and Ecclesall catchment areas. In addition, there are a number of parents in the catchment area who choose to educate their children privately, reducing the strain on Dobcroft.

In addition, the deadline for primary school applications for 2015 is 31st January. This information is key to the decision making process on the future expansion of the school and we request it is made available to all interested parties. The closing date of February 11th of the consultation does not allow for full consideration and factoring in of new information on the current cohort application across the South West.

We have considered the many issues involved and realise that many of them may appear negative. However, the possible lack of funding and its impact on the education, health and safety and well-being of the pupils, both currently on roll and in the future, has to be our prime concern and is of paramount importance. Moreover, we feel that there is a real alternative to the expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools by pursuing the Ecclesall/Clifford or the Totley options. Although costings are as yet unknown, the addition of nine extra classrooms at Dobcroft Junior School and two/three additional classrooms at Dobcroft Infant School has to be weighed up against the costs of expansion at the alternative locations. **We are deeply concerned that the cost of expansion on this scale cannot be met by £2.1m.**

Have these alternative options been fully investigated and designs costed as, without full information, it would be prejudicial to proceed with a Dobcroft expansion?

Is there the option of applying for an extension to the consultation deadline in light of the 2015 primary school application data being available in February 2015 and an opportunity for the school to fully consider and respond to the proposals?

Is there an e-forum or web page that parents can access and communicate a shared and collective approach to the expansion?

The Governing Body of Dobcroft Junior School.

Clifford CE Infant School Governing Body

On behalf of the Governing Body at Clifford, thank you for taking the time to talk to us on Wednesday night (04/02/2015).

We hope that you took away from the meeting that we have questions about the data which is the foundation of the proposal, and that we are concerned that there has been insufficient regard to the alternative and relatively simple solution that we have proposed as an alternative to that proposal.

We intend to present a detailed proposal which we believe will meet the objective to offer additional places, but we cannot do so within the existing deadline of 11.2.15. The parents of our children will need time to consider the additional information provided to us this evening in order to provide their own contributions to the consultation.

In addition, it also seems from the discussions tonight that there is information which is material to our formal response, which is not yet available to us, and in some cases to the Council. Specifically, and in order to validate the number of additional spaces required, we will need to consider the information which is currently being collated by the Council and which gives certainty to the first choice intake for the September 2015 academic year.

Also, we understand that an architect has been commissioned to explore further our proposal to expand Clifford and that report will be due within the next week. We presume that will take some time to be disclosed to us together with the Council's analysis. We will obviously need time to reflect on the content. We may have questions to ask, and we will need time to relay the responses to our community. In addition the Diocesan Architect needs access from SCC to see the PRU site and the LA Architect needs to look in detail at our current site to inform his report.

As this information is not yet available then we are prevented from providing an effective consultation response, and it raises questions about the fairness of the entire consultation.

On this basis, we ask you to suspend, pause or extend the consultation for an additional 3 months to allow adequate time for such an important issue to be addressed properly.

Clifford CE Infant School Governing Body Meeting 4th February 2015

Notes on Proposed Expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior School

- The data indicates that most of the need for additional places runs in a band from Ecclesall to Greystones. You should be looking at this area first then coming back to Dobcroft if there is a need.
- Is there a risk that if Ecclesall I is oversubscribed again a short notice expansion will be forced on them either by the council or through admissions appeals? Our main concern is that if this were to happen there must be an assurance that places at Ecclesall J will be increased. Last time this happened places at the Juniors did not increase and this caused a great deal of concern for our parents. We need a guarantee that children who attend Clifford Infants will be able to get a Junior place.
- What options are you still considering if additional places at Dobcroft Infants are not enough?
- We think the figures you are using are a slight misrepresentation as they assume diocesan schools are taking only from the South West. This is not the case.
- Why is the Local Authority proposing Dobcroft? What factors meant that this decision was arrived at?
- How strongly has the Clifford and Clifford Rd PRU been considered? When will the architects report be made available to us?
- Dobcroft parents don't want the expansion, Clifford and Ecclesall parents do. What is behind the Local Authority pushing it?
- In the time you have after the admissions information has been processed do you still have the time to expand Ecclesall Infant's for September 2015 if you need to?
- The concept of Y3 staying at Ecclesall Infant (and possibly Y3 remaining at Clifford would be acceptable to the school.
- It was asked why a new school on the Bannerdale site was not being explored. This was included in a discussion around new housing developments generating additional pupils in the area. Governors stated that if a new school on the Bannerdale site was possible they would happily relocate and become a through school.
- Officers were asked to confirm if increases in secondary places were also being considered?

Ecclesall Infant School Governing Body Meeting 20th January 2015

Notes on Proposed Expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior School

- One concern is that many parents who live in the Ecclesall catchment area will want a place at school and not be able to get one. Expecting children to travel to Dobcroft is unfair, there are some major roads to cross and it would create a number of difficulties for parents.
- There will be an impact on the children in terms of both their education, attending a large school with 120 pupils per year and how they interact with their peer group. The children reside, are friends with and attended pre-school with other children who live in the Ecclesall catchment area. It will be harder to form social bonds outside of school if they live so far away from the Dobcroft area.
- We want to ensure that wherever the additional places are located the pupils have enough space and the correct facilities. We feel that a 120 place intake will mean that the size of the size and facilities on offer will come under a great deal of pressure and we are concerned that education will be impacted.

- We question the Council's strategic planning in relation to new housing provision. There are a number of new housing developments in this area and would like to know how the Local Authority are factoring in the new children moving in to this housing with its planning.
-

Dobcroft Infant and Dobcroft Junior School Consultation: Comments from Drop-in Sessions

Meetings

Dobcroft Infant School, Monday 26th January, 8:45am – 10:15am

Dobcroft Infant School, Wednesday 28th January, 5:00pm – 6:30pm

Dobcroft Junior School, Tuesday 27th January, 8:45am – 10:15am

Dobcroft Junior School, Tuesday 27th January, 3:30pm – 7:30pm

Themes

Traffic & Parking

- Safety of children accessing the site with traffic, no crossings or patrol wardens.
- Any expansion will mean more children on the pavements travelling to school, increasing risk of accidents. (children falling over).
- There is an accident waiting to happen.
- If Dash (after school club) is lost, this could increase the number of car pick-ups at home time.
- Dobcroft housing is very stable. Concerned about traffic and safety with parents driving to the school site.
- Cars on the double yellow lines – all schools have traffic issues.
- This will make the school too large-210 parents bringing children in cars will make it unsafe.
- A Nursery on Millhouses Lane was stopped by planning permission because of the impact on traffic.
- Kids well-being comes first. What about views of kids. Traffic is a worry. St Wilfred's, Dobcroft and Mylnhurst. Concern is that children travelling from neighbouring catchment areas would come in cars.
- Issue of safety for children crossing – a zebra crossing on Whirlowdale Crescent.
- Suggested a volunteer scheme for parents to oversee children's crossing to the school.
- Parents are very concerned about the additional traffic the proposed expansion would lead to and associated safety and parking issues.
- Several parents raised the issue of traffic problems; parking on double yellow lines/blocking of driveways/lack of access to emergency services and buses were examples repeatedly given.
- Serious concerns were raised about the safety of children walking to school with all the extra traffic – it was mentioned that extra school crossing patrols would be needed to avoid accidents happening.
- Any additional places will be taken by non-catchment children who will have to travel to school by car, therefore increasing congestion and pollution.
- Parking is a problem for both parents and local resident and this would only be made worse with more children coming to the school. Will anything be done to mitigate this?

- It is already crowded in this area at pick up and drop off times (there are three schools in close proximity and this is unique to this area of Sheffield) and the safety of children is a concern.
- Is there a possibility of looking at the need for a School Crossing Warden?
- If the proposed expansion goes ahead it will increase in the number families from outside Dobcroft travelling by car into the area to drop-off and collect children from the school.
- This will increase the amount of traffic and congestion on the local roads that are already at breaking point.
- From 08:30 to 10:00 am the roads are a complete log-jam.
- There are no decent public transports routes that service the school, increasing the likelihood that parents from further afield will drive to the school. Other school sites such as Totley and Ecclesall have much better transport links and would be better suited for expansion, limiting the impact on congestion.
- There are number of schools in the area (Milnhurst, Dobcroft, St. Wilfrid's) which all contribute to compound the traffic problem.
- There is already a high risk of road accidents, this expansion will increase that risk. An accident will happen.
- If an accident does happen, emergency service will not be able to get down the roads, increasing the risk of harm to residents.
- The congestion already has a prohibitive effect on resident's lives: we can't have deliveries or workmen visit at school run times: we can't baby sit our grandchild sometimes because we can't get in and out easily.
- Dobcroft Rd and Millhouses Lane are already very congested.
- There are plans to prohibit parking on Pingle Rd; if these plans go ahead it will only contribute to widen the area of congestion.
- There is a complete lack of joined up thinking by Sheffield City Council. You proposed major changes to the road infrastructure in this area in 2011 without taking the views of residents into account and now you propose this! 'You don't give a damn about local people!'
- Traffic a major issue already increase in pupils will mean an increase in traffic
- Parents park zigzag markings
- Suggested making Whirlowdale crescent one-way
- Traffic congestion
- Parking and pollution a nightmare
- All children should be able to walk to a good school. If they can't, we should focus on raising standards not transporting children to other localities
- Parking/traffic
- Child safety concerns due to traffic
- Suggestion of concreting the grass verges on Pingle road create more width.
- My main concern is that traffic and parking at the start and end of the day are dangerous and could get worse. Is there anything that can be done to support with this?
- Staff already park on surrounding roads. This could get worse.
- Could the school send a message to parents on parking, or look to start and persevere with something like 'Footprints Week'? This seemed to have an initial impact on the problem.
- I am concerned that traffic and parking will become worse as a result of the additional pupils. This situation is already dangerous. I would like to know how I can input into the planning process?

- Concern about the traffic and the impact of more children travelling to the site!
- The parking is very bad already – this is close to being unsafe. Why has nothing been done already by the Council.
- How would road safety be managed – will there be more zebra crossings or patrols. What about additional staff car parking.
- The parking has destroyed the verges – 4x4's and taxi-drivers.
- Houses used to have rocks along the verges, but a letter came to ask neighbours to remove them.
- Could we set out parking along Whirlowdale Road, at Woods Section, where it won't bother residents, and for a walking bus to be organised to ferry children across to school
- Concerned about traffic – the drop off.
- This expansion will capture children from the non-south west area, leading to more traffic. Children should attend their local school, not elsewhere. Dobcroft already has a three class intake, four is bigger than other schools; disproportionate in size compared to other schools in the south west.
- Group are against the proposals. All live on roads that back onto the school and there is already too much traffic, both people on foot and vehicular. Parents park over drives when they are dropping children off and there is generally gridlock and chaos at this time of day. Visibility is reduced when there are many cars, leading to safety issues. There have already been a number of accidents.
- Traffic is unmanageable at best and if the expansion goes ahead there will be 200 extra cars at peak time.
- There isn't a bus route so the increased traffic will mean the streets are unsafe for children. The roads are already "jammed", including cars double-parking.
- The increase in traffic is a concern, particularly as it is not feasible for everyone to walk
- There is not enough space for parking in the area
- Traffic is a problem and will be worse with more pupils from outside the catchment area that are likely to be driven to school
- Parking has been a problem, with double parking common and police CSOs involved. This will get worse with more cars.
- How far does planning permission take into account for traffic on surrounding roads?
- People moving to the school catchment area will place more pressure on roads
- Work on getting people to walk to schools would be undermined by more out of catchment parents driving to school.
- Clean air is already a problem on and around Abbeydale Road, more traffic from out of catchment pupils will make this worse.
- Local resident expressed strong concerns about the proposed expansion upon the volume of traffic in the locality.
- This person commented about how school staff are already parking on nearby roads due to a lack of car parking spaces on the school site and that any expansion would just exacerbate this.
- If the decision were taken to permanently expand the school, this would equate to potentially an additional 100 cars using the roads around school at drop off and pick up times. This would result in "an accident waiting to happen".

- Safety in the area around school. Already general congestion. If people are travelling from outside of catchment, there will be even more traffic – 210 extra potential vehicles.
- Transport a concern, especially with more cars coming from outside of catchment – we have no lollipop lady.
- There is already a big problem with parents who are dropping their children off parking across driveways. They ignore the double yellow lines and have even parked on their drive! Worries about safety for children and parents crossing the road. Buses can't get down. It's a massive problem, not just on the immediate surrounding streets but for quite a large area. There are no police or traffic wardens. There will potentially be another 30 cars from September – then if the permanent expansion goes ahead it will be even worse.
- What is the plan to reduce traffic in these streets? Problems in Whirlowdale Crescent, Millhouses Lane, Derriman Drive.
- Worried about traffic problems and that there will be accidents.
- Concerns over traffic/parking and safety issues.
- Traffic and Environment
- The additional places are not for catchment children. This means that large numbers of non-catchment children will attend from outside the community, most of whom are likely to come in cars.
- Parent had concerns over parking, drives being blocked. The district suffers with congestion with neighbouring schools in vicinity.
- Local resident expressed strong concerns about the proposed expansion upon the volume of traffic in the locality.
- If the decision were taken to permanently expand the school, this would equate to potentially an additional 100 cars using the roads around school at drop off and pick up times. This would result in “an accident waiting to happen”.
- Residents are worried about noise and inappropriate parking.
- The Council promotes a ‘walking to school’ initiative but this isn't taken up by working parents who don't have the time. Children should be able to walk to school; there is chaos if they can't. There are many benefits of them walking, including their health and environmental benefits. The streets are too busy between 8.30 and 9am; “you can't move”.

Data and The Need for Places

- Data analysis does not include Sharrow. This should have been included.
- I question how ‘sustained’ the predict growth will be in Dobcroft. I'm not convinced it will continue indefinitely at the same rate.
- This school is a good school and central, but the numbers don't show the expansion should be at this school.
- Parents were aware that the school catchment area had changed last year and were keen to know how and why they were changed and whether any consultation was carried out?
- Are there proposals to amend the existing catchment areas in 2016/17?
- Parents expressed the view that Dobcroft could accommodate everyone within its catchment area without a problem, so why the need to expand just to take in children from other school catchment areas?
- Was the decision made purely on a cost basis?
- The catchment area demand is not significantly higher than the current 90 places

- Is Dobcroft being proposed because it is the cheapest solution?
- I don't understand why Dobcroft is being proposed. It is clearly not the area of need.
- I'm not sure why it is you are proposing Dobcroft when the growth seems to be focused on other areas.
- Will the proposed expansion target the identified areas of demand? Children living in places like Bradway could gain a place ahead of those the expansion is intended for.
- Parents expressed the view that Dobcroft could accommodate everyone within its catchment area without a problem, so why the need to expand just to take in children from other school catchment areas?
- I don't understand why Dobcroft is being proposed. It is clearly not the area of need.
- I'm not sure why it is you are proposing Dobcroft when the growth seems to be focused on other areas.
- My feeling is that the data does not prove a need for additional places in 2015.
- Thinking that providing places at Dobcroft will help the wider places shortfall in the South West is naïve. For this to work those places would need to be better targeted and admissions arrangements altered. Is this something that can be considered/consulted on?
- Is there a need for an expansion at all and looking at the figures, is Dobcroft the best option?
- I have great concerns about 2015, many parents in the Ecclesall area feel unless admissions arrangements change that their only options will be Nether Green Infants or Holt House Infants.
- Fundamentally I don't think an expansion at Dobcroft will fix the wider problem in the South West and that places will only go to parents from other catchment areas who live very close to Dobcroft. Some Ecclesall Infants parents who are not able to get a place at their catchment school will be left with a poor option.
- There is a letter which said that the infant school could not take a single additional child 14/15.
- How can more children be taken at the Infant school without more space and infrastructure.
- There is no shortage of school places in Sheffield. Dobcroft is oversubscribed so why not channel these children elsewhere? Ecclesall and Clifford are pro-expansion (parents and governors), Dobcroft are anti-expansion – "Not one person wants it [extra class] here." Spaces at Dobcroft are for excess children in Dore and Totley catchment. These would normally feed into King Ecgbert's, not Silverdale but this expansion will give these pupils a choice of secondary school. There aren't many schools with a three-class intake and Dobcroft is already one of the biggest in the city.
- Parents want an actual Q&A session about the proposals but the school don't want it.
 - Q: Is this overspill for children in the Dobcroft catchment or from outside the catchment?
 - Q: Why take children from outside the catchment when children from within the catchment can't get in?
 - Q: Can Silverdale still accommodate Dobcroft if an additional 30 children per year are added to Dobcroft?

- The need for extra places is at Ecclesall and Totley who are “begging for extra classes”. Expanding Dobcroft won’t solve the problem in those areas.
- More money for the school’s current capacity will solve its problems, not extra places.
- Will Silverdale School have enough spaces for when the extra numbers start to filter through to secondary phase?
- Will the catchment area change?
- Within the catchment area, will places be offered to those who live closer to the school?
- Is the catchment area increasing?
- With the pressure for places at Ecclesall she is worried that if her child doesn’t get in there, that she may not also get a place at Dobcroft, and that the places would go to children who live nearer.
- Why extend catchment areas when boundaries will overlap?
- What about the ripple effect how will extra accommodation at Dobcroft affect Silverdale Secondary places
- This has implications for places at secondary.
- They are under the impression that places are not being created in the correct area of Sheffield.
- I would question if the proposed expansion will target the identified areas of demand. Holt House children could gain a place ahead of Ecclesall and Dore/Totley children. We need to make sure the children that need the place get the place.
- Aren’t these extra places going to take children out of Nether Edge.
- Need to consider the transfer to secondary – more places at Silverdale.
- Why didn’t SCC know earlier that there was an admissions problem in the South west
- She doesn’t think the proposals will solve the problems in the Ecclesall catchment area.

The Extra Class in 2015

- Parents also did not get the information in advance about the residents ‘bulge’ class.

Buildings, Design & Sites

- How will the temporary expansion be delivered? i.e. within existing buildings or a temporary provision.
- Catchment not growing – school serves its numbers at the size it is. Cul de sac makes it difficult to manage expansion on the site. Wilfred’s kids merge onto the same road. Pupils from other catchment area (210) would all have to travel to the site. Silverdale pupils also makes it work.
- How would construction be managed on the site – couldn’t it be done in the summer so would conflict with pupils/school. Site is just not conducive to expansion – traffic and fact that it is a bottle neck. Dobcroft I is central but not accessible.
- Suitability of spaces within the school to be able to expand – would need phase dining, PE spaces external, can’t get all children into the hall. Circulation is within class spaces.
- The site is already quite constrained in terms of the demands being placed on it. How would any of the new buildings needed be achieved on the site.

- How appropriate for the site and the number of children will the capital solution be?
- How will the work on site be phased while the school is still operating?
- Parents views on the design need to be taken into account. Schools are more than just their classrooms.
- What would be included in the capital solution and is this purely driven by funding.
- Parents are concerned that the site hasn't the physical capacity to be able to accommodate the proposed permanent expansion (she indicated that the school was already struggling with space for lunches and playtime).
- Appropriate spaces need to be provided. The Library and ICT suite need to be retained and more toilets should be provided. Outside play should be protected. Parents should be informed how any new buildings would work on the site.
- How would construction on the site work?
- What work has been done to look at how the sites could accommodate new buildings while still providing good outdoor facilities?
- How will the capital work be funded?
- There will not be enough space on the site. There are already not enough toilets and I would not want to see a move to three lunchtime sittings.
- Capital funding - £2.1m has been set aside and will not be enough. We need to have this broken down.
- Open plan nature of the accommodation at Junior. Any new accommodation would need to be separate.
- Appeals statement from the school says the classrooms are under sized and the toilets are insufficient and noisy. Adding another 30 children will mean toilets are needed.
- Concerned about Hall and Cloakrooms/toilets.
- Combining the library and IT space will be disadvantageous and there are not enough toilets.
- Mobiles at both I and J don't have toilets.
- Biggest concern is the development of more drop-in pod classrooms instead of the school being developed as a whole.
- It would be a good idea to develop funding for the whole school rather than for individual pods (prefabs).
- The group has concerns around the safety of the actual building work. When will this take place?
- The building is unsuitable; the facilities are inadequate. More toilets are needed.
- Q: Will the school build on the playground?
- 'Will the outdoor spaces be safe with more children in them?'
- Toilets will need checking throughout the day, as hygiene is already a problem, particularly when used by early year's pupils.
 - Children holding back from going due to the toilets' condition is causing continence problems.
- They would like to see the risk assessment done as part of assessing the options and proposing Dobcroft.
- The building is not in a good condition and needs investment in toilets and the roof without an expansion. The PSA already funds outdoor equipment but can't afford to do more.

- Concerns that the building was designed for two classes per year and is already using temporary buildings to have three.
- The school already feels cramped.
- 'Will building works reduce outdoor space and reduce how active the children are?'
- The size of the site and the condition of current facilities the reason for concerns
- Funding concerns – will there be enough additional funding?
- Mentioned a publically available document for looking at space per pupil and building regulations – is this being looked at?
- Funding – is this going to be in place?
- They wouldn't like to see development on the playing fields.
- Have the plans been looked at for where the additional classroom will be built?
- Will the number of toilets comply with building regulations?
- Is there going to be enough capacity for dinners (cooking facilities, space, time for lunch)?
- Mobile classrooms are already used for Year 1's educational provision, would prefabs be replaced with more permanent buildings?
- When would new buildings be built, seems it would have to be a rush job as to not disrupt the day to day running of the school
- What about the reports on feasibilities of other sites?
- Sheffield City Council could identify brownfield sites to build on. Ecclesall Woods suggested as a site.
- Will resources such as caretaking be expanded to deal with extended premises?
- Current playing field provision not accessible for children 3 to 4 months of the year due to drainage problems, the cost of which is extortionate for the school maintenance budget to cover.
- The current prefab buildings are not economical to run with heating them etc, were a temporary arrangement for pupil provision. Alternative arrangements are needed to replace the mobiles and be incorporated into design plans.
- Parents are concerned that the site hasn't the physical capacity to be able to accommodate the proposed permanent expansion (she indicated that the school was already struggling with space for lunches for example).
- If the library is closed in order to allow the expansion; how will the needs of SEN pupils be adequately met?
- Parents are very concerned that the temporary expansion for 2015/16 hasn't fully considered the health and safety and legal implications (i.e. school not being able to meet statutory requirements for the additional 30 children in terms of facilities, space etc.).
- Parents are concerned that the temporary expansion will invariably lead to permanent expansion.
- At Dobcroft Infant, you cannot pick up children from the mobiles, they are not accessible. The parents go in with the children. There are not enough toilets in the infant's, the double mobile has no toilet and drinking water.
- Whatever solution is provided must be appropriate for children with additional needs.
- Detailed plans needed
- Might the schools benefit from investment or will it just be mobile.
- We don't have the guarantees about what we will set or not.

- Investment is needed but there is no certainty for funding. There is no information for parents around provision.
- There are space issues: dining, classrooms, library – but can't make an informed choice until the proposals have been finalised.
- This is an opportunity to get rid of some of the disadvantages the school faces

Impact on the Schools (Education & Standards)

- Feel positive about the school and its achievements
- I am concerned about the size of any potential new classrooms. [Parent asked for reassurance that some sort of formula is used to calculate class room sizes]. I am already concerned that a number of classes are over capacity in terms of teaching space.
- Parents from different areas will negatively affect the sense of community in the school
- Would any addition non-classroom space (i.e. Hall space, break-out areas, enrichment areas, toilets) be included in any potential build? Is there any guidance on how much of this additional space must be provided?
- I know that there are plans to introduce cooking into the national curriculum. What plans does the school have to provide adequate facilities to teach this new area of the curriculum? And these be taken into consideration when design any new provision.
- I have heard that the Infant library we be converted into a classroom to accommodate the temporary expansion. Resulting in the after school club, Dash, moving the much smaller 'Hub'. Dash is vital to the children education and sense of community. I am concerned that the Hub is not big enough and fewer children will be able to attend. I think it would probably result in job loses for existing staff. What provisions will be put in place to ensure that this service is maintained and enhanced to accommodate the temporary bulge and permanent expansion.
- Non-classroom space will be lost if the school is expanded, and there will be a negative impact on the quality of education.
- If Dash has to move to the Hub, it won't be bigger enough. There will be a knock-on impact to other after school clubs. It will have a negative impact on 'community feel'
- If the numbers drop back in future what would happen 1) with the budget and 2) with classes.
- Ecclesall J/Greystones/Sharrow/Lowfield are in the catchment areas which grow.
- We get a lot of statemented children, but revenue funding lags behind.
- Want to know how the school can keep the nurturing environment.
- Larger numbers will create differences for drama, residential trips, dining.
- Parents are convinced that if the expansion were to go ahead, there would be a negative impact upon the quality of education and the outcomes of children are possibly better options for providing the extra places such as at Ecclesall, or by using the Bannerdale site.
- Parents expressed a concern that the school hadn't been inspected for 7/8 years and felt that by increasing pupil numbers this would not help any future inspection result. Comment was made that tighter school budgets meant having to appoint NQTs in place of experienced staff to save money and this may also affect an Ofsted outcome.

- If the temporary increase went ahead, parents expressed concern over the disruption that would be felt by the current children and the effect that this would have on their education.
- If the school becomes 4FE it will need to stagger play and lunch times. I think that this is unfair.
- I would like some re-assurances that the proposal would not have an impact on how enrichment activities and the wider curriculum are delivered.
- Standards at the school need to be maintained.
- Is the expansion of Dobcroft the best thing for the children who live out of the catchment area and will have to travel in to get to school?
- Will the proposed new size of the school put some parents off and is there a risk that this will create a sink school? I have every faith in the school management and think they do a good job at the moment but 4FE would be a very large school to manage.
- Parents are concerned that the site hasn't the physical capacity to be able to accommodate the proposed permanent expansion (she indicated that the school was already struggling with space for lunches for example).
- If the library is closed in order to allow the expansion; how will the needs of SEN pupils be adequately met?
- Expansion would be entirely at odds with the school's ethos and the 'eco school' ambitions at Dobcroft.
- Parents are very concerned that the temporary expansion for 2015/16 hasn't fully considered the health and safety and legal implications (i.e. school not being able to meet statutory requirements for the additional 30 children in terms of facilities, space etc.).
- Parents wanted to know where ICT would be carried out in school in future. They had been told that the current ICT suite was to become the library because the library was being used as a new classroom for the temporary intake. Concern was also raised about having one school hall for the whole school for PE lessons, school plays etc. – how would it accommodate all the extra children?
- Parents felt that getting rid of the temporary classrooms (which had been there for more than 30 years) and replacing them with permanent classrooms would be necessary.
- Having more temporary classrooms on site would seriously reduce the play areas available to children – they are small enough as it is.
- How could school accommodate all the extra children at lunchtimes?
- What impact will additional children have on communal facilities such as toilets, dining and corridors?
- Appropriate spaces need to be provided. The Library and ICT suite need to be retained and more toilets should be provided. Outside play should be protected. Parents should be informed how any new buildings would work on the site.
- Parents are concerned about how the school's budget would be able to meet the additional repairs and maintenance costs following the capital expenditure as the PTA ends up financing most of these costs.
- Parents expressed concern that health issues in school would deteriorate and make things worse than they are now. The toilets are in a pretty bad way, with cisterns already being held together with duct tape and it was felt that having 33% more children in school would only make things worse.
- Parents raised concern over the future of the after school club. Where would it be held? It would be harder for children to enrol as there would be more

competition and this would have a negative effect on children's development. On occasions, parents also rely on the after school club as child care – what would happen if this wasn't available?

- The PSA work hard to raise extra money for the school and it was felt that the expansion would only dilute what could be done with the money raised.
- Dobcroft After School Hours club (DASH). Will the temporary and permanent proposals make any provision available for accommodating before and after school clubs?
- I would be concerned if after school clubs are affected by the expansion.
- What will the impacts on ancillary spaces (toilets, SEN spaces) following the temporary expansion? How will this impact on the overall teaching experience?
- I am worried that the quality of education at the school will be reduced if the expansion goes ahead.
- Will the school still be able to deliver a high standard of education?
- On a whole I think that children's educational experience will suffer.
- The size of the school would be a concern for me. It would be a very large environment and I think it would struggle to maintain the small feel of the school. The resources and facilities supplied to the school would need to support this.
- There are already two lunchtime sittings due to pupil numbers, resulting in some children not having their lunch due to lack of time. How will this be addressed with increased numbers?
- I am concerned that you might look to build a new block on the playing fields. I think the playing fields are important and should be protected.
- While I support the proposal I really think you need to support maintain the high levels of attainment.
- I firmly believe that if this proposal were to go ahead it would have a negative impact on the educations of pupils at the school.
- I'm concerned that we won't all be able to fit in the hall for performances.
- I can understand how you will get the additional classes of 30 in place but I think lunchtimes and break times will be too crowded. If you have to move to staggered lunch and break times this will have too great an effect on friendship groups. I don't think that 4FE would work on one yard at one time and you would end up segregating some pupils. You should be encouraging a smaller community feel.
- To make 4FE work would place extra pressure on staff.
- Extra classes means extra resources needed, the budget is very tight, so school would need support to extra costs, TA's and equipment.
- SEN children – more children would mean more statemented children. Dobcroft's budget is very tight and it makes it difficult to provide the resources for these children.
- I'm worried about the pressure on the facilities at the school, e.g. the lunchtimes and provision of toilets.
- My child was injured at lunchtime. Will there be extra supervision at lunchtime with extra children.
- Concerned about losing the library for 1-1 sessions for SEN children.
- How is the school going to preserve play space and how would children react emotionally if the play space is reduced? Are you looking at alternatives?
- Need to keep the afterschool club – and it would need to expand now.
- 'Dash' are using the Infant library – where would this go?

- This expansion risks losing that close-knit community feel. Dobcroft feels more 'intimate' and local and I am worried about losing that feel.
- The school building itself is unsuitable for extra pupils – in terms of its size and the actual building work that would take place. The logistics of running the school would become harder. The hall can't be made bigger and children are already rushing lunch (to let other children come in) and a longer lunchtime would impact on learning time. This would also impact on the parental community i.e. attendance at school concerts etc. Classroom size issues don't resolve issues around the hall.
- These proposals will plummet the school's Ofsted rating from Outstanding to Satisfactory.
- The school would have to get rid of its forest school area (for room) and therefore lose its eco school status.
- "It changes our school."
- Q: Where will the extra children with SEN go when there isn't enough room for the current intake of SEN children?
- Q: Will lunch breaks be extended for the new intake? This will be detrimental to the running of the school. Children are already queuing a long time for lunches; in future they will opt for cold lunches over hot ones as they can eat them straight away.
- Concerned about the loss of the school library; "the physical geography of the school will be lost."
- A very good school with many benefits for children but an expansion would have an impact on these.
- Increasing the size would mean a loss of teachers' attention on individual children.
- The management of the school during the proposed change is a concern
- 'How will the school manage more pupils at dinner time?' 'Will lunch be longer and if so will pupils have a longer wait between meals?'
- 'Will new permanent classrooms be built?'
- 'Will rooms for interventions for pupils with special needs be lost?'
- 'Is the hall large enough to deal with increased numbers?'
- 'Are there enough toilets?'
- Shared space (e.g. the IT area, the hall, outdoor areas) would be eliminated or reduced
- Pupils would not perform as well in a larger school
- 'How will children cope without a library?' There will be less opportunity for pupils to develop their reading.
- 'Will each pupil's access to IT equipment be reduced?'
- 'Where will the after school club be?'
- School resources will be strained and shared spaces will be lost to make room for classrooms
- Where will the after school club go?
- Will PE time be reduced due to more pupils and a smaller outdoor space?
- Will lunch time be staggered? If so there will be a long wait for pupils between their meals.
- The reduced space could risk children's safety
- The toilet facilities are not large enough for more pupils to use them
- Will the admissions process be affected by the temporary increase? E.g. siblings of pupils in the temporary increase group being more likely to get into the school?

- The size of learning spaces will be reduced e.g. the library
- The after school club helps education and health (through sports) will there be limited spaces for this and more competition?
- What are Jayne Ludlam's thoughts on the school losing its library?
- The IT space will be cramped with more children
- Smaller class sizes are less likely with more children on site.
- Children would have less access to shared learning spaces, including outdoor space.
- The group wanted to know Jayne Ludlam's thoughts on how the quality of learning is affected by expansion.
 - They thought it would reduce focus on learning due to the leadership both managing the change and managing extra pupils.
- Will this work postpone a potential Ofsted inspection?
- Expansion of the school on a fixed site would have a negative impact on child behaviour, interactions and learning.
- Capacity of staff is an issue when dealing with behaviour and will be more so with more pupils
- There is already not enough supervision of current pupils
- The group would like observations of pupil's outdoor behaviour and interactions
- Overcrowded outdoor spaces will make it harder for children to find and spend time with their friends.
- Changes will have an emotional impact on pupils where they have less space
- The leadership capacity is already stretched and managing changes associated with increased size would make this more difficult.
- The school leadership not neutral and their focus seems to be on funding not on children.
- There has been poor staff continuity and this could worsen in a larger setting
- They did not think the school leadership were neutral and appear intimidating to some parents
- They were concerned that the changes could lead to a breakdown in the relationship between parents and the school
- 'How will lunchtime be managed?'
- Communications to parents on hygiene is already an issue and will be more difficult with more parents.
- The school's identity will be diluted in a larger school.
- General welfare of infants when outside of the classroom – 'they are very small to be so anonymous in a big school'. The welfare supervisors will not know all the individual children.
- Physical space is a concern. There could be a behavioural impact from a larger number of children having to play in a smaller space.
- Worry about the quality of teaching – will it be the same? Will the new teachers be NQTs or more experienced? There is already pressure on teachers with the new curriculum.
- Is the quality of education going to be affected by the expansion? They want assurance that the expansion is going to be managed well.
- They are worried that the school will be too big (and frightening for children in the reception class)
- Worried that non-scalable facilities (toilets, library, hall) will be too small and that events will be full and therefore exclude some families.

- Concerned that building an extra classroom will take away outside learning space.
- Worried that it is cramped already and that there is no room for extra places. Mentioned toilets, dinner-time already rushed, no-where for kids to hang coats.
- How would disruption to education be kept to a minimum during the building process?
- How will the additional children be accommodated at lunchtime? Lunchtimes are already overcrowded.
- Dobcroft's lunchtime rotation system already a pressured routine
- The school hall said to be already constraint with tickets to special events limited for parents' attendance
- How would extending Dobcroft's catchment area work?
- Concerns over health and safety implications in managing the lunchtime system,
- There are not enough toilets in the school at the moment would additional facilities be included in an extended school
- Playground supervisors' role is already pressured with outdoor site constraints
- This resident is convinced that if the expansion were to go ahead, there would be a negative impact upon the quality of education and the outcomes of children.
- Parents argued that if provision were negatively affected by expansion, then demand for places could well fall, causing another kind of problem.
- Some parents expressed concern that if children from outside of catchment were admitted, they may have a negative impact upon the performance of other local children.
- Current dining provision is inadequate: children currently pass through a narrow corridor to collect food from a small hatch, whilst other children have to eat their lunch in their class rooms. I am concerned that with more children attending the school, this situation will only worsen. Also, if FSM is ever rolled out to junior phase, we could expect to see an 85% increase in the number of children having school meals.
- This is a nurturing environment – being a super school would change that ethos.
- The Council has a duty to ensure that the school can continue to provide high quality education.
- I wouldn't have applied to a school with 120 children. The idea of the overcrowding at the Infant school puts me off. People from Holt House I and Woodseats would get in ahead of Greystones/Ecclesall.
- Only Dobcroft and Hunters Bar have a 90 intake. Most research says Infants learn in a small environment.
- Council's approach is to push Dobcroft to the point where it will take a dip in quality.
- If these facilities are put in place, it will be a magnet for children for SEN. Infants is already – school's reputation, and because there is SEN provision in place. Sibling priority for non-catchment. Objective is to make more catchment places.
- Council officers should come in to see the day-to-day running of the school, including the issues around lunchtime capacity. There are half an hour lunch queues for six year olds.

- There is a stable and secure community at Dobcroft. The children know all the other children in their year, parents know other parents etc. Children don't want the school or its fields to be bigger.
- "Dobcroft is a fantastic school but if it is made bigger, it will lose this."
- They have no concerns over the school's ability to cope with change
- Changes here will have more impact than at other schools
- Where is the baseline for stating Sheffield City Council is expanding an outstanding school when Dobcroft has not been fully inspected for a few years; the school may not be graded as outstanding under the existing Ofsted framework.

Alternative Options

- Why are you not expanding Sharrow, Ecclesall or Holt House? These schools are oversubscribed; you should be expanding these schools.
- Clifford could easily be expanded. PRU could house the junior phase. A mezzanine could be built to accommodate extra classes. Additional space could be found when the 'parent's room' is freed up.
- Ecclesall has plenty of space to expand.
- Would like to see feeders for primary - secondary refreshed. Why does Dobcroft just feed to Silverdale – here is no choice. It's very monochrome. High Storrs is a more creative/vibrant option – fantastic building. Why not provide a junior phase at Clifford? The feed from Clifford to Ecclesall J is very bad for traffic. Why should Dobcroft take up the slack for oversubscription at Ecclesall.
- We don't want to be a super school. The expansion should be at the two FE schools or Ecclesall/Clifford.
- Ecclesall I could expand by 30 places. A site for the Junior phase at Clifford could be found. We feel more than 30 places would be needed if Dobcroft doesn't happen, an alternative would need to be found.
- The Ecclesall schools or Clifford are keen to take forward an expansion. Clifford is added capacity for the Sharrow area because many parents from Sharrow/Lowfield go there.
- Expansion will make the schools gigantic. (it is effectively a through school). Build a through primary onto Ecclesall Infant. Shame the Bannerdale site is being sold – why not put a new primary school on the site – properly planned with parking. Expand Ecclesall Infant.
- Clifford Infant seems a sensible proposal. Surely Ecclesall Infant is closer to where the growth is. Holt House could be expanded. Council needs to think more creatively and more sustainably. Ecclesall Junior is doing better than Dobcroft and is a good overflow for Greystones.
- A Junior phase for Clifford would be a better solution - this could be sited on the Bannerdale site.
- Would a new build school be a better long term investment.
- Parents are convinced that there are possibly better options for providing the extra places such as at Ecclesall, or by using the Bannerdale site.
- Parents wanted to know why the Ecclesall or Clifford options hadn't been chosen ahead of the Dobcroft one.
- Use of the old Abbeydale Grange site was also suggested.
- It was questioned why Dobcroft was being proposed over Clifford I and Ecclesall I as the figures suggested the population growth was more focussed in these areas.

- I think a new school would be more appropriate.
- Dore and Totley are two sites with lots of space that would be much more suitable for expansion.
- Abbeydale Grange – why couldn't this of been used as a site for a new school. Closing this schools show the council's lack of long-term planning.
- What other options have you looked at? Have you considered a new school?
- I would prefer to see an Ecclesall/Clifford alternative than growing the school.
- Could have built a school on Abbeydale Grange site but [heard] this land has been sold for property developers.
- Why have other schools not been proposed? Ecclesall and Clifford have space
- Have new schools in the areas been considered as an alternative?
 - If so, why were they not proposed?
 - Why were expansions of smaller schools not proposed?
- This resident was concerned that it appeared as though a thorough assessment of other options hadn't been undertaken. He suggested that a new build option at Silverdale should be looked at.
- Why is Ecclesall/Clifford not being considered as a solution?
- Why not expand Ecclesall instead? They have a smaller intake so there seems to be an imbalance.
- Expansion at Ecclesall and Clifford seems more viable – it would work better and have less impact on children.
- Suggested Sheffield City Council had gone for the cheapest option of extending an existing school when a newly built school is required.
- Extending pupil places at Dobcroft would place additional pressure on an outstanding school. Parent suggested investing in neighbouring schools to improve standards, so diverting parental preference.
- Clifford is on a better sized site to consider enlarging
- It appears to be a short term solution to a long term problem, new school required why was Abbeydale Secondary demolished?
- This resident was concerned that it appeared as though a thorough assessment of other options hadn't been undertaken. He suggested that a new build option at Bannerdale, for example, should be looked at. He was also unconvinced about the rationale for Dobcroft, which seems to be simply that it is 'central' to the area.
- Parents think that other options such as those being proposed for Clifford and Ecclesall need to be seriously considered by the Council.
- Parents believe that a new purpose built school somewhere in the area (e.g. Bannerdale) would be the best option and should be considered.
- We don't want to be a super school. The expansion should be at the two FE schools or Ecclesall/Clifford.
- The proposal to expand Dobcroft seems to be entirely based on the fact that it is central to the area and doesn't factor in any other variables.
- Dobcroft is not as oversubscribed as other schools.
- Dobcroft being central geographically is a ridiculous reason. People are moving into the Dobcroft catchment area – they are escaping from Nether Edge – places at Dobcroft could fill from Nether Edge.
- Is this needed at Dobcroft as opposed to other schools?
- Is it in the best interests of non-catchment area children?

- There is no choice for parents at Dobcroft to go elsewhere as other schools nearby are oversubscribed
 - The process is only fair when other options aren't ruled out
- The group want people to have school spaces in their local communities
- Why do we not do more on schools in other areas to make them more desirable for parents?

The Decision-Making Process

- I think that the consultation period is too short.
- Information could have been shared better to wider areas/schools affected by these proposals.
- Timing of the consultation is poor. Dobcroft I didn't know about the temporary expansion. SCC is actively inviting parents outside the area to apply.
- Should wait for a decision until we know how many catchment applicants Dobcroft will have. People will be aggrieved because people pay to live in this catchment – some move from Nether Edge – you would be offering places to children from outside the area.
- Parent hasn't received the Admissions letter about places at Dobcroft I. Son has sibling status at Clifford. Daughter at Ecclesall J. Parent lives in Springfield (feeds to Silverdale). Would have changed preferences.
- Parents were very critical of the decision making and consultation process, particularly in relation to the temporary expansion for 2015/16.
- The consultation process for the proposed permanent expansion has been poorly managed with too little detail being made available.
- The whole process seems rushed and doesn't provide parents with sufficient time to respond fully to the proposals.
- Parents would have expected far more information to have been made available during the consultation process (e.g. feasibility studies, options appraisals, health and safety assessments, etc.).
- Parents made the comment that the process seems to be a 'done deal'.
- Parents asked what the emergency situation was that meant there had been no consultation before the increase in Autumn 2015 was decided.
- The time frame for consultation is too tight for all parents and local residents views to be taken into account.
- The time frame for consultation is too tight for all parents and local residents views to be taken into account.
- Parents of children entering the school in 2015 have not been included any of the mailshots for consultation documents. This cohort should have been included.
- Parents were very critical of the decision making and consultation process, particularly in relation to the lack of consultation on the temporary expansion for 2015/16.
- There needs to be a wider discussion about needs (in places and admissions terms) for 2015.
- Publically announcing the decision to expand in 2015 prior to the consultation starting has created a problem for the school.
- Didn't receive a letter about consultation, received information through friends. Wasn't informed at the time of applying - poor communication
- Question around what is the scope to challenge any decision made in March
- Consultation process is very poor – consultation on such plans should be 4 months. Some parents are considering legal challenge.

- Lack of transparency on part of SCC
- Dobcroft parents are perceived as “middle class” and therefore not as important as “other communities”. Had this been another part of the city, much more consideration would have given to local concerns , sensitivities.
- There is not enough information to make this a consultation. Not had an acknowledgement to an email to school reorganisation.
- The Council have “jumped the gun” and know this. Will they go back on this decision when they realise that the proposals won’t solve oversubscription?
- This can’t be a tickbox exercise; it needs to be an actual consultation.
- The timescales and people having time to give their views are too short
- We are concerned about making a decision on a permanent change before impact of temporary change is known.
- There is not enough information about the proposed changes
- ‘Why has there been no consultation on the temporary increase?’
- They would like to have more information on why the Dobcroft option was proposed over other options.
- ‘Why is the potential expansion of catchment boundaries not part of this consultation?’
- The group were worried that the decision had already been made and that the temporary change was a precursor to help push through a permanent change
- ‘How was the temporary decision made and can parents get more information on the information considered?’
- The group would like to see the risk assessment done for the temporary change
- Local resident expressed ‘disgust’ that the Council hadn’t sought to consult about the temporary expansion of the school and, even if it didn’t have to legally, it would have been courteous to have done so.
- Because of the temporary expansion it makes it seem that the permanent expansion is a ‘done deal’.
- It hasn’t been made clear that an additional build will be taking place this year for the September 2015 intake.
- Are the details of feasibility studies available to the public?
- Why aren’t drawings and plans provided during the consultation process so we can see what we are being asked to respond to?
- Is there a contingency plan if the proposal does not get through Cabinet?
- This parent thought it difficult to make an assessment about the accommodation of 180 extra pupils without plans to consider, and there were too many ambiguities to formulate an opinion on this proposal.
- Local resident unhappy about the short amount of time allowed for the consultation.
- Parents were unhappy that the Council hadn’t consulted about the temporary expansion.
- The report reads like it is a ‘done deal’.
- Communications around the change have been poor and they would like more information.
- They thought there was some misinformation over details of the changes
- We have been asked to comment on something we can’t picture.
- We shouldn’t be asked for an in-principle decision.

Comments in Support of the Proposal

- Infant school see an opportunity to better their buildings. Don't want to feel the kids overwhelmed by numbers but children won't notice the difference. Would support as long as it is fully funded.
- I don't mind the idea of a 4th class. The school is strong and would be able to manage it as long as appropriate spaces are provided for them to do so. On a whole I think this would be a positive thing for the school.
- While I think more evidence needs to be provided to prove that Dobcroft is the correct choice for an expansion in terms of demand, if this were to be provided I would be happy for the school to expand.
- If it is an expansion at Dobcroft that is needed then I think that it would be ok, but you would need to make sure the additional pressure on the site is managed well.
- I am in favour of the expansion providing that appropriate additional resources (e.g. staffing) are provided to cope with the extra pupils.
- I am in favour of the expansion providing that appropriate additional resources are provided to cope with the extra pupils. I think 4 x FE school would be fine.
- I think this is a good local school and would support the proposal provided it can be done properly and enough resources are available.
- This parent approved the expansion of Dobcroft cautiously, providing there would be a detailed framework of plans to maintain the standard of educational provision throughout the whole process of transition, and the accommodation standard pupils currently enjoy (Library areas and ICT suites) not be affected to manage more pupils.
- I moved into this catchment area – it seems wrong not to get children in the catchment area into school.

Miscellaneous/Uncategorised

- Parents feel this is being manipulated to shut Nether Edge.
- Parents from that area try to get their children in here. Parents get one child in at Dobcroft and have other siblings in other schools – they race around in cars.
- Anybody who moves into catchment can't get in. Ideally everybody should walk to school and the school has a community. People feel threatened by children from other areas and language barriers.
- Parents don't like the trickle up the corridor.
- PSA will have to do more fund raising, as that is the only extra money that the school can get.
- Is there any money to sort out some of these problems at Dobcroft Infant?
- Parents are concerned that the temporary expansion will invariably lead to permanent expansion.
- Parents pointed out Colin Ross' comments in a Guardian article in 2013 and wanted to know if he had the same views now:

Colin Ross, a school governor and the Liberal Democrat shadow cabinet member for children and young people on Sheffield city council, argues that primary schools should ideally not be bigger than 420 children – the equivalent of two classes of 30 in each year group.

He said: "Parents want to know that primary school teachers know their children. If a school becomes bigger than 420, it is very difficult for staff to know each child. At primary school age, it's very important for children to know adults at their school to feel comfortable. We should be building more schools, not fitting more children on to already squeezed sites."

- I want to know what the schools will get out of this.
- Has there been an impact analysis report completed that allows me to understand how my child (reception 2015/16 cohort) will be effected by the planned temporary expansion? I need to be able to make a decision on whether I change my preferences.
- How will this affect the number of applicants to Silverdale – i.e. will more students at Dobcroft mean more competition for Silverdale?
- As a parent I trust the governors to make the right decisions.
- Cheapest option would be the wrong thing for the schools.
- I have now moved to the area to get into the school – I now have a bigger mortgage – this is unfair.
- Not enough planning information to be able to make a decision – more information needed.
- We have children starting at Dobcroft in 15/16 and will be scapegoats for this bulge coming through.
- In five years, children will be able to effectively live right by the school and not get in due to [not having] siblings.
- Dobcroft is already a big school and it's important that local families and friends go to the same schools.
- Parents of pre-school children would be put off by this expansion [parent has spoken to other parents who confirm this.]
- Increased funding is not worth a negative impact on child safety.
- Has section 106 money from developers been used on education investment?
- Has Bannerdale been sold and if so where has this money been spent?
- Expansion of Dobcroft is a 'patch answer'. No objection to extra places if they are for catchment children. 'We moved into the Dobcroft catchment area because we knew it was a small school.'
- SCC lack the ability in planning regeneration or the foresight in building developments fit for its purpose.
- There is land down the side of school with a footpath on Dobcroft Road/Millhouses Lane littered with dog mess, not cleaned or maintained properly. The concern was health and safety issues of more pupils walking the same route to get to school.

Letters & E-mails

School Places at Dobcroft Infant & Junior Schools **Consultation Response from Nick Clegg MP**

The need for more primary school places in the south-west of Sheffield is a hugely important issue - it is incredibly disappointing for any child to be denied access to their catchment school. It is also clear from the Council's statistics that these pressures are going to continue for the foreseeable future, with a rise in the number of births in Sheffield. This is a consistent problem year on year and I find it concerning that the issue always appears to sneak up on authorities.

As the local Member of Parliament for this area, I have met with members of staff and governors at Dobcroft Infant & Junior Schools, Ecclesall Infant & Junior Schools and Clifford Infant School, to discuss these proposals. I have also met with local parents who are concerned about the plans and received correspondence from them. Their collective thoughts have helped me in responding to this consultation.

I note that some measures have already been put in place to cope with the extra demand for school places over the last few years, such as the expansion of Greystones Primary School and a temporary measure at Dore Primary that has resulted in a mixed age class. However, my observation is that the fundamental issue has not been addressed and this has resulted in another temporary measure of an extra class at Dobcroft Infant School for 2015/16 whilst a more permanent solution is sought.

On this point, a number of parents have contacted me to express their concerns that the additional 30 places at Dobcroft Infant School in 2015/16 are to be imposed and lack consultation. I appreciate that you state "this is a one-off change and does not commit the Council or school to going ahead with the permanent increase from 2016...", however I would seek some strong reassurances that this is the case should your current proposals be rejected.

What's more, I note that "there is no legal requirement" on the Council to consult about the extra class in 2015, but some forward planning could have, in my opinion, allowed for this. It is a huge concern to me that this decision appears to have been decided as a *fait accompli* with no consultation.

Parents clearly want a solution that enables children to attend a local school and not have to go through the stressful process of finding they cannot get a place at their catchment school and instead being allocated a school some distance away.

However, many parents at Dobcroft have expressed concern about the proposal to expand Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools to 120 places per year. They feel that this will cause overcrowding issues - and this is an understandable fear given that residents are being asked to comment on the proposals without detailed plans for how this might work on the school site.

There are also concerns about the infrastructure locally, such as the roads and how they will be able to cope with the increased traffic problems that an expansion of a school is likely to

bring. For these reasons, I strongly feel that other possible solutions such as expanding Ecclesall Infants and Clifford need to be given equal consideration.

A long term, resilient, stable solution is needed for this area rather than the piecemeal short term fixes that have been enacted over recent years. The parents and children of south west Sheffield deserve better than constant patchwork solutions.

Yours sincerely

Nick Clegg MP

To whom it may concern:

I am submitting this response in my capacity as the prospective MP for the school, following representations made to me by local parents and conversations with the school and governing body.

There is a broad understanding of the looming problem of limited primary school places in South West Sheffield. The parents, staff and governors with whom I spoke are supportive of the Council in their efforts to find a long term solution to that problem, despite concerns that the demographic changes were largely predictable. The school themselves have adopted a positive 'can do' attitude to the Council's proposals and should be commended for both their approach and their own efforts to consult the community.

However, there is considerable frustration with the manner in which the official consultation process has been carried out and particularly the lack of detailed information made available to both the school community and the wider community of Dobcroft and Millhouses.

The time frames within which we are operating – compounded by the issues of purdah in the run up to May and the legal requirements surrounding changes to catchment – lead many to believe that the expansion to Dobcroft is in effect a decision that has already been taken by Council officers, and that the consultation process does not provide sufficient detail to be able to make an informed view or effectively challenge the proposals. The lack of response to genuine concerns and queries has compounded the frustrations among parents. Despite the availability of data indicating the need for an increased number of school places in coming years, there is a perception that the current proposals have been unnecessarily rushed and that there is little real scope to halt the expansion of the school in 2016-17, let alone the confirmed expansion in 2015 which has caused real concern to those families affected.

Questions remain regarding the extent to which alternative solutions have been explored, not least those offered by other schools and sites in the area – a number of which were seemingly keen to offer extra places and accept expansion. No conclusive information has been offered explaining the decision at this point to exclude those opportunities.

Parents and the school itself have a legitimate right to expect more detail regarding salient issues that may impact on their view of the proposals, including the effect on Plus Stage SEN students at the school, the scope and disruption caused by building work of the scale required, the funding available for building work and the legislative requirements regarding

space per pupil. My understanding is that no feasibility report has been prepared. Certainly no feasibility report has been shared with parents despite a number of requests. Questions asked by parents have yet to be answered fully or frankly by officers. Comments made during the consultation have contradicted the information made available at the start of the process.

I am also concerned that little work has seemingly been undertaken in the wider area of Dobcroft and Millhouses, alerting those residents not connected to the school of the impact of the proposals. Letters that were sent to households in the area arrived after the Council run consultation meetings had already taken place and many residents are seemingly not aware of the proposals. The potential increase of 210 extra students at the school will cause both disruption and a significant increase in traffic in the local area; adversely impacting on local residents. Any decision to expand the school following this consultation is therefore almost certain to cause further concern in the local area, and/or require significant changes to the traffic management in and around Dobcroft and Millhouses.

I have no doubt that Sheffield City Council is facing difficult decisions and challenges as a result of the budgetary pressures it is now facing following government cuts, not least to the capital budget for school building. The problem of limited school places in the South West of Sheffield must be addressed. However, I would welcome the Council reviewing its decision making process to this point and engaging in a wider, more inclusive and more holistic consultation process with the community regarding the expansion of Dobcroft school. Decisions must be informed if they are to be legitimate and the community must feel truly engaged if the expansion of Dobcroft is to enjoy the confidence – or at the very least the understanding – of local residents and those affected by the decision.

Yours,

Oliver Coppard

Labour Party Parliamentary Candidate in Sheffield Hallam 2015

My daughter is due to start infant school in September. We are in Dobcroft's catchment area and it was our first choice but I am concerned about the recent letter informing us of the plans to increase the size of the school to four classes per year.

My view was that the school already had a large number of pupils for the site, with some children accommodated in semi permanent classrooms.

Please can you inform me what plans are in place to accommodate the new class? If it is within the existing school buildings, please let us know how this will impact on other shared space?

Please let me know how lunch and break times will be managed to ensure all children get an adequate break?

Will the senior leadership team be strengthened to maintain the level of support the school is renowned for? Will the new class be taught by a permanent member of staff or a supply teacher?

Will additional resources be purchased by the school to support the additional class?

I have read the proposal on the website and appreciate that Dobcroft has primarily been chosen due to its central location to a number of local schools which are oversubscribed. However Dobcroft is already a large school and other schools such as Eccleshall have larger grounds and premises with fewer children.

Clearly we appreciate you have a responsibility to accommodate all the children requiring a place. We just want reassurance that the increase will be properly and fully resourced to ensure the children within the school don't suffer as a result.

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I would like to express my concerns about the proposed expansion of Dobcroft Infants school.

My son is in year two now so won't be directly affected by the proposed changes. He has special educational needs and has made excellent progress at Dobcroft thanks to the tireless dedication of the staff.

The school is full. The class rooms are small and the mobiles even smaller. The staff use the space creatively, taking groups of children outside or breaking out into other spaces such as the ICT suite, the star room, the rocket room and the library. The loss of the library would gravely impact on their ability to cater to the children's needs in this manner.

My son receives a lot of extra support at school. Like other children with problems such as autism, he is often overwhelmed by noise and activity. Sometimes his behaviour could disrupt the learning of other children so it is vital that the school has the physical space to

accommodate his needs. Dobcroft has an excellent track record for inclusivity. Creating a busier and more overcrowded environment would directly affect the school's ability to cater for children like my son. In effect creating barriers and discriminating against children with disabilities. It would contravene The Equality Act 2010.

I have absolutely no doubt that Mrs Rowland and her team could provide a fabulous education for another 30 children per year but they simply cannot be squeezed in to the existing space. More classroom is space required, and the school also needs more communal space, not less. And more toilets.

The site would be big enough to build a school with three more classrooms, a bigger hall, more break out space, perhaps even an inclusion unit. There'd even be room to build it whilst the existing school was in use. Maybe the time has come to make a serious long term investment in this excellent school. It would be a mistake to assume that the changes are going to be temporary. The mobiles were supposed to be temporary and they're more than thirty years old!

Many thanks for your e-mail. The keep clear marking are not really the concern (am I right in saying that these are the marking immediately outside of the school?), my concern is in relation to the current high levels of traffic (it can take me 10 mins to escape my own driveway) on Whirlowdale Crescent (connecting Dobcroft and Millhouses Lane) and the potential increase in traffic due to the additional proposed infant class. This will have a detrimental impact on the air quality, the safety to children and adults, and potentially impact the value of my property.

As far as I am aware there has been no consultation on the impact of the increased levels of traffic due to the proposed additional infant class. This will mean 30 more children, with the likelihood of them all being dropped off by car, I'm assuming this as letters have been sent to parents out of catchment.

I'm also raising a number of other issues with the relevant individuals and departments.

Im writing in response to a letter ive recieved as a parent of a child in dobcroft infant school.

.. I would like to support the idea of creating a new reception class..and actually my son already needs to join dobcroft infant next year ...sep2015..so the decision is in our benefit as both sibling will be in same school.

As a close neighbours to dobcroft school...i don't think that an extra class would cause burden on roads as it will serve local people around ;and the majority walk on feet and r not using cars ...and its already known that this school serves the nearby surroundings; and its nearly impossible to get a place there if you were not in the catchment area. ..

My daughter year 3..is going to abbeylane becoz we couldn't find a place in dobcroft junior...though her sister is going to dobcroft infant year 2...

And their brother is expected to join dobcroft infant next year..

I am a resident of Whirlowdale Crescent, close to Dobcroft Schools. I have been made aware of expansion plans and, while I understand the likely reasoning behind these I want to let you know my concerns for the traffic increase that will follow. It is already bad at school times on our road and I effectively can't plan to arrive at or leave my home between 3.15 and 4 pm by car as I don't know whether my drive will be obstructed or not. The traffic itself is often very clogged up as the road is also used as a rat run.

I have a proposal which I think would help and am not completely opposed to the plans. I had been thinking of asking about this before and the news of expansion has prompted me. I suggest making Whirlowdale Crescent one way between, and in the direction of, Dobcroft Road to Millhouses Lane. This would ease the passing of vehicles and the flow when there are parked cars, while allowing minimal disruption due to the availability of cross-routes spanning Pingle Road and Dobcroft Road. It would increase safety for the children crossing the road to school. It would also reduce rat running at all times. It would inconvenience residents a little but the benefits would, I think, outweigh this. I am aware some residents may not like the idea.

I would appreciate a chance to discuss this proposal verbally and to explore the details of such a scheme

I am here writing to express my concerns regarding the Dobcroft Schools Expansion plan. We live on Pingle Road, it is the same street as the Dobcroft schools, and we have children at the schools, but we are shocked to hear about the schools' expansion plan, and of course we are strongly opposed to this plan.

the schools currently have very limited resources, they are short of staffs and short of facilities, parents and grandparents are very very often been asked to help (volunteer) at the schools, not just for local school trips but many are on regular basis, I am having no problems with these helpers, but I asked why is this happening?

school told me that it is because we do not have enough staffs or employed helpers.

secondly, the school is very short of facilities, not just short of classrooms, computers, libraries, books etc. It completely shocked many of

the parents that the school management teams have to hold all kind of "fairs", "parties", "non uniform days" "trips" "disco" to raise the money to have some toilets fixed, to have repair school fence and to renew some roofs.

Dobcroft schools are public schools, if the council are struggling to provide these basic needs, why are you planning

to expand it, it could only make the situation worse. and I can not believe the decision is made without any consultations!

As local residents, we also strongly object to this expansion, we are already having too many cars parking absolutely everywhere in the neighbourhood,

during the 8.45-9.15 and 3.15-3.50, parents who do not live locally will have to drive to the schools, and many park their cars on the very narrow Pingle Road,

we have other parents parking their cars in OUR FRONT YARD, and cars blocking our entrance in many occasions,

and almost on daily basis, cars parking on verge damaging the grass and trees, cars parking on the pavement posing a danger to people especially to children.

the school currently do not have zebra crossing, not to mention a crossing patrol officer, I can not imagine how much worse the situation will be become if there are more cars are coming into this area.

I hope the council to have some proper consultations on this plan, or we will have to take the matter further.

Firstly the table is difficult to interpret, it does not clearly show the overall projected numbers against current capacity in way that is easy to see and understand.

In order to consider this document properly and make the right decision for people in the catchment I feel firstly there is key data that is necessary :

1. I do not understand the table - the total in 2018/19 is 400 - what does this represent ? is goes up to 487 but is titled 2015/16 ? Or are the title years incorrect ? If the titles are incorrect this document needs to be reissued.
2. For admissions in 2014 - how many first choices were each of the schools and how many admitted ?
3. The right hand part of the shaded table - what year does R, Y1, Y2 etc refer to ?
4. What does 0 to 10 mean on the top of the table ?
5. Can you please provide a copy of the catchment population document referred to as at Autumn 2014.
6. Why are Greystones' reception places being expanded to 90 from 60 ? Does this meet local demographic need ? Can they already accommodate these numbers within existing buildings ?
7. The capacity of the South West area is 490 pupils with Greystones at 90 versus a catchment of 487 (the largest number shown, presume wrong year) - why does the area need more places than 490 ? Why can't they be accommodated in local catchments to avoid travelling ?

Hi to make this easy can you please provide this data today ?

For each of the following schools what are the first choices for 15/16 :

Netheredge, Hunters Bar, Lowfield, Totley, Ecclesall, Holt House & Carterknowle, Dobcroft, Springfield, Greystones, Dore, Sharrow, Totley CofE, Clifford, St Wilfrid's

Also can you please give me the raw demographics that give us how many people will enter reception for the next 3 years by catchment area ?

I have one daughter in Y1 at Dobcroft and two more who will join in the school years 15/16 and 17/18 respectively. I have read the consultation document published by Sheffield City Council dated January 2015.

In the consultation document the need to increase places is predicated on a 14% growth rate in the Dobcroft pre-school cohort. This figure is taken from the last 2 years and then applied to all year groups.

2 years of data seems an incredibly short time period to build a prediction model which is then applied for the next 4 years. What was the growth rate in the pre-school cohort in previous years?

Also I am interested to know what range the 14% growth rate is based on. Is it just the increase in the cohort the year before they are due to attend school or an average of the increase across all cohorts each year? If it is just the last year then it would seem wrong to be applying this number to the 2018/2019 cohort 4 times.

I would have thought that after birth, the cohorts grow relatively slowly until the year before school starts as parents move into the area as they start thinking about schools. I would have thought it was less likely that parents would move 6month old children into the area in anticipation of school places.

In a nutshell, from the data provided, I am concerned that the need for extra school places maybe overstated. I would appreciate your clarification.

I write this letter to express my major concerns regarding the current plan for the 2015/16 pupil intake at Dobcroft Infant School. Given that you have offered no consultation to interested parties or those directly affected, I also request details of who I should address complaint to.

My concerns lie with the lack of planning and preparation for this measure in addition to the lack of consultation. It appears to be a rushed decision in response to a situation you have been warning us about for several years.

To shoe horn 30 pupils into an infant school already over capacity can only lead to a negative impact on the children's education. The school already operates with 2 classes, out of its total 9, in temporary accommodation and demands on its current, and often out dated facilities, are high. How can squeezing in an additional class not impact on health and safety when no provision has been made for it? There would be insufficient toilet facilities, ICT space, library space and hall space to meet the needs of children within a learning environment. How could educational standards be maintained while imposing such ridiculous barriers on the school?

The principle of increasing the school intake in response to a predicted problem seems reasonable. It is common sense that provision needs to be put in place to facilitate this increase. Proper planning and consultation is required, along side expansion of the existing provision. You appear to be attempting a rushed and limited consultation for the 2016/17 intake, confirming consultation is a must. Why is it then suddenly not required for the 2015/16 intake. Is it that it's so unworkable in such a short space of time that it would not go ahead? Or that provision to meet basic needs such as toilets could not be added into the existing building and therefore should not be discussed? So is the answer to ignore the problems and push it through regardless, and not give anybody an option of well thought out alternatives? This will inevitably punish the unfortunate 4 to 5 years olds of the 2015/16. Leaving them forever "making do" because they are the unfortunate year to have a temporary solution. As it's temporary, it does not count, and we will do it better next year, no consultation required. That is what is currently happening.

It is not acceptable. These children were not born yesterday, they were born 4 years ago. They have not all suddenly moved into the area either. You wrote to me when my son was 2 years old explaining there is a sharp rise in child numbers for his year group and you would be making extra provision available. My son is now ready for school in September, did the you forget this was going to happen?

The answer is not to just stick them somewhere and hope for the best. It is not just the 2015/16 intake that will suffer from this lack of foresight and planning, the whole school will suffer. Dobcroft Infant School makes excellent use of everything it has and it is often not easy. There is not enough room in hall at lunch times, play space is limited, children already struggle with limited toilet facilities and over 20% of its pupils work in temporary accommodation. How will the school be with an extra 30 pupils dropped on it in September?

The plan for the 2015/16 intake at Dobcroft Infant school is unsafe, compromising, not only health and safety, but pupil welfare and ultimately educational achievement. To offer no

consultation, planning information or reasonable evidence of it needs is unprofessional by any standards.

As I stated at the beginning of this letter, I am expressing my concerns, but also I am also requesting you send me the contact details of who to complain to. I wish to question how such a major change can be allowed to continue without consultation of interested and relevant parties, and without extended provision to protect health and safety.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I await your response.

I am writing to express my concern of the proposed additional class of 30 children from September 2015.

As far as I am aware there has been no consultation with local residents on the potential impact of increased traffic, new structures being built on to the school or decreasing value of the properties surrounding the school.

The roads are almost impossible to navigate as it is. If I leave my house between 8:30 and 9:00 am, it can take up to 10 minutes just to pull out of my driveway, this is the same in the afternoon at pick up time. There are currently no parking restrictions in place to stop cars blocking roads and driveways (as I find my own blocked most days), the increased air pollution is damaging to the health of residents and those walking to the school in the morning.

Potentially my own children will be attending the school, and I am concerned about the impact of another 30 children will have on the school. There is little funding put towards the school as it is (all because its south west Sheffield!!), this seems ridiculous given the primary education is the key to ensuring the best from our children's long term education. The school is cramped, and very claustrophobic with very basic facilities.

Whilst it may be the case that the increased class intake is for this year only, I unfortunately do not trust the council or those in charge to make this a permanent thing and slip around the back of any consultation that should be completed.

I have been informed that the school and the school governors are also not happy with this proposal.

I look forward to receiving your feedback

I have just been made aware of the intended extension to both Dobcroft schools by a note written by a concerned resident. The fact that neither the schools nor the Council have had the decency to inform the residents who will be significantly affected highlight what is wrong with modern politics. It is only just over a year since we had to protect our street from a poorly conceived and draconian parking scheme and now we have to protect the neighbourhood from this absurd project.

The reasons why I am writing this letter of complaint:

- 1) You did not have the common decency to tell anyone affected that you were doing it.
- 2) It is only 4 years since you closed and demolished Abbeydale Grange School. The Sheffield Council must have known about the rise in birth rate then.
- 3) It is only one year since we had to have meetings on the emergency services concerns regarding

access to the area for emergency vehicles. The streets cannot take any more traffic and you are expecting to add pupils from a far wider catchment area. The proposed extension to the Tesco superstore was declined on the grounds of air quality and you want to push more cars onto the side roads of Millhouses!

4) How can the Council make such a significant expansion to a school without any planning consent?

5) There are at present approximately 640 pupils at both schools and you are proposing to increase

this by a further 210. This is an increase of nearly 50%. Again there has been no consultation with the residents. There is significant traffic problems around the school now. I would hate to see what it would be like with this irrational plan.

I am totally disgusted with your display of total disregard for the local residents. Sheffield is a democracy and not a totalitarian regime, of which the department that has decided this course of action should be aware of.

We have recently been informed of both the agreed extra class to Dobcroft School for the 2015 intake and the proposed expansion of an extra class per year for the whole school going forwards.

I am writing to inform you that I am strongly opposed to this expansion.

The roads around Dobcroft School are already almost gridlocked around the school start and finish times, in particular Whirlowdale Crescent and Millhouses lane which are also impacted by the school traffic for St Wilfrid's and Milnhurst schools.

When trying to leave for work in the morning there are large numbers of pedestrians on the road causing a hazard already but overparking compounds this, with many cars blocking the sight of home-owners who are trying to get out of driveways. This all puts the children at high risk of accidents.

Needless to say, up to 30 extra cars on the road in the next school year will add to this problem and make the road even more congested and hazardous. We would like to raise our serious objections to these plans which have been pushed through without any consultation with locals.

Even more objectionable is the new council plan to expand each year of Dobcroft by 30 children. Another 7 years of 30 students coming from outside the catchment will inevitably lead to up to 210 more cars on these roads in the mornings and would be unacceptably dangerous to the children and inconvenient to local residents.

Please let us know about any official routes we can pursue to air our objections to these plans.

I write this letter to you in sheer desperation and anger with regards to the current proposal put forward by Sheffield City Council to increase pupil numbers at Dobcroft Infant School. This has been announced without consultation and will increase intake as a temporary measure from 90 to 120 pupils as of September 2015. The period of official consultation has been applied to making the temporary measure a permanent addition by September 2016, as you are fully aware.

First and foremost as a worried and anxious parent and local resident I feel that the proposal is rushed and highlights a knee-jerk reaction from the Council to a problem that you have

been aware of for years. As we are all well aware birth rates don't sharply increase overnight.

My main area for concern is how the Council don't feel it necessary to include the 2015 temporary measure in the current consultation process. How can this be allowed and who can be held accountable for the decision?

I am aware of the shortage of primary school places locally and nationally. However, using Dobcroft as an example by increasing its intake to deal with the problem in the South West of the city is wholly unacceptable. Have the Council actually put any thought into where these children are going to go and how educational achievement can be maintained? Using existing learning space is a disgrace.

Dobcroft is already over its capacity with a 90 pupil admission number per academic year. The education correspondent Mike Russell working for the Sheffield Star had previously posed the question is Dobcroft Sheffield's most overcrowded school? I think its probably fair to say yes. The school already offers a cramped learning environment with 2 out of its total of 9 classes in the infant side alone operating out of mobile units on the playground. This overcrowding is demonstrated further in the lack of space within the dinner hall, out door space for play and a limited number of toilets. Although Dobcroft makes excellent use of the space on offer how can a further 30 children in September be advantageous to the current situation?

The temporary fix cited by the yourselves would rely on reorganising existing learning space. With limited space already I find it unbelievable that you think you could shoe horn a further 30 children through the doors. Has anybody thought about basic provisions like toilets? Surely there is a statutory obligation to provide such basic needs.

If the 2016 consultation fails to come to fruition based on planning permission, local residents objections, feasibility study, and a general lack of foresight from the council this will be at the cost of much limited and needed resources. One of my main concerns to cite here is the health and safety implications of road traffic risks. However, why is it ok to put existing pupils and the 2015 cohort of children at risk for a year based on a temporary measure?

In terms of the influx of additional primary school places needed at Dobcroft Infants I look to you for answers. A comprehensive list of children within catchment boundaries who applied to the school for 2015 and the forecasted figures for 2016 is needed. Furthermore how many of these are siblings and how many were refused a place? As far as I was aware the catchment boundary system is still in place and that the boundaries haven't changed. However, I see the council have announced proposed changes to existing catchment areas for Dobcroft infant and Jumior, Dore & Totley Primary for 2016/17. My question to you is why seemingly has the council not been required to formally consult on any significant changes to existing admission arrangements for 2015 as I'm sure this must apply with the 30 extra pupils set to attend in September. Once again has it been forgotten or is it disguised under the 'temporary' measure heading?

It is suggested when reading the consultation report that with confidence the results will be a great. Many would argue a modern learning environment. Too true, but with resources / construction and planning.... something that seems to be over looked.

There has been no evidence provided to the anxious parents of existing pupils that a primary school so big can still achieve and provide the level of success that Dobcroft currently achieves.

Referring to a previous point, Dobcroft is positioned off a number of busy estate roads, tucked away with busy junctions. Has this been risk assessed for 2015? By 2017 alone we may potentially have a further 90 pupils, clearly not from within current catchment boundaries. Will the roads or residents be able to cope with all those extra parents in cars facilitating the school run?

I feel so passionate about Dobcrofts future. I fear with the changes in front of us its clear there will be a lack of basic provision & space for the children. With that in mind who knows what the future plans will hold for their educational attainments.

I took my concerns directly to Nick Clegg and was able to meet and talk with him last week. He was clear in his frustration at the lack of consultation for 2015 and the overall plan for 2016. What makes this argument so emotive is that we have parents from Ecclesall Infants & Clifford actively petitioning to create new primary school places that are accessible to the areas of highest need by expanding Ecclesall Infant School by one form and expanding Clifford Infant School into a through primary. Please refer to the following link

https://www.change.org/p/sheffield-city-council-create-new-primary-school-places-that-are-accessible-to-the-areas-of-highest-need-by-expanding-ecclesall-infant-school-by-one-form-and-expanding-clifford-infant-school-into-a-through-primary?after_sign_exp=member_sponsored_upsells

Due to the short consultation period we have been offered for the 2016 plan I have continued to express my concerns and sent letters to my local councillors. I am sending this email in the hope that you are able to answer any of my questions with regards to catchment figures, explaining how and why the 2015 measure is not part of the consultation process. I would also like to see a feasibility study for 2015, all relevant health & safety risk assessments, comments on taking away existing learning space and facilitating adequate basic needs like toilet facilities.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I look forward to hearing from you

Thank you for your letter dated 16th January informing us about the proposed expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Juniors. We have 2 daughters at the school and so had already heard about it.

We understand the need for increased capacity and so do not have any objection to the proposed increase in class numbers. We do hope that we will still be able to keep the playing fields and playgrounds as much as possible for the children.

Since there will be potentially an extra 210 children at the school eventually, this would have a significant impact on the surrounding roads. We live at 135 Dobcroft Road. We are happy for the proposals to go ahead but ask that some safety measures may be put in place on the roads in addition and as part of the expansion proposal. We walk the children to and from school every day and regularly see drivers drive straight across the zebra crossings whilst children are on it (This has been particularly dangerous on a number of occasions), or drive above the speed limit for the area, or park on 'no park' areas. We would suggest that the council considers the following options:

- making the speed limit 20 miles per hour around the school?

- pedestrian crossings or lollipop ladies to be put on Dobcroft road, Whirlowdale crescent and Millhouses lane.

- A no park zone to be extended at either end of the alleyway (between Dobcroft Road and Millhouses lane) and also onto Whirlowdale crescent

We think with the proposed expansion these changes need to be also incorporated at the **same time** to make the journey to school safer for our children.

Thank you for the consultation letter. As residents of Pingle Road whose children had the benefit of education at Dobcroft Schools we support the proposal to increase the number of places to meet demand.

We would, however, like to draw your attention to the existing and likely increase in parking issues on the surrounding road system. We have noticed over the years that the number of vehicles parking near the schools has increased greatly, together with an apparent lack of consideration by the drivers in the manner in which they park.

Double parking is a daily issue; apart from the personal inconvenience we have seen delivery vehicles, coaches and cars have to reverse all the way down Pingle Road due to lack of room to pass. More worryingly we are personally aware of an emergency ambulance having extreme difficulty in this respect. There would be no possibility of a larger emergency service vehicle negotiating Pingle Road at drop-off and pick-up times.

We are aware that the School has parent education appeals over parking - this has little effect and so we would urge the council to address this issue, whether or not the proposed expansion of places goes ahead,

I am writing in relation the above consultation with the purpose of challenging the length of time given to consult with all interested and affected parties.

In the attached document setting out the consultation details it is stated the consultation period will be 4 weeks (30 days). I am lodging an official challenge to the length of consultation on the basis that it affects over 270 children, in addition prospective children; and their families. In addition those in the local area who will also be affected by the proposed school expansion. I request an extension of the consultation so that all affected parties may properly consider the facts presented and gather an appropriate response.

I request a clear justification and explanation for the legal basis for the proposed consultation period length.

We are writing to express our concerns about the proposed expansion of Dobcroft infant and junior school. We have one child in foundation and one in year 2 and it is apparent from the proposals that this will have a significant and negative impact on their school experience. We are especially concerned about the impact of higher numbers of children limiting the current children's use of facilities for example less play space, less access to computers and more pressure on lunch facilities potentially affecting their important meal time. The current hall is clearly only just sufficient for the existing numbers when it comes to accommodating lunches, school plays, and after school clubs.

The current staff do an excellent job of managing the already large year groups and we feel that a further increase will make it harder to maintain these standards.
We would therefore like to register our formal objection to the expansion proposal.

I am writing to express my concerns at the proposed increase in numbers at Dobcroft school. My daughter is currently in Foundation there and I have another child due to start in 2017.

I walk down to school and the amount of traffic around the school is already very concerning. St Wilfreds school is also close by with a huge amount of traffic. Any increase in numbers would make this situation out of control. Particularly as looking at the numbers the extra children would be from outside the catchment and therefore unlikely to walk to school.

The school already feels cramped, the classroom my daughter is in is very small and I do not see how another class could possibly be accommodated for this year which is supposed to be temporary.

Any construction to make the school bigger would be extremely unsettling for those children already attending.

It seems ridiculous to put a class in this year (2015) without any sort of consultation. Surely parents and staff have a right to comment on such a huge change?

Looking at the figures, the problem is in the Ecclesall area so why are you not putting the extra class there (which I know is what their parents and headteacher want) and having a junior phase to Clifford (also very popular).

I refer to the above and wish to register my objections. We live on Millhouses Lane and are therefore directly affected by your proposals.

Whilst I note the increase in number of children of school age, regularly reported in the media, the answer to the problem in Sheffield is not to increase the numbers at a school which is already oversubscribed by children in the catchment area. I cite the following :

i) there are three popular schools in close proximity, Dobcroft, St Wilfrid's and Mylnhurst. We have lived almost directly opposite St Wilfrid's for seventeen years. During this time period the volume of traffic at school times has increased enormously. Increasing the numbers of children from outside the area is inevitably going to create yet more traffic.

ii) I have already witnessed one accident outside our house and am aware of more, including some near misses. Parents regularly park on the pavements, on the zig zag lines and on the junction of Whirlowdale Crescent and Millhouses Lane, obscuring visibility for both drivers and pedestrians. It has reached the point where we actively avoid leaving our house at school times if possible.

iii) sometimes we are unable to leave the house by vehicle since our driveway is blocked despite having paid the Council twice for road markings to prevent this. Requests for the vehicle to be moved have often been met with rudeness and I have had to contact St. Wilfrid's on more than one occasion.

In a city the size of Sheffield there must be other schools which can accommodate an increase in numbers without the problems which would be exacerbated in this area. The Council is under a duty to consider fully all the options and to make the correct decision having taken all factors into account. To ignore the already difficult traffic situation would be to neglect its duty.

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the proposed expansion of places at Dobcroft Infant and Junior schools. The decision to force the school governors to take an extra class

on a temporary basis from September this year is completely unacceptable as they do not have the room to accommodate an extra class and feed 30 extra children at school time- the lunchtime situation is already very difficult to handle due to the numbers now having hot meals- I know because a friend of mine works there as a lunchtime supervisor- has anyone from the council actually consulted the school or taken any notice of what they have said about this? I would like to know from the council where these children will actually be put and how they think the school will cope with the extra numbers in its current building.

On the other matter of the permanent increase in classes for each year throughout the school, I am objecting to this massive 33 percent increase in numbers. Our house on Dobcroft Road backs onto the school and our road is completely chaotic at school starting and ending times. There are cars parked on the verges, damaging them, and all down the road, making it extremely difficult to get into and out of our drive, with cars parked close on both sides of our driveway and cars opposite, and traffic trying to squeeze down the road. It is actually very dangerous as you can't see if the road is clear or not and pedestrians on the pavements (and those children whizzing past on scooters who don't look) also at risk. Like it or not, a large proportion of children still arrive by car and this situation will be much worse with more 210 more children at the school, many of whom will come from outside catchment, according to your figures, and therefore drive by car. It seems from your figures that the numbers of children in catchment will actually fall in the next few years across almost all areas, showing there will be no need for an extra class in each year. Also, you base your future estimates on figures which have no basis e.g. 14% increase in families with children moving into the area each year - clearly this cannot happen every year due to the limited houses becoming available each year.

I would like to know how this decision is taken, and what effect, if any, the consultation has on the proposals. Is this consultation simply a paper exercise, or are the residents and school governors' views actually acted upon in any way?

I'm am writing to you having seen the proposals for expanding Dobcroft school.

I am concerned about the proposals.

My concerns are:

- what is the resultant proposal for transfer to secondary schools.
- what will the admissions criteria be for entry into Silverdale school.
- parking at dobcroft is insufficient.
- the plans do not appear to address the need for places in the area and as such from my reading other schools need extending or building.

I would like to strongly object against the proposed expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior School for a number of reasons:

1. There is too much traffic already around the school - not only caused by people driving to Dobcroft, but nearby St Wilfs and Mylnhurst. Any expansion is likely to be for children who will not walk to school, so could ultimately result in an extra 210 cars driving in the area and fighting for parking spaces. This would make it even more unsafe for all of us who walk to school with our children, for the children who walk / cycle to school independently, also for those walking / cycling to and from Silverdale and those of us who cycle to work having

dropped our children. There is no formal crossing point or crossing patrol at the main Pingle road entrance to school, so the journey to and from school is already stressful and would become far more dangerous.

2. The school already suffers from a lack of outdoor space, particularly in the Junior school where the field and garden areas are often out of bounds. In the infants the youngest children are often fearful of the biggest and have very little protected space to play in. More children would exacerbate this situation and more building to accommodate the children would limit the space still further.

3. Overcrowded outdoor play equipment. My children already complain about not getting a turn on the equipment / space to play football and more children to compete with would make the situation worse.

4. School halls already too small. The too small school halls already result in long lunch breaks to accommodate all the kids eating, crowded assemblies, PE sessions being cancelled because the hall is being used by a different class and school plays that siblings are not allowed to watch as there is a lack of seating space. More children would not fit and lunchbreaks could not be made longer without disrupting learning.

5. The whole premises are cramped and it is often difficult to find a break out space in which to meet with teachers during the school day or for kids with special needs to use (though the situation in the juniors has improved recently).

I believe other options to accommodate the additional children should be implemented as they are more appropriate, eg:

1. Reducing the catchment size of Dobcroft school and instead extending the catchment size of currently undersubscribed schools such as Nether Edge or Holt House (extra resources put into these schools could make them more attractive options to parents)

2. Expanding a different school, Ecclesall and Clifford are both keen for expansion. There is also potential to rebuild on the Holt House (especially expanding in to the previous Bannerdale / Abbeydale Grange site) or Totley site.

My opinions are based on the facts that I have a child in the infants and one in the juniors and one who is in his first year at Silverdale, after 7 years at Dobcroft. I also live very locally to school and have worked with Sheffield schools.

I believe any expansion to Dobcroft would be detrimental to not only the kids who currently attend, but those who live nearby and will attend in the future.

I recently wrote to you expressing my concerns and objections towards the proposed expansion at Dobcroft School. Many have you have already replied but I await a full and detailed response following consultation. In the meantime, ahead of the drop-in sessions chaired by the school reorganisation team starting tomorrow 26/1/2015 at Dobcroft Infant School I would like to point you towards a petition set up by a group of parents against expansion. In the last 48 hours since it was launched we have already gained over 70 supporters. Following the drop-in sessions tomorrow I would hope to see double this number once people are aware of its existence!

Please click on the following link to access the petition and the comments made by concerned parents to date.

Please note Ecclesall & Clifford School have their own petition running simultaneously alongside ours. You can access it through the Dobcroft petition as we are working collaboratively together in challenging Sheffield City Council on the apparent lack of planning and foresight into primary school places for children in the South West of the City and potentially ruining and endangering the education of so many children already at Dobcroft School.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email

Please find attached an initial response to the consultation about expansion at Dobcroft infant and junior school. This has been prepared by a group of concerned parents, ccd, who have joined together in absence of any other shared forum.

We hope to develop this document with further research and evidence, but as time is of the essence with such a restricted consultation period, it is being sent now for your urgent review and response.

Dobcroft Expansion Information Exchange – Key Parental Concerns

We have grave concerns about the expansion at Dobcroft Infant School (DIS) and Dobcroft Junior School (DJS), whether temporary and permanent, and seek urgent response to the issues below:

SUMMARY

1. No expansion is necessary as all catchment children due to get places for next 4 years
2. There is no legitimate “emergency” evidenced to merit 2015 expansion as a temporary measure (and it is outrageous that parents and school were not allowed to consult)
3. No time has been allowed to have genuine consultation on 2016/2017 expansion
4. Concerned there are longer term plans to expand Dobcroft catchment (potentially to accommodate housebuilding on Bannerdale site) which are not being disclosed
5. Inadequate feasibility studies and no capacity of physical expansion the DIS site - its too small!
6. Expansion compromises quality indoor and outdoor spaces - threat to library, computer room, Forest School area, after school clubs and DASH, and massive health and safety risk in the playground and hall
7. Inability to maintain & deliver quality education - its proven that children do better in smaller school settings and that extra numbers could compromise learning
8. Health and Safety Risk due to Increased Road Traffic/ Congestion / Pollution

9. No evidence that Right of the Child being put at heart of decision making
10. There is real demand for expansion at Ecclesall and Clifford as an alternative
11. The requirement is for a long term solution not temporary measures

ANALYSIS

Issue - Expansion taking place in a catchment that doesn't demonstrate the need (taken from SCC figures)

SCC state there are 84 children in DIS/DJS catchment for 2015/2016, who can apply for one of 90 available existing places with no need for an additional “temporary” class. 2016/2017 has an anticipated intake of 90 within catchment which could also therefore be accommodated without the additional class. 2016/2017 has 86 catchment children and 2017/2018 has 89 catchment children. The figures demonstrate an over provision within DIS/DJS catchment, for this year and the next four years, and therefore no proven need for expansion to accommodate catchment children.

Whilst figures can change due to migration, the existing housing stock should remain fairly constant (due to planning regulations) and therefore SCC’s rationale of expansion to meet theoretical demand in the catchment is flawed.

The plans to expand DIS/DJS are as a result of the need for additional places in other local schools. DIS/DJS catchment children should not be prejudiced by the failure of SCC to provide sufficient space in other catchments, or their school experience damaged due to issues of political and logistical expediency in wider Sheffield area.

Issue – No opportunity to consult on 2015 expansion, and no legitimate “emergency” evidenced to merit 2015 expansion as a temporary measure

SCC announced that the intake will increase by 30 children, taking the foundation stage intake from 90 to 120 pupils as of September 2015. This emergency measure was taken with insufficient notice or consultation with parents, governors or school. We would like to know why SCC consider this an essential act when there is sufficient provision for catchment children in the 2015/16 intake. We ask you to provide the legal basis for taking this “emergency” measure without consultation, and will look to judicially review any actions taken by SCC if there has been any procedural unfairness in applying the power to increase numbers temporarily.

We are concerned that any temporary expansion will make a permanent expansion inevitable, as adaptations will already be in place, and the impetus to create better solutions for children will be lost.

Issue – No time to have genuine consultation on 2016/2017 Expansion

SCC has offered a consultation only on the issue of making the expansion of DIS/DJS permanent from the 2016/2017 intake onwards. The multiple concerned parties (children, parents, grandparent and other carers, residents, teachers and governors) have been given an extremely short time frame in which to consider and present their views.

Parents and children are particularly vulnerable as there is no existing forum for collective and considered response. The DIS/DJS Headmistress Cathy Rowlands has commented that whilst she has attempted to keep parents informed, “it is not our consultation”, and not for the school to coordinate a response. The PSA is a fundraising organisation for the school, rather than a “political” group, and has declined to become a forum for a collective response from parents. The School Governors have a diplomatic role to play in negotiations and

discussion with SCC to secure best financial outcome for DIS/DJS. A parents group has therefore been set up to try to share the information we hold on the expansion following our own enquiries but we feel the consultation has been purposely restricted to avoid meaningful response. SCC will have had notice of the proposals for some time, and have chosen not to share the fact of the expansion or any of the details to allow informed response in sufficient time.

We would like to legally challenge the fact the consultation period has been set at 30 days (January 11th to February 11th 2015), when there are so many concerned parties. We believe a 90 day consultation is appropriate, and only once full information including feasibility studies have been put into the public domain in a meaningful way so readily available to all parents.

We also would like to challenge the fact that parents of 2015/2016 intake children were not given the opportunity to consider the expansion as part of their decision making prior to January 2015 (with the deadline for admissions being January 15th 2015), or indeed that parents of 2015 children have no choice but to send their 4 years olds to start school at the same time as 119 others in an overcrowded and under resourced school.

Appendix: Claire Britt correspondence with SCC.

"I am writing to in relation the above consultation with the purpose of challenging the length of time given to consult with all interested and affected parties.

In the attached document setting out the consultation details it is stated the consultation period will be 4 weeks (30 days). I am lodging an official challenge to the length of consultation on the basis that it affects over 270 children, in addition prospective children; and their families. In addition those in the local area who will also be affected by the proposed school expansion. I request an extension of the consultation so that all affected parties may properly consider the facts presented and gather an appropriate response."

Issue - Concerns that SCC has longer term plans to expand catchment, which are not being consulted on simultaneously to allow informed and coordinated decision making

The current catchment boundary system is still in place for 2015. Earlier in 2014 SCC announced proposed changes to existing catchment areas for DIS/DJS & Junior, alongside Dore & Totley Primary for 2016/17. Any consultation on expansion to DIS/DJS can only be meaningful in light of the facts regarding catchment changes. We ask for reassurance that the expansion as a "temporary measure" is not just a precursor to widened catchment boundaries, which would put more children into DIS/DJS catchment, and therefore result in a higher number of applications (thus engineering a social pressure that didn't previously exist).

Appendix: James and Nikki Crookes correspondence with John Bigley

Dear Mr Bigley

I have been made aware today that there are proposals for changes to the Dobcroft School catchment area, but the link here does not indicate what these proposals are:

<http://sheffielddemocracy.moderngov.co.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=16040&PlanId=175>

Is it correct that the proposal documents are not available until the 10th March with a decision then made on the 18th? (If so, why the short window?)

There are currently many proposals under DIS/DJS for DIS/DJS and Junior Schools (i.e.: non consulted intake 2015 and proposed permanent expansion from 2016 - we have been told that this is a result of insufficient places available in the current catchment area), and parents have very little time to put their points forward for any of them - and the matter of catchment changes should surely be part of the same consultation? (I was only made aware of this today, and cannot understand why it is being treated as a separate matter?)

Kind regards

“Dear

Apologies, this was fed into the forward planner of the Council because during the Autumn Term it was considered that changes to existing admission arrangements was a possibility for the 2016/17 academic year for some schools, as part of the overall plans for expanding school places. There is a statutory timeframe for such changes which meant that they would have to be approved by 15 April, hence the March Cabinet date.

In the event there are no proposed changes to catchment areas or any other admission arrangements so the Cabinet item has been withdrawn. I have instructed colleagues to remove it from the web site. If there were any proposed changes, you're quite right, they would have to be consulted upon and this would have happened alongside the consultation for the proposed expansion at Dobcroft from 2016/17. The proposed expansion at Dobcroft does not propose any changes to admission arrangements. Please be reassured that any proposed changes to existing catchment areas would be subject to formal consultation. Thank you for bringing this to my attention and I apologise again for any confusion.”

Issue - Inadequate feasibility studies and no capacity of physical expansion the DIS site

The DIS site is small and with no surrounding land onto which it can expand. We feel we are being asked to rely on the fact that SCC will fund and build additional classrooms/facilities at DIS/DJS to accommodate the additional 90 pupils (over a three year period) in the absence of the necessary planning permissions necessary to “land grab” from the already inadequate playground. Local residents would be able to oppose building works, and the planning department would be constrained by its own guidelines with regard retaining outdoor utility space. We are aware of some parents who are unconcerned about the proposed expansion on the misguided assumption that there will be the funds and time to put up a new and appropriate building on the same site (i.e. a total demolition and rebuild); we need the facts about the proposed accommodation for 2015/2016 and following years. Parents should be provided with the feasibility studies (on the understanding that SCC *has* undertaken feasibility studies), so they can be subject to proper professional and independent scrutiny.

Appendix: Planning rules

Issue – Expansion Compromises Quality indoor and outdoor spaces for both curricular and extracurricular activity

DIS currently offers a **cramped learning environment**, with 2 out of its total of 9 classes operating out of mobile units on the playground. The temporary solution cited by the Council would rely on reorganising and getting rid of existing shared learning space. Currently it is suggested that the **library would be lost** to make way for a new class in September 2015, squeezing some books into the computer room (which would suddenly be under greater

demand). This would mean the essential after school club, **DASH**, which currently provides 40 places out of the library is may be forced to **operate at a reduced services** from the 14 place "hub" room. Thereafter, if the expansion plan is taken forward, it would mean the **loss of the Forest School site** and in the form of cheap mobile units. Dobcroft has strongly promoted itself as an Eco School with forest school values. Do we just disregard this award winning work in the quest to increase pupil numbers?

There is a genuine **Health and Safety risk** created by additional children in an already overcrowded and **under resourced playground**. The number of "bump notes" and incidents of playground injury are already well known to parents, and not helped by the fact that the ratio of playground supervisors to children is extremely low. The playground experience for these 4 5 6 and 7 year olds, extremely young children, will be overwhelming and we would welcome additional live studies of the playground and psychological reports on the impact of increased noise and activity within the playground has on vulnerable children. The infant school currently shares the junior school field. At full capacity, how will children fit for sporting events like sports day? How does loss of facility for shared sport activity fit with the Healthy Schools and Change4 Life message? With only one school hall which will remain the same size, how do SCC propose to accommodate each Childs right to 2 hours of PE per week, given that the hall is required for other activities including providing a timely lunch for all children?

Many current DIS/DJS parents consider the existing school as providing **insufficient basic amenities** and infection control. There are real concerns about toilet facilities, and the difficulties this raises in managing incontinence in such young children, and the general health and safety risk to the children from an overcrowded environment. Whilst more funding may be made available to improve toileting under the plans for expansion, this would be counterbalanced by the increased pressure on these facilities caused by the additional children. We ask to see the evidence re square footage per child currently available to children at DIS, and under the expanded numbers for 2015/2016, and then again is 2016/17 and 2017/18, to prove these meet legal minimums and thereafter national and Sheffield averages.

Issue - Inability to maintain & deliver quality education

The **educational evidence for smaller schools** is overwhelming. As parents with no real choice about where to send our children other than our catchment schools (given that other schools in the area are at capacity), we feel alarmed that the clear message sent by educationalists that children of all backgrounds and abilities thrive in a smaller school setting (not just a smaller class setting) is being entirely overlooked.

We have existing concerns about educational **standards** at DIS not meeting the "outstanding" label set. The last full Ofsted report was in 2007 so there is no current evidence of consistent outstanding practice at the school (although there are certainly some excellent teachers there). Anecdotal evidence on ParentView, and confidential forum, suggests there are improvements to be made at the school. We are concerned that additional pressure in terms of numbers will allow the school to delay the Ofsted Inspection and the attendant improvements it can bring.

Appendix: evidence re outcomes for smaller school

Issue – Health and Safety Risk due to Increased Road Traffic/ Congestion / Pollution

We need urgent reassurance regarding the health and safety risks caused by increased traffic in the already congested Pingle Road area. The biggest issue that the school currently deals with is traffic hazards during the start and end of school. Parents ignore double yellow lines and disregard responsible speed limits. The proposed expansion will accommodate increased demand from outside the catchment, which will guarantee 100% of all additional children arriving in vehicles. The current infrastructure for drop-offs on surrounding residential roads is insufficient - and increasing the schools' combined capacities by 33% will make this worse, and cause chaos. We would surely require an irrefutable guarantee that

the safety of children and residents would not be compromised in any way by the expansion of the schools. We need to know how SCC suggests reducing the extra pollution implications from these vehicles.. How does it propose to manage the increase in traffic flow to ensure children are safe when arriving and leaving the school premises. How does this fit with the message of eco-living (encouraging children to walk to school) which is messaged to children from Foundation Stage and is a key part of the Change4 Life campaign.

Issue – No evidence that Right of the Child being put at heart of decision making

There is no evidence that SCC has put the Rights of the Child at the heart of their decision. There is a particular concern regarding SEN children. We understand that DIS/DJS may be promoted as a SEN Centre of Excellence, but SEN children are those that are most likely to be overwhelmed and disenfranchised in a super sized school environment. We believe 'Super School' is a fair description when the proposals would lead to DIS increasing its size by one third over a three year period.

Issue – There is real demand for an alternative solution at Ecclesall and Clifford

Currently other schools near to DIS/DJS are actively campaigning to create new primary school places that are accessible to the areas of highest need by expanding Ecclesall Infant School by one form and expanding Clifford Infant School into a through primary. They do not see the expansion of DIS/DJS as a meaningful solution to their needs and the desire to provide local schooling for their children. We support their campaign for improved provision within their catchment, particularly when they have the space required for additional building works.

Appendix: https://www.change.org/p/sheffield-city-council-create-new-primary-school-places-that-are-accessible-to-the-areas-of-highest-need-by-expanding-ecclesall-infant-school-by-one-form-and-expanding-clifford-infant-school-into-a-through-primary?after_sign_exp=member_sponsored_upsells

Issue – The requirement is for a long term solution not temporary measures

We recognise that getting schooling provision right for all children of Sheffield is a huge challenge for SCC and we do not pretend that the solutions to demographic change across the city are easy. Nevertheless, limited expansion within an already full school, is an example of destructive short termism. We request the evidence to show that building and adequately resourcing a new school in south west Sheffield is not a more viable long term solution, even if more expensive for SCC in the short term. We are aware of the recent closure of Abbeydale Grange – could this be reopened or other brownfield sites used to create other great new schools to give the best to all our children.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED AND MAKE YOUR OPINIONS HEARD

Action – Use and 'Like' our Facebook Page

Our group has set this up as a shared resource and a first step towards making our collective views known. Please share any comments you have, particular issues or information that could support or expand on points above.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1398539780447113/>

Action – Attend Consultation and Email Schools consultation

If you agree with any or all of the points in this report, please ensure these are communicated at the Consultation meetings set for Monday 26th – Wednesday 27th. The electronic text is available on the Facebook page should you want to cut and paste any of this into your own emails.

Action – Collaborate with Ecclesall and Clifford Junior schools campaign

<https://www.change.org/p/sheffield-city-council-create-new-primary-school-places-that-are-accessible-to-the-areas-of-highest-need-by-expanding-ecclesall-infant-school-by-one-form-and-expanding-clifford-infant-school-into-a-through-primary>

Action – Sign Our Petition

A petition has been set up to help stop the current proposal put forward by Sheffield City Council to increase pupil numbers at Dobcroft School.

https://www.change.org/p/sheffield-city-council-nick-clegg-mp-cllr-jackiedrayton-jayne-ludlam-john-bigley-help-stop-sheffield-city-council-from-squeezing-extra-classes-of-pupils-into-the-already-overcrowded-dobcroft-infant-junior-schools/invit?just_created=true&share=true

I am writing with regard to the proposed increase from 3 classes per year to 4 classes per year at Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools.

As a parent to one child currently in Year 1 with a sibling due to start in September 2016 and also as a local resident, I would like to express my concerns over the impact the proposals will have over the education of my children, their well being and the impact on the local area.

It seems to me that Dobcroft is an easy choice for the Council because they are strong schools which still carry "outstanding" classifications from Ofsted so it prevents putting further pressure on other local schools which do not fare so well. However, with 3 classes per year group, Dobcroft already has one of the largest year groups in Sheffield, let alone the South West region. Topley school only has one class per year and recently appeared at the top of the Primary School league tables. This cannot be a coincidence and my fear is that the quality of education provided at Dobcroft will slip as the Schools struggle to cope with the sheer volume of children coming through.

My other concerns are as follows:

- 1) There are currently insufficient toilet facilities at the Infant School to cope with an additional class in 2015 let alone any more.
- 2) There is not enough spare land at either school to facilitate further buildings. The Infant School playground is already small and cannot be made any smaller without infringing on the safety and enjoyment of the children. If the plan is to build on the playing fields at the Junior School then this sends out a particularly negative message the Council places on health, fitness and sport in Schools and will meet fierce opposition from parents across both Schools.
- 3) Following the introduction of free school meals, the Infant School already struggles to get the children through at lunchtime and in fact lunchtime already lasts 1hr 20 mins so already cuts into the daily teaching time. If the proposals are to stagger lunchtime, this will mean some children going long periods of time without a meal which will, without question, affect their concentration in lessons.
- 4) Increasing the annual intake and presumably the catchment area will result in more parents dropping off by car as they will have to travel further to get to the schools. As both schools are adjacent with 2 other schools very close by, it is already a bottle neck in the local vicinity and there is a significantly increased risk to the children of bringing extra traffic to the area at drop off/pick up time.

5) I understand Ecclesall C of E School and Clifford Infant School are both canvassing to obtain the extra intake and obtain the extra funding. Other schools in the South West of Sheffield have class sizes of under 30 such as Hallam and Nethergreen so there are other options for the Council.

Last year, 8 children in catchment did not get a place at Dobcroft. This was unprecedented. Is that enough to warrant an increase of 210 children across both schools?

Please consider these points when making the final decision about where the increase will be and if they are absolutely necessary at all.

We are writing to express our very strong objections to the expansion of Dobcroft Infant by 30 places in 2015:

-We are incredulous that Sheffield Council would make such a significant decision as this without any consultation with the school. This is totally undemocratic. We feel that if you wanted to make such a proposal then you should have consulted with the school in advance of this.

-Your approach is inconsistent as to your shame, you failed to act in September 2014 when around 8 catchment children were not offered places at Dobcroft or reasonable alternatives.

-The data that has been circulated does not present a persuasive case for expansion being required in 2015.

-Whilst the data seems to suggest that in future years, there may be a shortage of places in the wider area of Ecclesall/Greystones/Dore/Totley...the key weakness of your decision is that unless you amend the catchment areas, the dense population around Dobcroft means that there are a number of children who based on the "crow lies" rules, despite having almost a guarantee of a place in their catchment school at schools such as Holt House, will select Dobcroft and be admitted. The children who I assume you are trying to help who live on the extremities of catchment areas of schools like Ecclesall/Greystones/Dore/Totley will be too far away from Dobcroft to get places there.

-This short term decision will create longer term admissions problems as children admitted to Dobcroft in 2015 from outside catchment, will then create a pool of "siblings" who will create a pressure on places in future years.

We feel this is an ill-considered decision and we hope our objections are registered. We will set out our objections to the 2016 proposals in a separate email.

Now that I have had the opportunity to review the FAQ document provided by Sheffield Council in regard to the proposed expansion of Dobcroft School, as a parent of two children who attend the school, and as a local resident, I wish to formally object to these proposals.

From my perspective the FAQ document does nothing to articulate why it is necessary to expand Dobcroft School; the document simply puts forward some (rudimentary and fairly poor) research, which shows that some schools in South West Sheffield are over subscribed and some are under subscribed. Whilst I do not have time to review the educational attainment and Ofsted reports for all 11 schools listed in the FAQ's, my guess would be that those that are over subscribed attain better results than those that are not. This would

explain why more parents with children are choosing to move into certain catchment areas.

I would note a number of points in regard to the FAQ's:

- There is no mention made to why certain schools are under subscribed and what action Sheffield Council is taking to address this. I assume that this is because it will involve the long term and difficult process of improving educational standards in these schools (i.e. the role we expect the Education Dept. to actually fulfil.)

- In regards to the temporary expansion for 2015 the document states that there is "no legal requirements to consult on a change of this scale". Simply because there is no legal requirement does not mean that it is not best practise to consult with those directly affected, those who pay some of the highest levels of Council Tax in the city! **As an action I would request the Council to provide me with the number of times in the past 10 years that such temporary expansion has taken place at other Sheffield Schools, and on how many occasions this was done with NO consultation with parents, teachers, governors or local residents.**

- I note that in the FAQ's it states that "**The Council is well aware of the concerns that have been raised to date by parents and local residents alike around traffic**". How frustrating then, that given this level of awareness, to date you have done nothing to address these issues or attempt to improve the safety for children. Furthermore, you appear to be advocating a scheme that you are fully aware will make the situation much worse as all the additional places will be filled by children who will not live within walking distance of the school. In addition, the only reason in all of the FAQ document for specifically selecting Dobcroft is "**Given that Dobcroft is more centrally located within the area of pressure**" - however, as all children who will fulfil the additional 30 places will attend by car, I fail to understand why this centrality is of such importance, in fact it points more clearly to a laziness of thought and lack of creativity in the Education Dept.

- The most patronising sentence in the whole FAQ document is "**The Council understands that it can be frustrating not to have a detailed building and accommodation plan to comment on as part of the consultation**". It is not the lack of a detailed building and accommodation plan that is frustrating, it is the lack of any building and accommodation plan. How the Council can propose that the consultation period will end on February 11th without any such plan is absurd, and I also believe this is illegal.

Further details on my objections to the proposal are contained within the attached document.

I find it ironic that Nick Clegg, MP for Hallam, has previously stated that it was "vital" that any decisions have the full support of locals, when Sheffield Council's approach has thus far been "we will do what we want irrespective of what any locals think".

Please confirm receipt of my e-mail, and I await your swift response to my request for information regarding the number of times in the past 10 years that such temporary expansion has taken place at other Sheffield Schools, and on how many occasions this was done with NO consultation with parents, teachers, governors or local residents.

ATTACHMENT –

The biggest concerns that I, many other parents and local residents share are as follows:

1. The school will simply become too big

Dobcroft already has the **largest annual intake of children in the area**. The teachers already have to work very hard to stop this feeling intimidating to children. Within the information provide in the Sheffield Council FAQ document, of the 11 schools in the South West of Sheffield whose intake is compared, only 2 schools (Dobcroft and Hunters Bar) have an annual intake of 90, all the rest have a regular annual intake of 60 or less. I refuse to believe that these levels of annual intake are simply accidental, when all studies show that in regard to primary school children they learn better in smaller schools. Given that these levels of annual intake appear to be the norm, and are based on ensuring the achievement of educational attainment, I can see no logic why a decision would be made to increase the annual intake to 120 at any school, especially when one considers that there are a large number of schools in the area that have an annual intake of under 90 currently.

The addition of an extra 60 children by the time our Foundation Stage children reach Year 2 will make the school feel much bigger and more overwhelming to new and existing children alike. Just imagine what a school size of 360 pupils will feel like to a 4 year old. Essentially increasing the intake by one third gives absolutely no regard for the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, especially Article 3 - **“The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all actions concerning children”**. I would suggest that in regard to the proposed expansion of Dobcroft School the best interests of the children have been far from a priority, and have come a way behind, money, ease of implementation, laziness of thinking and most disappointingly of all political interests.

2. Insufficient / Inadequate Shared Space

There will be increasing and considerable **pressure on already tired shared areas**. For example,

- The ICT Suite – because of existing demand for these facilities the children are only able to have a short period of time allocated to ICT each week. More children in school will squeeze this available time even further – far from ideal in the digital age. (The facility may be relocated under the redesign plans, but that won't compensate for increased demand)
- Twice weekly PE sessions may be threatened if the already complex logistics of the Hall can't accommodate the additional classes, especially in winter.
- Areas like the Hall, Library, play facilities and toilets will suffer significantly **greater wear and tear** as the number of children increases

I attended Dobcroft Infants for one year in 1978/9 before going on to attend Dobcroft Middle School (as it was then). For that year I was taught in one of the mobile classrooms, which at the time my parents were informed were “temporary”. How disappointing then, over 30 years later and my son was taught in the same mobile classroom! Unfortunately his class had to move classrooms for a large part of that educational year because of a leak and flood in the mobile classroom – due, as we were told to the fact they cannot be sufficiently protected against very cold weather and are therefore prone to pipe bursts. For half a term they were taught in another (newer) mobile classroom known as the hub. This is clear evidence that Sheffield Council has never planned long term, and that “temporary” measures have a habit of simply becoming permanent solutions.

The school simply does not have the space to accommodate a one third increase in pupils.

3. Overcrowding

Lunchtimes will be even more busy and rushed. If the school is forced to move to three sittings to accommodate the extra numbers then some children will either be forced to eat very early or very late.

After -School Clubs, DASH and activities such as School Disco's, School Plays and Sports Days will become **overcrowded and potentially a logistical nightmare** for those organising and supporting

4. Reduced Space Available for Play

New classrooms cannot be added without **removing outdoor space**. With more children attending, more outdoor space would be appropriate rather than less. Children need enough space to let off steam after periods of intensive classroom learning. Let's not forget that the curriculum is becoming more demanding year on year.

5. Disruption and Safety Risks

Any building work needed will undoubtedly bring with it **disruption and safety implications** for the children. Our Foundation Stage children will experience this at least three times as:

- a. the building work to create the new library & ICT area takes place
- b. the building work to create new classrooms for the additional children in 2016 and 2017 takes place in the Infants School
- c. the building work takes place to the Junior School to accommodate the additional numbers, starting the first year our Foundation Stage children join the Junior School. (If the Junior School building work is phased in year by year then our Children will experience this every single year they are at Junior School!)

6. Road Safety Danger and Traffic Congestion

The vast majority of new children will be from outside our catchment area. This means there will be a **significant increase in road congestion and parking challenges** in the surrounding roads at drop off and pick up times. By 2020, when our foundation children are in their final year of Juniors, this will mean the potential for an additional 180 parking spaces being sought (and fought over) in the area. We've all witnessed some of the "parking" and "right of way" wars that take place every morning along Whirlowdale Crescent and Pingle Road – do we really want that to escalate into further chaos?

More importantly, the dangerous implications for the road safety of the children are very concerning. Parents usually start to let their children develop their independence in the last couple of years at Junior School by allowing them to cross the roads to school alone and making at least part of their journey without adult supervision. How comfortable would you be with that knowing there could be an additional 180 cars in the area in a morning? And if we rein-in the children's development at that stage over safety concerns, how prepared, independent and confident will the children be when it comes to attending Senior School?

I have been reading with interest the developments in the Dobcroft expansion. A lot of the comments from 'concerned parents' come across as petty and mean.

As someone who currently lives in the catchment for Holt House and has a little boy who should start school in Sept 2016 I am very interested in hearing how the catchment areas will change.

I am slightly concerned if we will be moved to a school where parents cite 'language difficulties with children from Holt House/Carterknowle' and house price decreases because

they specifically moved to be in Dobcroft catchment as reasons against an expansion which seems to have its main goal of giving every child in SW Sheffield the chance to go to a local school.

Further to my below email I have since read this statement:

"Dear All

Please note that there are no proposed catchment area changes for 2016/17. The item was initially submitted on the forward planner in order to comply with statutory timescales if there were to be any such proposals. In the event there were not. Any subsequent proposals with regard to catchment area changes could not be implemented until 2017/18 at the earliest and would be subject to statutory consultation procedures.

Regards

John Bigley

Manager, Admissions & Access

Inclusion and Learning Services

Children, Young People and Families"

If this is the case how do people that live on the fringes of the catchment know which school they should apply to to have the best chance of attending a local school

We are on which is Holt House catchment but as close to Dobcroft and probably towards the edge of Holt House catchment? Will there be advice on this for parents?

I am writing to outline a number of concerns we have regarding the permanent expansion of places at Dobcroft Infant and junior schools.

In summary:

The evidence shows that there is not the need for the expansion of Dobcroft schools to accommodate pupils currently within catchment. Pupil forecasts and evidence from the last few years shows that the school is the correct size for the catchment it currently serves. The current year 2 has 18% of pupils already travelling in from outside catchment e.g. Tankersley because of a surplus of places. The idea of further expansion can only mean that many more pupils will end up travelling long distances (by car) to attend a school that local residents have paid a premium to live in catchment to enable our children to attend.

Of major concern as a resident backing on to the school is parking a road safety. As St Wilfred's and Mylnhurst schools are on the doorstep (and they are not catchment schools so most pupils are driven to school) it is chaos now at 8.30-9am and 3.15-3.45pm and adding potentially hundreds more cars would literally cause gridlock. I regularly see cars reversing across pavements as they can't go the way they want to as the roads are blocked on both sides hence only one car can pass at a time. It is only a matter of time before a child is hurt if you increase the traffic further. As we pulled out of our drive on Whirlowdale Crescent a few months ago a car came straight across the Pingle road crossroad and caused a nasty accident. There is no way this extra traffic will not mean that such incidents will be more frequent. This is a housing estate and cannot accommodate a school to serve all of SW Sheffield and very likely wider.

We feel that as Dobcroft is an outstanding school it has been chosen as the one to expand in order to allow pupils currently outside catchment served by less desirable schools e.g.

Nether Edge to get a better education. Whilst that is of course what every parent would want for every child is it really the solution to just keep making good schools bigger? This isn't a secondary school, the school has 4 year old pupils and as a parent I don't want my 4 year old going to a super sized school. With 90 per year this is intimidating enough. We didn't choose this and feel really aggrieved that the council are trying to force this on us. If it's about choice for parents then what about the choices of current Dobcroft pupils?

The school site isn't big enough as it is to accommodate these extra pupils. Extra classrooms are one thing but it is the outside space that would also need changing fundamentally so that it doesn't have a detrimental effect on the current Dobcroft pupils whom it seems don't factor at all in your decision. Playgrounds are small, lunch times are chaos, school plays restricted to two tickets, xmas fayre oversubscribed so many pupils can't attend, these things may seem trivial but they really aren't. These whole school events are exactly why we moved to the Dobcroft catchment, the school has a lovely community feel which will change if it expands.

Finally Dobcroft is currently a feeder school for Silverdale, one of the reasons we chose to move to this area. Can Silverdale accommodate these extra pupils or will our children be at risk of not getting a place there?!

I really hope that you consider these and many other issues before going ahead with this. It is the wrong decision and doesn't solve the problem that you have identified. How can this be right when no-one living in the area or parents of pupils attending the school wanting this? It will have a negative effect on all our children's education and our homes. As Ecclesall want and need expansion to accommodate their current catchment then this is surely a better solution in every way?

We hope there will be a Q&A session where we can hear what SCC have to say about these issues.

I spoke to a gentleman at the school this morning and he said to email my feedback to you. I hope this is the correct email address to send my concerns to, if it is not please let me know where to send my comments.

I have a child in Dobcroft Juniors and one in Dobcroft Infants and one who will be applying for 2016 entry.

I am also the DASH finance manager. DASH is the Dobcroft After School Hours care. We have places for 48 children in the junior school and 42 in the infant school. We are a charity run by volunteer parents who use DASH. We offer before and after school care and Holiday club places.

We currently have a static mobile on the Junior site and hire the attached mobile everyday. For our infant children we hire the Library and the Hall In the infant school. The infant school are having to change the library into a classroom from September and so we have lost the site for our infant DASH. We have been offered the use of the hub but this is considerably smaller and so will impact heavily on the number of children we will be able to care for for at least the next 3 years. We are currently unsure if we will be able to still offer all of our current children places at DASH and we will probably not be able to offer places to any new starters from the 4 class intake next year.

When the extra class (or classes) reaches the junior school, we will also lose the mobile that we currently rent from the junior school, which means that we will again have to decrease our numbers.

Dobcroft school has a high number of parents who both work and DASH offers a safe onsite child care option. The school expansion threatens our viability. It will be a great loss to the school.

As a parent I am also concerned that the Hub is currently used for the community and after school clubs which will all have to be relocated when we start to use it and there doesn't appear to be anywhere immediately obvious for them to go as the school is already so overcrowded. After school clubs are already over subscribed and difficult to get a place in, but with greater numbers of pupils and less space to run the clubs, it will be very difficult to get a place in an after school club.

I'm sure I'm not alone in formally registering my concerns about the expansion of Dobcroft school both as a parent of a pupil but also as a local resident.

Unfortunately I'm unable to attend either of the consultation meetings with council members so wish to briefly outline my concerns which I believe to be recurring themes amongst parents at Dobcroft.

My first and ultimate concern is that of child safety. The communal areas such as play areas and the hall are all ready bursting to capacity without the addition of extra children. The proposal undoubtedly will mean that large numbers of the extra children will be from out of catchment so travelling in cars. This will make the area surrounding Dobcroft unsafe with the number of moving and parked vehicles.

I feel that the education of the children already attending will be threatened as there are already limited resources such as IT, library facilities etc.

The demand on after school clubs and wrap around care will likely exceed what they can accommodate.

The site at Dobcroft is simply not large enough to cope with this expansion.

I have 2 younger children not yet at school and I feel that it is incredibly overwhelming at 4 to start with 120 children and attend such a large school.

My last and most pertinent point is why Dobcroft? This really has not been made clear nor is supported by the documentary evidence that I have read. It seems that expanding Ecclesall or Clifford would be a more appropriate and accepted move forward. Not least these schools want to expand.

Dobcroft is an excellent, but already large school, please don't threaten this with what is perceived to be an unnecessary and very much unwanted expansion.

As a parent of two children currently at Dobcroft Infant School I wish to object in the strongest terms over the current council proposals to expand both Dobcroft Infant and Junior School. Decisions taken here will fundamentally impact both my children's experiences of education and that will shape their lives for ever.

There are **many** reasons for my concerns:

1. Just Too Big for Little Children

Dobcroft already has the **largest annual intake of children in the area**. The teachers already have to work very hard to stop this feeling intimidating to children.

The addition of an extra 60 children by the time our Foundation Stage children reach Year 2 will make the school feel much bigger and more overwhelming to new and existing children alike. Just imagine what an infant school size of 360 pupils will feel like to a 4 year old...

I found an interesting article in the Guardian archives of May 2013 with a contribution from Sheffield City Councils own Councillor Colin Ross:

"Colin Ross..argues that primary schools should ideally not be bigger than the equivalent of two classes of 30 in each year group. He said "Parents want to know that primary school teachers know their children. If a school becomes bigger.. it is very difficult for staff to know each child. At primary school age, it's very important for children to know adults at their school to feel comfortable. We should be building more schools, not fitting more children on to already squeezed sites."

Has Councillor Colin Ross changed his opinion in the last 18 months or can we assume that the Council are not aligned on the implications of creating a Superschool?

More importantly, Educational Psychologists' consistently advocate the benefits of keeping learning environments smaller for young children. Anecdotal evidence of primary schools that have been supersized by removing playspace from the children shows the results to have been catastrophic for the children and teachers alike. Here's another quote from the Guardian investigation:

"Bob Garton, Head of Gascoigne Primary in Barking, East London laments the lack of space. "We have no open space. We had a playing field, but temporary classrooms are on that now," he said. "We don't have one spare room. We are full to bursting." In fact, in all my research the only schools which could cite positive results were those that had been expanded where they had significant land available and where expansion did not inhibit play, space, etc. This is NOT the case at either Dobcroft School.

In a different article by the BBC in March 2012 The Leader of the National Association of Head Teachers, Russell Hobby stated "there are limits to how far a primary can grow and still retain the ethos that makes it special and welcoming to young children. Primary heads are more than capable of handling the logistics, but it is the culture and pastoral care that are at issue," .

Please advise whether any expert advice has been sought about the psychological and educational implications of imposing a very large school on very young children? And if so, what specifically was advised?

2. Insufficient / Inadequate Shared Space

There will be increasing and considerable **pressure on already tired shared areas**. For example,

- o The ICT Suite – This facility appears to be being removed completely in September to accommodate the "emergency" expansion. In the digital age that is not acceptable. Even if this facility were replaced on a like for like basis, the existing demand for these facilities means that the children already only have a short period of time allocated to ICT each week (about 30 minutes each because we don't have enough computers to accommodate a full class so have to operate in shifts!). More children in school will squeeze this available time

even further – that is not acceptable. (The facility may be rebuilt under the redesign plans, but that won't compensate for increased demand reducing available time per child)

o Twice weekly PE sessions will be threatened as the already complex logistics of the Hall will not be able to accommodate the additional classes, especially in winter. We are constantly reminded about the need for our children to exercise regularly - removing PE sessions is not acceptable. How is this consistent with Government and Medical advice about keeping our children active?

o Areas like the Hall, Library, play facilities and toilets will suffer significantly **greater wear and tear** as the number of children increases. The toilets are already in an appalling state - they cannot cope with greater levels of usage. Play facilities are already only provided and maintained by tireless PSA fundraising.

3. Overcrowding

Lunchtimes will be even more busy and rushed. The school already has to operate 2 lunch sittings to accommodate all the existing children. With an additional 90 pupils they will have no choice but to move to three sittings meaning that a large number of children will be forced to eat either very early or very late - that is not acceptable.

The DASH (after school childcare for working parents) facility will no longer be able to continue in its current format under the "emergency" expansion plans as this is currently based in the Infant Library which will now have to become a classroom to accommodate the "emergency" children. The impact on working mums and dads who rely on (and pay for) this will be significant. Has this been considered at all?

Similarly After -School Activity Clubs will become even more over-subscribed as we do not have the space or facilities to increase group sizes. This will reduce the qualitative experience of non-curricular activities for many children. Has this been considered?

Key social development activities such as School Disco's, School Plays and Sports Days will become **overcrowded and potentially a logistical nightmare** for those organising and supporting. We already have 90 children performing in each school play - the hall simply isn't big enough to accommodate a school play with a cast of 120 children. So does that mean that the children miss out on this development and we, as parents, miss out on such key memorable moments in our children's lives?

4. Reduced Space Available for Play

New classrooms cannot be added without **removing outdoor space**. With more children attending, increased outdoor space would be appropriate rather than less. Outdoor facilities are already cramped and we already see a high number of "bump notes" being issued on a daily basis because the play area is overcrowded. Surely increasing overcrowding is a Health and Safety concern? Children need enough space to let off steam after periods of intensive classroom learning. Let's not forget that the curriculum is becoming more demanding year on year. How is removing play and exercise space consistent with the Council's policy on Children's health?

5. Disruption and Safety Risks

□□□Any building work needed will undoubtedly bring with it **disruption and safety implications** for the children. Our Foundation Stage children will experience this at least three times as:

- a. any building work to create a new ICT Suite area takes place
- b. the building work to create new classrooms for the additional children in 2016 and 2017 takes place in the Infants School
- c. the building work takes place to the Junior School to accommodate the additional numbers, starting the first year our Foundation Stage children join the Junior School. (If the Junior School building work is phased in year by year then our Children will experience this every single year they are at Junior School!)

6. Road Safety Danger and Traffic Congestion

The new children will be from outside our catchment area. This means there will be a **significant increase in road congestion and parking challenges** in the surrounding roads at drop off and pick up times. By 2020, when our foundation stage children are in their final year of Juniors, this will mean the potential for an additional 180 parking spaces being sought (and fought over) in the area. I regularly witness parking and "right of way" wars that take place every morning along Whirlowdale Crescent and Pingle Road. Police have been called on several occasions. The number 83 bus is regularly stuck on Silverdale or Dobcroft Road as double parking blocks access. How is encouraging more cars into a heavily populated residential area acceptable?

More importantly, the dangerous implications for the road safety of the children are very concerning. Parents usually start to let their children develop their independence in the last couple of years at Junior School by allowing them to cross the roads to school alone and making at least part of their journey without adult supervision. As a parent, how comfortable would you be with that knowing there will be an additional 210 cars in the area in a morning by 2021? And if we rein-in the children's development at that stage over safety concerns, how prepared, independent and confident will the children be when it comes to attending Senior School?

7. An unfounded "emergency" and unsubstantiated plans

No legitimate emergency has been evidenced to justify the "temporary 2015 emergency expansion". Indeed, figures suggest Dobcroft have an over-provision of places for children in catchment for the next 4 years.

Conversely, Ecclesall School can demonstrate shortfalls within catchment and are campaigning to have additional places made available in conjunction with Clifford School. Why, therefore, was the "temporary 2015 emergency expansion" not accommodated at Ecclesall Infant School? And why are the plans for 2016 and beyond not being focused there?

I can't accept the argument that Dobcroft School is the more central school - for Dore, Topley and Ecclesall areas any journey time difference would be negligible if you were to provide the additional spaces at Ecclesall/Clifford (where it is wanted and can be accommodated) rather than Dobcroft (where it is not wanted by parents or residents and cannot be accommodated without significant negative implications for the existing pupils).

I have attended this morning's Consultation Drop In at Dobcroft Infant School and the Council Officer I spoke to seemed to be wholly in agreement with the points raised!

I would really like the Council to focus on a solution that genuinely put the children, not budgets, at the heart of the solution. Please ask yourselves: "Would I want this for my child?"

I look forward to your response and will also be calling on my local Councillors for their support.

Good afternoon. I am a governor at DJS and previously a governor at DIS

Throughout all the discussions and meetings I've been involved in as part of this process, I'm yet to hear a satisfactory reason why a new infant and junior school cannot be built on the Bannerdale / Abbeydale Grange site. A relatively small amount of the land could house one or two classes for a new school and still allow SCC to sell a valuable asset. As it was previously a school, the locality should not bring huge objections to the table, and road access is quite reasonable at both the Carterknowle Road and Hastings Road points.

Attempting to force too many children into Dobcroft, which is already overcrowded, seems foolish when a perfectly acceptable alternative is available.

Thanks for taking the time to reply. I think the main point I'd like you to take away is that there are a lot of people who just want their child to go to a local school whether this be a recently expanded one or not and they will not make their voices heard like the current/prospective parents at Dobcroft are doing at the moment. There is now somebody actually suggesting on the Facebook page that they have set up if they should ask Ofsted to re inspect as the council are using the outstanding status as a reason they should expand.

Hope the whole thing turns out well in any case.

I am the parent of two children who currently attend Dobcroft Infant School and I have therefore been informed about Sheffield City Council's proposals to increase the number of pupils from a 90 place intake to a 120 place intake.

As you will be aware we have been told (without any consultation) that a temp measure of 30 additional children will join the school Sept 2015 but the proposal is that this additional intake into the school will continue each year. This will mean an extra 90 children on the small infant school site and over 100 eventually in the Junior School.

In your role as Facilities Manager (compliance) I wondered what information had been requested from yourself as part of the decision to do both the temporary increase and also the proposed long term increase?

I am aware that the responsibilities within your role include responsibility for statutory Health and Safety monitoring duties in relation to premises. Setting of standards and performance levels and the monitoring of these with respect to the H&S issues and also ensuring compliance with and the distribution of new legislation or changes to existing.

I am aware of The Education (School Premises) Regulation Act 1999 and I would like some information as to whether the regulations within this act have and are being followed.

A basic example in this document is the requirements for toilet facilities , I am aware that the legal requirement for toilet facilities is 5% required for children aged 5 and over but this increases to 10 % for children under 5. I would like to know whether Dobcroft Infant School can provide this ratio from September 2015 with the temp increase and also over the long term proposals?

Parents and the community are gravely concerned over these proposals and I would appreciate your comments, information and thoughts on the above. We have been given a very short period for consultation so I would appreciate your response as soon as possible.

As residents of Millhouses lane, we are extremely concerned about the proposed increase in size of the Dobcroft schools.

Currently there are two infant and junior schools in close proximity – Dobcroft and St Wilfrid's. Already more pupils are transported to these schools in cars than can be safely accommodated by the road infrastructure.

For local residents, this causes a number of problems:-

- Cars are always double parked
- Cars always park partly on the pavement
- Cars regularly park on faded double yellow lines and therefore too close to junctions
- Cars regularly park opposite the junction with Whirlowdale Crescent
- Cars often block driveways
- Drivers often blow horns.

Such blatant disregard for the Highway Code causes twice-daily problems for residents as well as motorists and pedestrians – total gridlock of Millhouses Lane and Whirlowdale Crescent, pavements inaccessible for innocent pedestrians and impossibility of access for delivery or other larger vehicles at these times.

Any more drivers, associated with increased school places, would inevitably use Millhouses Lane and Whirlowdale Crescent as the car park, compounding an already chaotic and dangerous situation.

It is important to bear in mind that 'local primary school places' might imply that pupils will be local, but children and their carers have forgotten how to walk to school.

Quite clearly the area cannot tolerate any further traffic congestion. It is only by sheer good fortune that accidents have not taken place. The proposal is simply not sustainable.

Our house overlooks the junction of Millhouses Lane and Whirlowdale crescent, and you would be welcome to come and witness the morning mayhem for yourself, if you wished.

Am am writing regarding the proposed increase in numbers at Dobcroft school. My daughter is currently in foundation and my other daughter due to start in 2017.

I have read today, information about why pupils were turned down at appeal last year for places at Dobcroft. It states that the present classrooms are already too small and there is insufficient toilets available for the current children. How are you going to have another foundation class there this year with no increase in this provision. I am extremely concerned that we may lose the precious library to accommodate the class. This is a valuable resource. It is also where the after school club that my daughter attends is so there is a big concern over this.

In addition, as it is now said that catchment areas are to stay the same, it is obvious that the children it is supposed to be helping (Dore, Totley and Ecclesall) will have no chance of being in the extra class anyway. If the admissions criteria is the same, then all that will happen is Dobcroft's extra class will fill up from the nearby Holt House (who traditionally often put Dobcroft as first choice), leaving the extra pupils from Dore, Totley and Ecclesall presumably being offered schools further away. This will be extremely unpopular with parents.

The whole thing is very concerning. I am extremely worried about my daughter's education and the impact on the school and indeed the neighbourhood ie with extra traffic etc.

I write as a parent of a child at Dobcroft Infant School to register formally my objection to the proposed expansion.

My son has just started in Foundation at the school and is a particularly shy boy. I cannot imagine how daunting it would be for a child in his position (having come from a nursery which was officially recommended to us by the school where there were on average only 10 children at any one time) to play in a playground with 360 children (not to mention the junior school children who are in the adjacent playground). The site is small and such a huge increase in pupil numbers will render it overcrowded and intimidating for the children.

The site on which the school is built is surrounded by residential roads which are already notoriously busy with parked cars and school traffic. We walk to school and it is often difficult to cross roads safely due to the large volumes of traffic. If the catchment area is extended the traffic problems will surely only be aggravated.

Whilst I appreciate the need for additional school places to be made available, doing so at Dobcroft Infants will in my opinion put unreasonable pressure on already restricted resources and risks damaging a successful school. It would seem that local opinion is in favour of additional places being made available instead at Ecclesall Infant School and/or Clifford.

Many thanks for your consideration of these matters.

I am writing to express my concern at the proposal for a permanent extra class at Dobcroft Infant and Junior from September 2016.

As a parent with one child at the infant school and one at the juniors, I am extremely concerned that additional children at the school would exacerbate existing traffic issues. The Dobcroft schools are unique in that they are in close proximity to both St Wilfrid's and Mylnhurst schools. As a result, traffic and congestion and competition for parking spaces can make the streets around the schools extremely busy and, at times, dangerous for children and adults. Surely, the potential for up to 200 additional children travelling to the schools by car (from outside the area) would have a dramatic, negative impact on the surrounding area, creating further congestion, pollution and danger for pedestrians?

Another concern is the necessity for additional classrooms which would surely reduce valuable playground space and also space for outdoor learning, which is particularly important for children in KS1. Both of my children are already taught in temporary classrooms at Dobcroft, which isn't ideal. With even smaller spaces outside, playgrounds would become dangerously overcrowded. I realise that children can play at different times to alleviate this problem, but this would prevent them from mixing and forming relationships with children in other classes and year groups.

Another concern is the pressure on resources within the school. Currently all children can join together in the hall for whole school assembly or to watch a performance. How would this be possible with 90 (plus) extra children? The sense of a whole school community would be compromised. Likewise, shared resources such as the school library, hall for PE lessons and ICT suite would be placed under pressure. The school building and grounds were simply not built to accommodate such a huge increase in numbers. Demand for places at DASH child care and at the after school clubs would increase dramatically, meaning that a number of children would surely be refused places.

It is my view that a permanent increase in capacity at Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools would have a negative impact on children, staff, parents and residents in the local area. The proposal would change forever, what is a now a fantastic school which serves the local community.

Thank you for considering my views.

I am writing to express my concerns over the recently announced expansion to the reception year group of dobcroft infant school for 2015/2016 admissions.

My daughter is due to start school in September and we spent a lot of time looking into possible schools. We chose to move into the area to ensure that we were in the Dobcroft/Silverdale catchment area. I emailed the council a couple of times to check catchment areas, and school intake numbers, and at no time was this increase in numbers mentioned. We only moved at the end of December, so there was plenty of opportunity to inform us of this increase, but we find out the week before the application deadline. We did not even receive a letter - I found out via other parents, which I think is disgraceful. It's as if we don't even have the right to know about decisions that affect my daughters education. The application packs that initially came out didn't mention a 120 child intake either. You must have been aware of this sooner and I feel it was wrong to keep this information from prospective parents. We are now left with no choice but to attend an overcrowded Dobcroft school as all other schools are over capacity.

I do not fully understand why the increase is to be made to Dobcroft, when the facilities are not there to support the extra children. From the research I have done, it would appear that there are less than 90 children this year in the Dobcroft catchment area, so why are Dobcroft having to create the extra class?

As a local resident, I am concerned for the increase in traffic that an additional 30-40 children outside of catchment area would bring. The traffic is already dangerously high. What provisions have you put in place to deal with this?

I appreciate that holt house, Ecclesall, Dore and Topley are also over subscribed, however, how do you know that this will ease the situation? People in Dore, Topley, and Ecclesall will still put their catchment schools as first choice. I know parents who live in Woodseats and Abbey Lane catchment areas who will now be putting Dobcroft school as their first choice. They live nearer than people in Dore, Topley and Ecclesall (for example, on Archer Road),

yet are not in an over subscribed catchment area. How is this helping people in Dore/Totley/Ecclesall, and what will you be doing to stop this happening?

I have read a document from Dobcroft school explaining why they couldn't admit any extra pupils last year. It states that the classrooms are below the standard of 67m. Also that there are not enough toilets for the Children based on requirements. When I spoke to the school, they were planning to lose the library, but no mention was made of extra toilets. What is the plan to address this?

In the same document, the cloakrooms are described as 'Very small and squashed' and being 'Intimidating and noisy for the children'. This is with 60 children to a cloakroom. There were no plans for building any new cloakrooms, and I was wondering what you will be doing to address this as I am very concerned for my daughter.

What provisions are in place for when the school loses their library?

The school is overcrowded and by increasing the size it is putting the children's welfare at risk, while losing outside space and not addressing the actual problem. I feel very let down that this has come to light just after moving house, and am incredibly disappointed by the council and the way the matter is being dealt with.

I have several times asked about plans to change catchment areas and have been assured that this is not the case, although it is now an agenda on the council meeting in March, so yet again I feel as though I have been lied to.

I would appreciate a response on the points I have raised.

I am providing consultation as a parent whose child is due to start reception in the area in September 2015.

Having just read the consultation and been sent letters about the increase at Dobcroft in the last few weeks, I have a few comments to make.

1. The increase at Dobcroft in the long-term seems sensible once the infrastructure is in place to support it.
2. The current increase for Sept 2015 seems premature given the infrastructure is not yet in place. It would be good to know what steps you are taking to ensure the pressure on Dobcroft from the 'tester' additional places in Sept 2015 will not impact negatively on the provision for the new pupils, other pupils, and neighbouring houses?
3. As a general comment, Dobcroft was our number 2 choice for our daughter - the current changes now make this option less appealing than other schools. Despite the great reputation the school has, rather than encourage us to apply (with extra places being made available) the lack of current infrastructure has put us off a bit.
4. Are these extra places linked to the expected increase in schools provision in part required as a result of the development of the abbeydale grange and bannerdale sites? The consultation doesn't mention it specifically so I just wondered if the impending increase of family housing had already been considered?

Has the council thought about the impact this expansion will have upon 4 year olds attending school with 120 children in their year group?

Dobcroft is most definately already overcrowded. There is no way that 300 children can attend this school and be safe and happy. There will not be enough facilities for them to use and turning the school into a building site will have a huge negative impact on the children's education.

My little boy lacks confidence in new social settings, particularly around large groups of children. I know he will be intimidated by these numbers and we may be faced with a struggle to help him enjoy school. Children need space around them, at play times, in the dinner hall and space in their classroom.

The extra learning spaces Dobcroft has such as the library, the computer suite, small spaces to run interventions, the hub, the woods and the grassy areas need to be kept as they are vital in ensuring children feel safe and happy and that they can be themselves.

The decision to expand Dobcroft is the wrong decision. There is no need for more pupil spaces at Dobcroft. Expand other schools where there is a need.

Below is a document that comes as part of the appeals documents sent to parents. I would like to submit it as evidence that the 2015 expansion, temporary or not, will compromise Health and Safety and cause immediate, foreseeable and avoidable breeches of several Health and Safety guidance for young children.

To be clear I have outlined them below.

Children in foundation stage two at school should have a classroom size of 67metres squared. The current provision is two classrooms at 62 metres squared and two classrooms at 58 metres squared. Existing provision is already in BREECH of guidance. How can you increase capacity with obvious disregard for Health and Safety Guidelines?

The school currently only JUST has sufficient toilet facilities to accommodate the current children. How can you increase the number of children as this would immediately cause a foreseeable BREECH of Health and Safety standards.

The Headteacher States "all available spaces are usually in use". There is specific referral to SEN children. Where are the 30 children going to go WITHOUT negative impact on the SEN children?

If these issues cannot be addressed before the 2015 intake arrive, then surely it should be stopped to protect the children and the council.

As this document states "while this is an 'outstanding school' it is already a crowded one with a projected deficit".



Re: Statutory Admission Appeals for Dobcroft Infant school June 2014

Dobcroft Infant School has an admission number of 270. The current number on role is 270. The Schools net capacity is 270. In September the guidance for space for children in the foundation stage changes and each classroom is supposed to be 67 metre squared. Our classrooms are 2 x 62 m squared and 58 m squared. Note this means that they are not even big enough for 30 children according to the new guidance. We also only have just enough toilets for 30 children in each class to be within the regulations which stipulate 1 toilet per 10 children in foundation stage and 1 toilet per 20 in Y1 and Y2. In foundation stage we have 4 toilets and 2 urinals between 60 children.

The school was built in 1969 and most classrooms have a shared cloakroom area for 60 children. These are very small in size and even with 60 children are squashed and can be intimidating and noisy for the children. In recent years due to the schools positive inclusion policy there has been an increase in children with SEN - several of these children require small areas to see visiting professionals such as the speech therapist and the educational psychologist and therefore all available spaces are usually in use. Dobcroft infant has twice the national average children at school action plus stage of SEN, which are those children who require the most support both from school staff and outside agencies. The current Y1 cohort is a very complex one with several children with behavioural needs in each of the three classes so increasing the numbers further would have detrimental effect on all the children in the class. We already know that 6 children in next year's foundation stage have SEN, and this might increase once we get all the forms back from the parents. These children will need to be supported. Two children in this foundation stage cohort are looked after and will require additional input.

Current numbers are as follows:

	Foundation stage 2	Y1	Y2
	30	30	30
	30	30	30
	30	30	30
Total	90	90	90
	SEN (13% SA+)	SEN (7% SA/17% SA+)	SEN (8%SA/11% SA+)

There are 3 teaching assistants in FS and 2 part time TA's in Y1 and Y2 on permanent contracts and 4 part time teaching assistants due to significant numbers of children requiring extra support

The school budget whilst providing 'value for money' (Ofsted 2007) is very stretched and finished the year -£6300

If the appeal panel admit any more children in 2013/14 or indeed 2014/15 this will create issues both for now and in the future. We have low mobility as a school, around 3%. While this is an 'outstanding' school it is already a crowded one with a projected deficit.

I hope this information is useful

Cathy Rowland

Please confirm receipt of this email and confirm when and how a response will be made to the specific requests for information?

I have instructions from John Bigley to follow up with him if this is not received shortly?

I am writing to you as a parent and as a citizen who values community.

I am also writing to you as a person who lived in 4 different countries, including the USSR where bad planning led to disastrous results, as history so clearly shows.

It is important for our children to grow into strong, kind citizens of good character who can then contribute to the well-being of the country where they live. This is only possible when they go to a nice school, where they feel loved, appreciated and where they have the feeling of belonging. This is achievable only when there are local schools within local communities, and not gigantesque monstrous factories which will kill any desire to study and participate in the community life.

Us, parents at Clifford and also Ecclesall infant, we believe that both schools should be expanded, instead of the current plan to make a huge school out of Dobcroft only.

With the current plan to reinforce British values and a sense of belonging it can be done only when children know with whom they go to school.

I am also writing from the experience of Clifford. This is a lovely, beautiful school which has an amazing head-teacher who really cares about the children. Such schools should be supported and cherished in this lovely country,

many thanks for your reply.

Statistically, it was pointed out that some statistics were misleading. It is not 30 places, it is more. More than 30 children didn't get a place at the mentioned catchment areas, so it means that more places need to be created at more schools.

Moreover, I don't understand the problem with expanding Clifford, as it has already the necessary facilities. And there is an empty building right in front.

Again, I don't think that saving on costs should be the main solution behind how to educate our children, but about how to nourish the best in them. Clifford is an amazing school with an amazing head-teacher and these kind of schools should be given any opportunity to thrive.

I am writing to convey my grave concerns regarding the planned expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior School. My son is a prospective pupil, due to start there in September. We moved into the catchment area 5 years ago so that he would be able to attend Dobcroft. Given that this year's expansion is apparently a 'done deal' as was communicated to parents at the recent consultation meeting, I wish I could now change our first choice, but our current circumstances don't allow us to travel further afield. I have signed the petition calling for the abandonment of these plans and I wish to state on record that I strongly object to them on the following grounds:

- Dobcroft is already a large school, operating in a cramped environment. There is no room for an additional 30 children. Just last year, Dobcroft were unable to accommodate children in catchment and their message was clear – we cannot fit even one more child in this school. What has changed?
- Where will the additional 30 children be put? What resources will be lost as a result?
- Other schools are more oversubscribed than Dobcroft, particularly Ecclesall Infants. Why is the additional class not being put there?
- Why are you 'advertising' Dobcroft to families who are not in the catchment area? How is this fair?
- The learning experience of the child is clearly very low on your agenda here. This move will have a negative impact on pupils and I am concerned that attainment will suffer.
- The emotional needs of the children are also being ignored – how will this year's young intake cope in such a chaotic and busy environment? Quieter children will surely be overwhelmed by the sheer size of this 'super-school'. What additional support will be provided for them?
- Why haven't you consulted on the plans to increase Dobcroft this year? Why is the consultation period for permanent expansion so short? Clearly you are attempting to push this through and minimise any opposition, which is neither fair nor democratic.

I could ask additional questions such as 'why did you not start planning for this when you were first aware of the need to place extra children' but there wouldn't be any point, we are where we are. However, I am quite frankly appalled that the council's lack of foresight and judgement will potentially be to the detriment of my son's education and emotional wellbeing.

Please address my questions and concerns with full and frank responses asap.

I am writing to give my comments for your consideration as a parent and local resident with regard to the upcoming proposed expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior School.

I have great concerns about the proposed plan to firstly offer places to 30 extra children in 2015 and then the further expansion from 2016 onwards.

This plan will have serious repercussions on the current children at the school because of the following reasons:

1. The school is just not big enough as it stands. The buildings are not fit for purpose , many are temporary buildings that have never been replaced and there is definitely not enough space for 270 children let alone adding in another 30 per year. My daughters class has 32 children and is extremely small has another class walk through it to get to their classroom.
2. The toilet facilities are in adequate currently eg: 2 toilets per 32 children in my daughters class. This contravenes hygiene standards as it is. There just are not enough facilities to accommodate the current children let alone a further class.
3. The proposed plan to put the extra class into the library displaces the after school club and this is an important facility for working parents.
4. There is very little safe parking around the school. Currently parents park on double yellow lines and on pavements in the surrounding residential area. Adding another class per year will be disastrous for local residents and more hazardous for parents walking their children to school.

While I can see the need for more primary school places, there are other local schools in this area that could have and actually want a third class instead of Dobcroft Infant school.

If this proposal is to go through please inspect the school and see how cramped it is with a current parent and local resident concerns.

Expanding the school to such an extent would be completely agreeable if it was totally rebuilt as a two storey fit for purpose building with up to date indoor and outdoor classes, toilets and sports facilities.

This school also suffers from lack of funding as a result of lack of unfair pupil premiums. Currently the school is facing a reduction in teaching assistants which is a disaster as there are at least a fifth of children with special needs in the 2014 intake. This makes absolutely no sense. Expanding the school without proper premises or appropriate funding for the current children will eventually be of detriment to all.

Please consider my comments there are alternative solutions to the current plan that is not acceptable to many parents and local residents as it stands.

I would like to draw your attention to the proposed expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior School, which I am sure you are aware of already.

As a parent of children at the school and a member of the local community I have grave concerns on the impact of this potential expansion. My main concerns are highlighted in the email below which I would encourage you to read.

As a group of parents, we all feel very strongly about this and would be interested in your thoughts,

On Tuesday, 27 January 2015, 21:59, ":

Dear Nick Clegg,

As a local MP for Sheffield Hallam I would like to draw your attention to the proposed expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior School, which I am sure you are aware of already.

As a parent of children at the school and a member of the local community I have grave concerns on the impact of this potential expansion. My main concerns are highlighted in the email below which I would encourage you to read.

We all feel very strongly about this and would be interested in your thoughts,

On Tuesday, 27 January 2015, 21:52, ":

Dear David

I am writing this email to object to the proposed expansion planned for Dobcroft Infant School.

I feel very strongly that this is not the right solution for most importantly, the children at the school, and the local community.

I have a daughter at the school, currently in year one, and a son who is due to start in September 2015. We also live in close proximity to the school on Millhouses Lane so I also have a strong objection due to the potential vast increase in traffic which is horrendous most days.

I object to the proposal for various reasons, which I have highlighted below, in addition to this I would also like to complain about the process that the Council has gone through with regards to the expansion and the way they have consulted with those stakeholders concerned.

I attended the drop in session at school yesterday which was an utter waste of time. I feel that the parents of the children at the school deserve at least a meeting with the Council so that they can present their findings and proposals with the opportunity for parents to ask questions. Instead, we got many junior council representatives who didn't offer any response to our concerns but instead just noted them down - what was the point?

The person that we spoke to didn't even have local knowledge of the area and we overheard another Council representative who said that if their children were attending Dobcroft they would be extremely concerned too! I went away from the 'drop in session' feeling no better, in fact worse, than when I went in, it was simply a PR exercise paying lip service to concerns that are extremely important to myself and many other parents.

I would also like to highlight my disgust in the decision that has already been made for the intake in September 2015. My son is due to start at this time and it has left me feeling extremely uneasy about the start of his school life, how can you justify your decision without a thorough consultation? I couldn't believe it when I saw that the intake for children in the catchment for September 2015 was actually only 84, it became quite clear that the issue isn't in this area so why should we have to solve the problem? Dobcroft is big enough, and for a four year old child to start school in a year of 120 could be extremely difficult for many children. If I wanted this for my child we would have bought a house in Crosspool!

How does the 2015 intake also work out long-term?

If the proposed permanent expansion doesn't happen then how will this year be integrated into the school in the future? What about siblings, of those who are out of catchment but have in place at Dobcroft, two/three years down the line...would they get a place ahead of others in the catchment area? What about the secondary school - can Silverdale copy with an increase in numbers?

With regards to the permanent expansion, my main concerns are as follows:

Catchment figures for the next four years below 90

Referring to your figures all catchment children are due to get a place at Dobcroft in the next four years, the problem isn't with Dobcroft so why should our kids pay the price?

I find it bizarre that last year some people in catchment didn't get a place and had to find other solutions however, this year, when there isn't a problem we have to expand. I would also like to draw your attention to a letter from Cathy Rowland, Dobcroft Infant School's head teacher, which she wrote last year (June 2014) as part of the pack sent to parents when they are considering their appeals process, where she gave sound reasons as to why the school could not increase their intake by one child let alone 30, which further demonstrates the issues that we are now facing in September 2015

Site is too small

Dobcroft School was originally built for an intake of 60 per year. The porter cabins, one of which my daughter is in, were put up as a 'temporary solution' over 30 years ago and are still standing now.

The cloakrooms are packed and often stressful for children, the toilets are extremely inadequate and the hall is constantly used with little flexibility to allow for other children to use it. These shared facilities, in addition to the library which will no longer be available from September 2015, are under constant strain and your proposals has given no clear indication on how these facilities will bear the brunt of the additional children. The proposals also compromise the already small amount of playground space that the children have and could result in huge health and safety risks for all children.

Having to split assemblies, school discos, fairs etc could also comprise the local community feeling at the school which is one of the reasons the school is so successful.

Quality of education

It is proven that children do better in smaller group settings and that learning can be comprised as class sizes grow. My daughter currently has 31 children in her class with no full time teaching assistant. What will this be like in the future?

Local community

As I mentioned above, I live within very close proximity to the school and already see huge problems with congestion and parking on a daily basis. The children's safety is being put at risk and this can't be overlooked. Only last week there was an altercation between a pedestrian and a driver who had parked illegally on double yellows. There is limited provision for car parking at the school and because most of the children will be coming from outside the catchment area this will only make the problem even worse. I have also already had two letters through the post from local residents who cite parking, traffic gridlock and damage to grass verges as some of the main problems. Have you ever driven around here at 8.30am and 3.30pm? With three schools close to each other the traffic can only be described as chaotic!

I would ask you to challenge anyone who thinks that this is the best solution for the current problem of school places, particularly against the backdrop of Clifford and Ecclesall who want the extension. It must be down to money however, how can this ever be compared to the damage that your plans will have on our children, their education and the local community?

I feel completely let down by the Council and feel very strongly about this issue. As parents, who value the school and our children's education, this is something I feel very emotional about and one which I, and many others, will fight for.

I urge you to reassess your decision for September and for a solution in the long-term and look forward to your response.

I will also be forwarding this letter to our local MP and parliamentary candidates.

We write to you with great concerns about the proposals to expand Dobcroft School. We feel it will have a very negative impact on our child and our two younger children who will be attending the school in future years.

Our concerns are listed below

1. We feel the school which is already a large school will become much too big and intimidating for our young children.
2. We feel the school will become very overcrowded at lunch times, play times and at after school activities such as School Discos.
3. We believe there will be inadequate shared space for our children, for example in the ICT suite, Library and the Hall at PE times.
4. We think further congestion at drop off and pick up times will lead to danger on the roads. Transporting three young children to the school will become increasingly stressful and dangerous.
5. We are concerned about the disruption and safety implications our children will be faced with whilst building work takes place to accommodate the additional numbers of children.

Overall We have many concerns about how expanding Dobcroft School will have a very negative effect on our child's school experience and ultimately their learning and development.

As a resident i strongly disagree with more school places being created.

I have my drive blocked on a daily basis by parents, and avoid going back to my house at all if it around school time, the roads are totally blocked as we have schools at both ends of Whirlowdale Crescent, and there are people already parking over residents drives, double yellow lines, and restricted parking areas now.

The roads simply can not take further cars as the majority of parents drop off and pick up there children at school.

I would ask that whoever is considering this proposal come to view the mayhem on a school morning or the end of school, to witness how much chaos is created at these times.

I would ask that some sort of further traffic restrictions are imposed as it is impossible for my self and neighbours to get on or off our drives at School times.

Having read all the information I can lay my hands on about the proposed expansion of Dobcroft school I have decided I want to object to it.

1. The school is already a large school and I don't believe infant and junior schools should get any larger than Dobcroft already is. It is daunting for small children.

2. The hall and playgrounds aren't big enough to cope with more children. Lunch will be too rushed. The playgrounds will become even smaller if extra classrooms need to be accommodated when they should be getting larger.

2. If there are too many children to fit in the local schools the council should be building more schools not trying to cram more into existing ones.

3. The parking at that school is already ridiculous and dangerous. My children walk to school but it seems as though the extra children will be from farther away so they will have to be driven. This will make the roads more dangerous. I expect the local residents will be very unhappy about this.

I have tried to assess the situation from the perspective of the local community and not just from the perspective of a parent. I can't see any positive benefits other than the fact it saves money for the council.

I am writing to voice my objection to the current plan to increase the intake into Dobcroft school.

I understand that the increased intake in 2015 is a 'done deal'. I was amazed to find out this evening, whilst attending the council drop-in session at the school, that there is going to be no extra builds to facilitate this increase in 30 children and the school will simply re-organise internally. How sheffield city council feel they can justify such a large infant school loosing its library and incorporating a smaller joint computers/library space is very disappointing. How is this going to benefit the children? Reduced learning space and reduced opportunity to share the shared resources (library and computers) is not in the best interests on the 2015 intake children. What will happen to the after school club which currently run from the library? Many working parents, including myself, rely on this after school club and we could not cope with a reduced intake into the after school club due to relocation, that this increased intake will bring.

I am totally opposed to the proposal of a permanent increase in 2016. Quite simply the school site is not large enough to accommodate that many extra children. The site is already overcrowded. Your planners may have surveyed the school site to determine that extra buildings are possible but this is not in the best interests of the children. Reduced outdoor space and the loss of our forest school so that extra children can be shoe-horned into an already overcrowded site in unacceptable. We need facts about this proposed expansion and the buildings that the council surveyors have deemed acceptable.

There is a genuine Health and Safety risk created by additional children in an already overcrowded and under resourced playground. The number of "bump notes" and incidents of playground injury are already well known to parents. When I told my 4 year old daughter that they are planning an extra foundation stage class next year her first comment was "there will be more bump notes than mummy". That is honestly what she said. This is the view of a 4

year old girls currently in reception. If she can see that the playground is already overcrowded then how can SCC not see the problem?

There are real concerns about toilet facilities, and the difficulties this raises in managing incontinence in such young children, and the general health and safety risk to the children from an overcrowded environment. Whilst more funding may be made available to improve toileting under the plans for expansion, this would be counterbalanced by the increased pressure on these facilities caused by the additional children. We ask to see the evidence re square footage per child currently available to children at DIS, and under the expanded numbers for 2015/2016, and then again is 2016/17 and 2017/18, to prove these meet legal minimums and thereafter national and Sheffield averages.

It's all well and good saying that ultimately how this increased is managed will be the responsibility of the school leadership. But they can only work with the facilities that they have. I would like to know how SCC in-visage lunch times at Dobcroft infants in the future? There is already a staggered seating. To incorporate an extra sitting would mean that children would be eating unacceptably early or later. Already existing children complain that the lunch lines are too long and they are opting to have a cold lunch in preference of waiting in the hot dinner line. How is this good for our children???

With only one school hall which will remain the same size, how do SCC propose to accommodate each Childs right to 2 hours of PE per week, given that the hall is required for other activities including providing a timely lunch for all children?

As a mother to an existing child at Dobcroft and a child who will start in 2016 I see no evidence that the welfare of the children has been put at the heart of the decision process.

There is real demand for expansion at Ecclesall and Clifford as an alternative and I would like to see evidence that this has been seriously considered as an option.

I would like to give my opinion on the provision of school places in the South West of Sheffield. I have been unable to attend the consultation meeting regarding the expansion of Dobcroft school. I am not personally apposed to the expansion of Dobcroft at this time but this is selfishly because it doesn't really affect me at the moment. However I must say that if it turned out that my younger child had to attend Dobcroft I would indeed be against it. I looked around the school when I was looking for my eldest child and I already felt that it was overcrowded as it was obvious that classes had been squeezed in. Obviously this would only get worse. I can completely understand why local residents would be against the move. It would inevitably create a lot more traffic as the children who will be extra will not be local children who can walk to school.

I feel it is a great shame that solutions are not being created for all areas and that it is becoming increasingly difficult for children to walk to school. It seems very strange to me that there has been a proposed solution to some problems in the Ecclesall area which is not

being pursued. Ecclesall infant school is very lucky to have a very large amount of space that could be developed upon - either to expand the infants by a class or to swap with the juniors so that they can then have more space and the infants can have 3 classes in the junior school. Clifford school is also willing to become a junior school and this would create 30 extra places per year. Obviously the solution would cost money but any solution will cost money. It is very short sighted to just add an extra class to an already busy school that will not affect all areas. It really feels only sensible that any options that are available are pursued.

I understand that Dobcroft has been chosen as it will help with the Dore and Totley catchment but with the figures published 1 extra class in Dobcroft will not solve the problem for all the areas of Ecclesall, Carterknowle, Millhouses and Dore.

Thank you for your time in reading my reasons for thinking that it would make sense to expand Ecclesall infant, junior and Clifford C of E schools.

I am writing in regard to the proposed changes at Dobcroft School

I have several concerns which may have already been highlighted to you from other parents, these are

- Parking – particularly as you are looking at growing the places to children out of catchment who would need to be transported in – it is simply not feasible for every parent to walk to school should you work full time as well as being a hazard
- Overcrowding and intimidation – Dobcroft is a successful school where children can get to know each other, it is large enough as it is without adding another 90 to the infants over 3 years and another 120 to junior school over the next 4 years. A total of 210 additional places, cars etc
- Prioritising special needs children over catchment. I am not against children with learning difficulties however the classrooms are already at a max size (31) with little funding and in many cases without a teaching assistant which is slowing down the learning pace of the children including my daughter who is young for her age.
- Allowing children out of catchment who have never been to the school before and have no siblings at the school – how should it be that some parents work full time and put their money into buying a decent house in a good neighbourhood yet what you are proposing is
 - 1) children from out of the area can attend the same school (Dobcroft will be inundated with people wanting to come here out of catchment because it is a renowned school) – it has got that way through good management and generally people caring about the area in which they live
 - 2) potentially do not have the same enthusiastic learning ethics of others living in the neighbourhood or may not even speak English as a main language
 - 3) I have to voluntarily fund my children to do many wonderful things at school where the government deems (without exactly saying it outright!) that Dobcroft should get little funding as it is considered to be a wealthier suburb so parents can fund their child and upkeep of the school
 - 4) Trips and learning visits may be severely reduced due to the size and funding needed – why should my child suffer because SCC want to make the school bigger
- WHY SHOULD I GO TO WORK FULL TIME TO PAY MY MORTGAGE TO LIVE IN A GOOD AREA ONLY TO FIND IM FUNDING OTHER CHILDREN WHO DON'T LIVE IN THE AREA?
- Disruption to my children at school including my youngest daughter who won't start until 2017 for the next 7 years – this will have a huge impact on their space to play, focus to listen and learn and environment – it is not healthy to live with building work daily for what will run into years regardless of what the contractors say

initially. Children especially little ones have no sense of danger and are filled with curiosity, I like my children living!

- Where will the library move to – you have already agreed a library is now to be a classroom – where does my children go to learn and read next academic year??
- Overcrowding of facilities – children take a long time to eat lunch – I am not sure how you have thought of the logistics of mealtimes – all children are hungry at 12 – how on earth are you going to get 360 infant children sat down, all eating hot school dinners –I am sure already the kitchen is at bursting point? What and where is the after school club going to relocate to – what am I to do work wise if my child can't get in as its too busy and I have no other arrangements (as I have already said we are full time working parents so collecting early isn't an option). School discos and other fundraising events and school plays...how will these be possible?
- Dobcroft is critically underfunded and it is though parents support and generosity as I have mentioned above that the school continues to renovate itself. There are serious issues with the girls toilets which need replacing but that cant be done until parents raise several thousand pounds, who is going to fund the IT equipment for 360 kids in just the infants? More children means more wear and tear on school assets (library books, toys, play equipment, meal equipment, facilities etc).
- IF you are intent on expanding Dobcroft then I would like to register **I am completely against it unless IT IS FULLY FUNDED** and committed to whichever council gets in without a maximum spend limit as we all know costs spiral down the line and always have done with SCC, let alone probably my council tax to pay for all these other children! Equally the school needs constant increased funding for more teaching assistants – 1 is simply not enough in a classroom, if they even have that, to maintain the standard the school has set currently. And what happens when the birth rate drops and there aren't enough children will you support the school with the same funding still???

My email may be crude, a little blunt and these points may not be politically correct but these are my feelings and I would welcome your views and councillor support at the meeting in March to support these.

We were dismayed to hear that the number of children at Dobcroft School was to be increased starting this coming September. We understand that some (if not all) of these children will be from outside the immediate catchment area. Presumably they will travel to school by car.

We already have problems with the amount of traffic at the start and end of the school day. Cars park on our cul-de-sac, often without due regard for the residents. There is double parking at the end of the road, which makes it dangerous to pull out into Silverdale Road between the cars. Sometimes access to and from our road is totally blocked. Parking is often not done in a responsible way, causing more obstruction. The bus stop is regularly blocked and also no room is left for the bus to get through. Zigzag markings and double yellow lines are ignored. Perhaps if you saw it at 8.30am or more especially at 3.30pm you would understand the difficulties for pedestrians and other road users.

We have often thought how dangerous this situation is for the parents/carers and the children who come on foot as they negotiate their way between the cars and try to cross the roads.

Another problem we have is that of litter. Parents picking up children often give them a snack, sweeties or a drink (out of a small carton). Wrappers etc are then discarded in the gutter or on the pavement, eventually finding their way up our drive and into our garden.

We were fortunate that when our children were of school age we were very close to the school. However, most of their friends from further away walked to school, only the ones living a really long way away were brought by car when the weather was bad.

We are really concerned about the possibility of an even greater amount of traffic parking irresponsibly and unreasonably.

Hi - I would be grateful if you could clarify the situation for me - around the proposed review of catchment areas for Infant/Junior schools in the SW of the city. I did understand that in the light of recent revisions to predicted numbers for likely uptake of school places in the area that there was to be a review of existing catchment areas, prior to any proposals to change or increase the sizes of schools. This proposal seems to have dropped. Is this correct?

The current proposal seems to be simply to expand Dobcroft Infants this year [Sept 2015] with an additional class of 30, and also to make this a permanent expansion from 2016 onwards, without any review of catchment areas. What is the rationale for dropping any review?

We have been made aware of proposals to significantly increase the size of the above 2 schools.

Although we have no objection to the increase in school size, per se, we would object to any such plans if they do not tackle the logistical problems that will arise, particularly on the roads around the entrance to the schools at peak times in the morning and afternoon.

As retired people, we are in a position to observe the traffic chaos arising at the above times due to the number of parents arriving to drop off/ pick up their children. This situation will clearly get worse if more pupils come from outside the catchment area.

Repeated incidents that have occurred include:

Parking at the bus stop at the bottom of Silverdale Road, or so close, that the bus is unable to access the stop.

Parking large cars (the Chelsea Tractors) such that the bus cannot get through.

Where there does not appear to be enough room then deciding that the grass verge will do, not just an incidental amount of say a couple of inches, but routinely putting over 75% of the car on the grass and only 25% on the road. Needless to say the verges are getting damaged but householders are unable to use obstructions (stones etc) because we will get fined.

You will be aware that at the junction of Silverdale Road and Dobcroft Road there is an island in the road which has double yellow lines all around it. We have seen cars parked on the island itself.

Using the wider area of pavement on the top side of the junction and immediately below the electricity sub-station as a parking space, obstructing the pavement, clearly without any thought of pedestrian safety.

It is noticeable that it is the repeated actions of a few who cause most of the problems. When challenged, (We know from discussing with neighbours), they are not apologetic and can be abusive.

They say they have no option and there is nowhere to park. There are 2 options here.

to park their cars a little further away (something they deem unacceptable) or
not to use their cars.

It is surprising how many cars are used by local people within walking distance of the school. We recognise cars being parked that may themselves only have come 200 yards.

We have seen the controls you have in place to control the traffic outside The Ecclesall Church of England School on Ringinglow Road.

It seems to us that such a scheme could be beneficial here, assuming restrictions are put in place, far enough from the entrances.

Any scheme will have to have random checking for compliance, with suitable penalties, or this will be wasted time. It only takes one car to create a major problem.

We hope the above points are constructive.

I am very concerned about the proposals you are making to add another class to each year at Dobcroft, this will mean at least a 33% increase in numbers at the school, This will have a high impact on the traffic volumes at beginning and end of the school day as the roads are already chaotic at these times especially with the proximity of St Wilfreds on Millhouses lane. Also, because the new intake is from outside the catchment they are less likely to walk. This will inevitable lead to more congestion, more pollution, increased wear and tear on roads and verges (for which the council takes no responsibility to maintain) and increased risk to pedestrians. The school will struggle to cope with the extra numbers especially in communal areas, the logistics of feeding the increased numbers are significant, its barely possible to serve lunch to the present school in multiple sittings.

The proposal is opposed by the governors of the school while Ecclesall is keen to expand. There must be other options, albeit less convenient, such as adding a class to one year in several different of the schools in the region in successive years. This would share the burden and spread the impact.

I hope this proposal will be reconsidered and a more sensible solution where the impact is shared among the schools in the area adopted.

Thanks John - it does. But it doesn't answer the larger question - which is also going to be fairly contentious - about why the Council isn't consulting over the "temporary" expansion of

Dobcroft in advance of the proposed permanent expansion which is subject to consultation. This does make the consultation look a bit symbolic - especially as the expansion can't be 'temporary' if the intake has to flow on up through the Infant and Junior schools. The consultation documents do not address this issue.

Our Group will be publishing an article on this for our forthcoming Newsletter, so any further comments you have will contribute to that.

I live on Dobcroft Road near to Dobcroft School, and I am really not happy about the proposed expansion there.

Twice a day traffic is an absolute nightmare up and down this road, and how there has not been an accident recently I will never know. there is constant damage to the grassed curbs with people parking on them, also parking over private drives, blocking in the residents.

As far as I am concerned, I believe this is a really bad idea, and I would like you to register my complaint.

I attended the consultation evening on Wednesday which I felt was a waste of time. I left feeling frustrated and was made to feel like my feelings were unreasonable.

When I asked why we were not consulted over this years intake, I was told that 'regulations let us do this temporarily whenever we want'.

Some of my questions and concerns were answered by the head teacher who was in attendance, but on speaking to other parents and the council members, more concerns have been raised.

I know that this year is a 'done deal', which has made me change my school preferences, despite living about 0.2 miles from Dobcroft infant school.

However, having been to the school, and spoken to parents, I had no idea quite how bad the overcrowding currently is. Children have to go to lunch in their coats if they want to go outside after they have eaten, as it is too cramped for all the children to return to the cloakrooms to get dressed to go outside. How will this work with 30 extra children next year, as there are no plans to extend the hall or cloakroom facilities.

Also, it will be very hard to get everyone's lunches done in the small hall. Therefore they may have to remove equipment, or start lunches early. That would mean starting lunches at about 11.15 which I do not think is acceptable. I am struggling to see where children's welfare is playing any part in the decision making.

I am also finding it difficult to consult on something that I know nothing about. I have heard that if the permanent expansion takes place, there is no guarantee that any facilities will be improved, just 2 more mobile units put up for the extra classrooms and a toilet block. This would not be an acceptable solution in my eyes.

I am still disheartened and disappointed by the whole process and do not fully understand why this information did not come to light when the applications pack came out to allow me to make an informed decision about the area I moved to, and consequently my daughters future.

We are writing as concerned residents of Dobcroft Road living opposite the gennel into Dobcroft Schools.

At present twice every weekday, from 8.45 to 9.15 am and from 3.00 to 3.45 pm, the bottom of Silverdale Road where it joins Dobcroft Road, Dobcroft Road from below the Zebra crossing Whirlowdale Crescent from Dobcroft Road end to Millhouses Lane together with

Millhouses Lane from Whirlowdale Crescent to Grove Road are all parked with cars on both sides of the road bringing and collecting children to and from Dobcroft Infant and Junior schools and St Wilfred's school in Millhouses Lane. This parking on both sides of the road converts all these roads into single lane traffic creating queues of cars, delays and difficulties for them and the regular 83 bus service trying to navigate its way down Dobcroft Road.

Adding an additional 30 children to the Infant School from September 2015 will create by 2021 a further 210 children attending the two schools. As most of the new children will be outside the present catchment area this will obviously entail a massive increase in the number of cars attempting to park in the already congested roads around the perimeter of the school grounds to deliver and pick up these children.

Apart from obvious driver frustration more drives will become blocked by desperate parents unable to find a free parking space, the parked cars make it difficult to drive in and out of people's drives because of blocked sight lines and tight turning space, crossing roads becomes dangerous for pedestrians and for children increasing the chances of accidents. The amenities of the grass verges will become even further damaged by cars driven across the edges.

Of course more diesel and exhaust fumes containing particulates, carbon monoxide and many other noxious pollutants will be created not helping lung function especially in children.

While realising that there is a need for extra school places would it not be more sensible if these could be distributed between Ecclesall Infants, Ecclesall Junior and Clifford Infant schools?

I wish to register severe concerns regarding the proposed extra places.

I am a resident on Pingle Road and my objection centres around the massive traffic and parking problems that we already experience as a result of these schools which are situated in the middle of a tight residential area.

Our road is sometimes completely blocked by inconsiderate parking by parents dropping their children off at school and who are intent on parking as close to the school as possible with absolutely no consideration for local residents or road users or indeed the school children.

At times when cars are parked on both sides of the road, it is almost impossible for an average size car to pass through the gap left. You could only imagine the problems that might be caused should an emergency services vehicle need to access the area urgently.

On one occasion a car was observed by me parking in this manner as I was leaving for work and there was not even enough room for my car to pass through. I attracted the attention of the parent who was abusive and told me they would not be long - and expected me to wait. I can supply photographic evidence of a car that actually parked across our drive thus blocking us from leaving our house at all.

Parents regularly park on the verge causing severe damage to the grass areas and kerb stones.

Perhaps more important than any of the above, the congestion and consequent frustration caused by parents dropping children off poses a regular and severe danger to pedestrians and in particular young children walking to school.

My children attended both Infant and Junior Schools and enjoyed excellent education there. I believe the site itself could be expanded in line with the demands and provided that very serious consideration is given to the traffic management issues outlined above, I would have no objection. However unless solutions to the above are implemented as part of the process I will object at every stage and will work with other residents in the area to block this.

I believe that solutions could be found and I am happy to meet with the planners to discuss.

As a local resident on Dobcroft Road I wish to object most strongly about the Council proposals to expand Dobcroft Infant & Junior Schools for non-catchment children.

The traffic volume at school drop off and pick up times is already highly problematic and creates virtual gridlock for residents twice a day.

We already see regular road wars and heated exchanges where drivers come head to head on double-parked roads with no clear right of way. Police have been called on several occasions to deal with parking and access incidents on Whirlowdale Crescent and Pingle Road.

The fact that you are proposing non-catchment children come to the school means a potential increase of 210 cars in the area over the next few years - this is not acceptable. It also completely goes against your own green and environmental policies. We do not want more traffic, we certainly do not want more traffic air pollution.

School parking issues also already create major challenges for the number 83 bus which regularly gets completely stuck at the bottom of Silverdale Road and has to wait (holding up passengers and all other traffic) until parents of the parked cars reappear to move them.

We also regularly see damage to grass verges where parents and other road users mount kerbs either to park or to get around inconsiderately parked cars.

Most importantly I believe your proposals will considerably increase the dangers for pedestrians. This is a residential area with many local children who do walk to school. Visibility and erratic driving is already a big issue in the school area - I strongly object to having that risk increased further in my own neighbourhood by plans which have NO BENEFIT to the local community.

Finally, the school sites are much too small to accommodate the additional children and given that Ecclesall School is most in need of these extra places I request that you turn your attentions there.

Your plans for Dobcroft's expansion are not wanted by parents or residents and are of no benefit to the children or to the local community of Millhouses.

Please register my strongest objections.

We are parents of 2 children at Dobcroft Infant School and I would like to have a response to the following questions over the proposed expansion and also the "temp" increase of 30 pupils as of September 2015 at Dobcroft Infant School.

-Please could we have a copy of the feasibility study done at the school for both the pupil intake in Sep 2015 and the proposed expansion in 2016.

- Please could you list the 5 key reasons why Dobcroft Infant School has been chosen as the school to expand. It is on the smallest site, it does not have any issues accommodating catchment children for the foreseeable years and it is already very cramped for the children.

- Ecclesall Infant and Juniors as well as Clifford School have petitions to increase pupil intake. Ecclesall School have far more land to accommodate children both of a temporary nature and also ongoing and Ecclesall Infant currently have a spare classroom ? Please

could you send me the feasibility study and outline why these are currently not being proposed as possible options to your current problem.

- Why are the council not looking at Netheredge School as an option, this school currently has places available (i believe in the 20's). Please could you advise what consideration has been given this option and why it has not been pursued?

- Dobcroft School site is already cramped, my son regularly returns home with bump notes from break time, how do you plan to avoid accident when putting extra children into an already very crowded outdoor and indoor space?

- What are the legislative requirements of playground space to ratio of children?

- What will happen to DASH the vital after school provision both in terms of where it will be located from Sep 2015 and also how it can accommodate extra numbers when some days are already full.

- After school clubs which provide children with much needed physical education and sports opportunities are already full with waiting lists on many of the more popular activities. How will you ensure that my children will still have access to this provision when there will be a huge increase in children and therefore demand. There are many national initiatives for children to get more involved in sport yet this could be compromised under the proposals and certainly the additional pupils in Sep 2015.

- We are aware of The Education (School Premises) Regulation Act 1999 and this details the requirements of toilet provision:

- Please could you provide me with current pupil numbers at Dobcroft Infant School, children 5 and under and children over 5.

- Please could you provide the number of toilets currently available for these children

- Please could you advise if this falls within the regulations as stated in the act.

- Please could you provide the number of children at the Infant school Sep 2015, children under 5 and children over 5.

- Please could you provide the number of toilets that will be available for these children from Sep 2015.

- Please could you advise whether this falls within the regulations as stated in the act.

- The resources in school are already pushed, tatty and as a school the children have to work with sometimes limited resources due to the financial pressures put on the school. How will you ensure that children in Dobcroft school are given and can use up to date, new resources and there is enough provision of resources to accommodate a huge amount of extra children.

- The school is seen as an outstanding school as per the OFSTED report but this is now outdated and was done many years ago. Please could you advise if an OFSTED inspection can be requested. I believe that you are making decisions on an outdated report.

- The intake of extra pupils are to be accommodated in the library, where does Dobcroft Infant School intend to have the vitally important library resource from Sep 2015?

- It is more important than ever in the technological world that we live in that our children will be educated to understand and use technology. They are already very limited to the amount of time each week that they have to use the IT suite (I understand it is currently only 1 hour per week). How do you propose children will still receive imperative IT training with increased pupil numbers on an already minimal resource?

- Access to Dobcroft is already over crowded with school drop off and pick up times a risk to childrens health and safety, this is both at the main entrance and at either end of the cinder path - Dobcroft Road and Millhouses Lane. What plans do you have in place so that these already busy and small entrances can accommodate the proposed increase in pupil numbers and do not propose a health and safety risk to both pupils and local residents?

- I am in receipt of a letter written by the Cathy Rowland dated June 2015 , it is part of the outcome of the appeals to children who did not get into the Sep 2015 intake, I am sure that you have a copy of this letter? This letter categorically states that Dobcroft Infant School cannot accommodate extra pupils and goes into great details as to why. This includes the square metre space within the classrooms, the lack of toilet provision, the amount of SEN pupils and the extra presure this puts on the resources. I would like a response to every point in the letter and why only approx 6 months later this doesnt appear to be a considieration.

I await your response

I knew about the drop-in sessions because my two eldest attend Dobcroft Infant School, but I think it is appalling that this letter to local residents has arrived on Friday when the last drop-in was on Wednesday. You cannot plead snow as an excuse because the snow started to fall on Wednesday evening, after the final drop-in!

It shows disorganisation and lack of forethought. As a local resident, I am extremely disappointed.

I write to object to the proposal for extra places at the above school in Sheffield. My reasons are as follows:-

The extra cars will add to the already congested traffic at pick up and drop off times.

I have lived on Whirlowdale Crescent since 1973 (42 years) and during that time have arrived home on several occasions to find a car parked directly across or partially across my drive. As you can imagine very annoying especially having to park some distance away until the car has driven away.

I feel extra cars would only add to the already congested traffic at the relevant times and would also make it even more dangerous.

It is absolutely appalling that the council have taken the decision, without consultation with anyone affected, to create an extra 30 places for the September 2015 intake at Dobcroft Infant School.

As a prospective parent at the school for this year, why would I want my daughter to be 1 of 120 pupils when 1 of 90 is already more than enough, given the already limited and overcrowded facilities at the school? Why would I want her to be sharing a classroom with children from outside of catchment that may not have a very good command of the English language (especially if the children come from the Holt House/Carterknowle areas of the city as we know they are likely to, who are likely to change their school preferences now that there are extra places available - due to the current standard of their schools)? And even if the 2016 plan does not go ahead, why would I want her to be part of a 'temporary 120 intake year' throughout her primary school life?

It is clear that there is absolutely no need within the catchment area to expand Dobcroft School, either for the 2015 intake or beyond, and that the council should be taking a longer term view and expanding Ecclesall Infants to a 90 intake (where there is space to do so) and making Clifford Infants a through primary.

As local residents to the school, we pay a premium because the school is of a high standard - and making these changes will inevitably affect the quality of education and the school as a whole. Not only will this devalue our house, but the extra traffic and pollution caused by all those extra cars will also contribute negatively to the quality and safety of our family life and the school children's, as well as the desirability of our home.

I am absolutely against Sheffield City Council's proposal for all of the reasons above.

My son is currently in Dobcroft infants and his brother will attend in 2017. I would like to raise my concerns about the proposed expansion at Dobcroft infant and junior school.

From the information that the council has supplied, I cannot see how the proposed expansion addresses any of the catchment concerns. I feel the data is contradictory and has been a 'knee jerk' reaction. Dobcroft's intake is predicted to reduce, whilst others continue to grow. How does this solution address the shortage of places at Sharrow / Porter croft and the predicted unfilled places at Nether edge school?

There is further concern about traffic. I have almost been knocked over en route to Dobcroft 4 times on the crossing on Millhouses lane. The journey to school will become perilous should the expansion go ahead. Traffic and double parking is a concern on whirlowdale too.

Furthermore, I believe Clifford have the space to house another class within the existing building or purchasing the residential property next to the school. This frees places at (and is supported by) Ecclesall. I believe Hunters bar can also accommodate another 15 pupils. Why waste tax payers money if space exists elsewhere? Can schools with better Ofsted ratings in the south of Sheffield support those that need it? This would be a much cheaper option?

As a parent, I believe in a comprehensive education system and recognise the SW needs more school places. I do not believe, however that increasing numbers at Dobcroft addresses the issues raised and would be grateful if you could outline how it does. There are other options that need full consideration. Consequently, I am against the planned extension to Dobcroft school.

I wish to object to the proposed increase in pupil numbers at dobcroft junior school. The traffic chaos is already too much and even now causes problems with householder parking and driveway access and with buses not being able to get up and down silverdale and

dobcroft road. As it stands, I regularly have my verge damaged by careless drivers whose only interest obviously is dropping their kids off.

If more pupil numbers are increased, can I suggest that the path at the rear of dobcroft school be widened so that a one way traffic lane be constructed thereby allowing the drop off and pick up at the rear entrance of the school and that part of the fields at the rear be sacrificed to allow for temporary parking and drop off.

As I was unable to attend the drop in sessions at Dobcroft Schools, I would just to briefly offer my views on the proposed school expansion. I know you will have heard many negative views, but as a parent whose child is due to start school in 2016 I would broadly be in support of the expansion as this gives me peace of mind my child will get into the school, which at present is uncertain and this does worry me.

However, the present Dobcroft buildings are not fit for purpose and are very overcrowded, so I could only agree with the proposals if they are supported by a fully redeveloped school site, with new classrooms, etc. I know you have stated its impossible to give full details of how the extra numbers of children would be accommodated, and would be subject to planning permission (but as its the council who grants planning permission I find it hard to believe you can't provide a more robust plan).

It seems such a shame you can't build a whole new school on the old Abbeydale Grange school site, it has sat unused for so long and would be a perfect location. Someone should consider this further.

I am in receipt of your letter to residents near to the Dobcroft schools in regard to developments at the schools.

We have no concerns with regard to the proposed developments other than issues regarding car parking on nearby roads at school drop-off and pick-up times.

However we do have a concern that we received your letter on the morning of January 30th 2015 and the letter included the information that Council officers would be at the schools on January 26th, 27th, and 28th January 2015 to answer questions.

This is clearly ridiculous!

Are you intending to re-schedule officers availability at some point after notification of same or has the opportunity to talk to someone about this passed us by?

I used to be a governor at Dobcroft Junior school..and well remember the discussions when places were being restricted because of a falling birth rate - we said at the time it was a mistake to cut back then..

However I don't have a specific view on the expansion plans at Dobcroft but my concern is about the catchment lines. It seems to me that this is the ideal chance to redraw the lines slightly to make sense of the situation on the ground and correct some historic anomalies. When you look at the catchment maps it seems strange that the the bottom of Springfield Road, Hastings Road, Helston Rise are still not part of Dobcroft catchment. Over the years there have been numerous appeals and problems for people from these roads (including

ourselves) for getting into Silverdale having being accepted by Dobcroft infants and Juniors. Most of these have been ultimately successful but the cost of this process to the authority must be considerable. I calculate there are about 150 houses in this area (not including the bungalows occupied by more elderly residents).

Given the proximity to St Wilfred's RC school, where many local parents choose to send their children, and that closure of Abbeydale Secondary this I suspect would not lead to a great number of extra children (particularly as many of the houses are quite large and financially out of the reach of young families). Whilst on the map these houses look quite close to Carterknowle and Holt House they are not actually as:

- there is a large hill in the way forming a natural barrier
- walking routes are now limited to the main road or woodland areas that you wouldn't want unaccompanied children to walk through

Looking at the catchment map for secondary schools I see that the area is still drawn around Abbeydale despite the school no longer existing - I'm not sure currently (not having school age children anymore) which 'our' secondary school would be currently. I think this should be looked at carefully in light of the planning for expansion of schools and bear in mind where peoples geographical loyalty is. If you live on Springfield Road you are in the heart of Millhouses, you are likely to use local shops, churches, clubs, pubs etc in the Millhouses area not the Carterknowle area. Think about children being able to get to local friends on foot (something we should be encouraging).

I hope that these comments will be taken seriously and passed on to the relevant committee I have no vested interest in this myself anymore but feel strongly that encouraging all things 'local' is so important.

Looking forward to your response

I am writing to you on behalf of the Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools After School Club (DASH) Committee, made up of volunteer parents, the head teachers from each school and the management of the after school club. We wish to ensure our needs are considered in any future decisions about a permanent expansion of the schools and would like to draw your attention to the specific points below. The After School Club is an essential service for the many working parents in the Dobcroft area.

Sept 2015 Position

1. The Infant After School Club is currently based in the Infant school library which DASH rents from the school to provide after school care for up to 42 children between 15:30 - 18:00 daily. The current library will be used to house the additional class joining Dobcroft in Sept 2015 which means we need to vacate this space by the last mid-term break to ensure the school can make the necessary preparations. The club is fully booked on some days with more reception children than either Year 1 or 2 at present.
2. An alternative room (The Hub) had been offered to the After School Club however this would mean a reduction in space and hence in numbers of approximately 28% (maximum 31 children). We felt this was not acceptable as some children who currently attend DASH could not be offered a place in the last half term.
3. Instead the school has kindly offered us use of the ICT suite which will become the new library and is of similar size to the current library. We are investigating the suitability of this space and hope that this will be usable thanks to the school's flexibility, however we also

need space to store equipment and prepare food for the children in an already crowded school.

4. If the above space proves suitable, we will need an additional gate installed outside this room for safety.

5. It is assumed that there will be further demand for DASH in Sept 2015 with 30 additional children joining the school and it is likely that we will be unable to accommodate the demand.

Considerations for the Permanent Consultation

1. In addition to the above arrangements for the infant school, DASH owns a mobile building on the Junior school premises which runs a breakfast club from 07:45 to 08:50 for children from both schools and an after school club for up to 42 Junior school children from 15:30 - 18:00. The space is supplemented by an adjoining mobile, owned by the Junior school which DASH rents from the school in order to accommodate the demand for the after school club. This space is also used to provide full day care on Inset Days and some school holidays.

2. Should the intake of children increase across all year groups, it follows that there will be further demand for DASH at both schools. Consideration must be given to the provision of additional space for the morning and after school clubs at both schools in this situation.

3. Following on from the above, it is possible that the existing school spaces that are rented to DASH may be required to accommodate the addition classes which will leave DASH in a situation where we have increased demand and less availability.

We hope that you also consider the needs of the after school club in your decision. Should you require any further information from us then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Reference your letter of 16 January we agree that the increased capacity is good for the area but we do have concerns re Irresponsible parking by parents dropping off and picking up the children sometimes making it impassable for local residents and for emergency services, coaches and lorries to get through.

As the extra capacity will incur more traffic something will need to be done to improve access to Dobcroft Road, Whirlowdale Crescent and Pingle Road

As parents and residents connected to Dobcroft School, please could you provide the following information urgently:

1. You contacted parents in the South West area of Sheffield in January to advise of the additional "emergency" places you were creating at Dobcroft School and given that all submissions are now received by yourselves, please advise what number of parents changed their first place choice from their catchment school to Dobcroft Infant School following your communication.

Please break down your response to show:

- 1. Number of children who have selected Dobcroft as first choice whose catchment school is Dore Infants
- 2. Number of children who have selected Dobcroft as first choice whose catchment school is Ecclesall Infants

- 3. Number of children who have selected Dobcroft as first choice whose catchment school is Greystones
- 4. Number of children who have selected Dobcroft as first choice whose catchment school is Holt House
- 5. Number of children who have selected Dobcroft as first choice whose catchment school is Netheredge
- 6. How many children overall have selected Dobcroft Infant School as their first choice for admission in September 2015?

2. We understand you have suggested a budget of £2.1m to cover the building work required at both Dobcroft Schools. Please provide a summary breakdown of the spend to show how this figure was arrived at.

As we have only 9 days until the close of consultation, and these should be details easily to hand, we would appreciate it if you could respond with urgency on this.

Let me make it abundantly clear that I am firmly AGAINST the following proposals:

- 1, AGAINST the proposal to increase Dobcroft school 'temporarily' by 30 pupils for the Sept 2015 intake
- 2, AGAINST the proposal to increase Dobcroft school by an additional class in each year.
- 3, AGAINST any proposals for expansion at Dobcroft School.

I will tell you what I am FOR:

A, Improving the standard of facilities currently being provided to the current school intakes

- Create additional Toilets.
- Replace the 'temporary' classrooms with permanent structures.
- Provide plans for improving the physical class square footage

B, Better funding for the school which is week on week requesting additional funding from parents to support the school.

C, A more recent OFSTED inspection to assess the current service being delivered to our children. Prove to me that the school is currently 'Outstanding' and if you do 'force' through the change, that any increase isn't impacted adversely by a second inspection after the change.

D, SCC locating an alternative site to create a NEW school, not temporarily patching a long-term issue.

- Re-Zone some of Ecclesall Woods to create a NEW Eco-School – Self-sufficient, sustainable, green and a learning resource for other schools in the city to learn about the eco-technologies and infrastructure at the school. Let's have SCC being the forefront of developing a better city.
- Expand sites with more square footage per pupil than a 'centrally located' (over populated) school. Build Outstanding schools on the fringe and people will come.
- Focus your attention on making the Satisfactory/Good/Needs Improvement schools 'OUTSTANDING' so you don't have them all trying to apply to a few select schools.

E, Stop approving NEW Residential buildings in areas on the sites of former schools without creating space on those sites with the infrastructure to support the new residential population.

F, Providing better change room facilities. Currently a very small area for 60 children.

G, SCC being responsible for the maintenance of the rear footpath running between Dobcroft Road and Millhouses Lane

- Re-pave the footpath (this may assist dog owners in respecting the use of it by young children)
- Clean all the dog excrement from the footpath which gets dragged into the school yard and classrooms
- Clear the footpath of all the nettles that are so prevalent and a significant hazard, especially during spring/summer/autumn
- Clear/Grit the footpath when it snows/icy

Issues with the expansion:

- The school toilet facilities are already insufficient for the current intake. My daughter has in her few year at the school had a couple of accidents... not because she hasn't got the toilets in time, but because of the queue waiting to use them. This has never happened at home/friends or in the last 12 months of nursery.
- Expansion compromises quality indoor and outdoor spaces - threat to library, computer room, Forest School area, after school clubs and DASH, and massive health and safety risk in the playground and hall
- No proposed plans of how the 30 pupils will be managed throughout the first and ongoing years.
- No plans as to how or where the 30 pupils will be housed. Inadequate feasibility studies and no capacity of physical expansion the DIS site – it is too small!
- No proposed plans of what building work will take place on the site, when and for how long it will impact the welfare and safety of the pupils
- What the square footage per pupil is now and after the non-existent plans are drawn up
- The roads and infrastructure around the school is already in my experience operating at capacity. An extra 180 pupils will be a logistical nightmare
- Having a building site for several years of my child's schooling
- No explanation of how site will be managed during the building process
- What evidence have you that the rights of the children are being put first or even considered as part of this plan
- Ecclesall & Clifford have far more of a case for PRO expansion both in space available and support than Dobcroft.
- Inability to maintain & deliver quality education - its proven that children do better in smaller school settings and that extra numbers could compromise learning
- Explain what changed? - Taken from an article in the Guardian 17th May 2013: Colin Ross, a school governor and the Liberal Democrat shadow cabinet member for children and young people on Sheffield city council, argues that primary schools should ideally not be bigger than 420 children – the equivalent of two classes of 30 in each year group. "Parents want to know that primary school teachers know their children. If a school becomes bigger than 420, it is very difficult for staff to know each child. At primary school age, it's very important for children to know adults at their

school to feel comfortable. We should be building more schools, not fitting more children on to already squeezed sites."

Furthermore, I echo all comments and concerns raised by the Change.org petition and Social Media Facebook pages:

- https://www.change.org/p/help-stop-sheffield-city-council-from-squeezing-extra-classes-of-pupils-into-the-already-overcrowded-dobcroft-infant-junior-schools?after_sign_exp=member_sponsored_upsells
- FB "Dobcroft Expansion Parents Information Exchange"

I have applied for an infant school place for my son,for the September 2015 entry. We live in the Dobcroft Infant School catchment area (65 whirlowdale road) and have put this school as our first choice however we haven't received a letter from you regarding the Consultations going on this week at the school.

I only heard about the proposed expansion of the school year from local friends who have received a letter.

I am concerned as to why I haven't received a letter and wanted to check how that has happened. My worst fear being that there has been some glitch regarding application or with our address on your system.

I'd be really grateful if you could help me with this and send the letter regarding the school to us.

Many thanks for your response.

Could you please confirm, in regard to the nine cases of temporary school expansion listed, whether in each of these cases this was done without consultation with the school, governors and local residents - as has been the case with Dobcroft Infant School.

Apologies if my question was unclear, however, I specifically wish to know (i.e. not as broad as "following a similar process"), in regard to the recent cases of temporary expansion of schools, how many times was this done with no consultation whatsoever, and that it was made clear that the school would have no say in the issue. This has clearly been the case with Dobcroft Infants, indeed the Chair of Governors, Jason Rockett stated "the school was given no choice in the 2015 decision".

We have only today received your letter dated 16th January 2015 about Dobcroft junior school: consultation on extra places.

As we have missed the drop in sessions we would wish to raise the following point:- we live at 230 Millhouses Lane ,quite a distance from the school but the parking on Millhouses Lane already stretches as far as our house during morning and afternoon delivery and collection times .Because of the proximity of St Wilfrids and Mylnhurst there are occasions when an emergency vehicle could not access the properties on the lane. Thoughtless and illegal parking ,blocking pavements and junctions , adds to the general problem. An increase of 30 students per year would only exacerbate the problem.

I have today (2nd February) received an important consultation letter dated 16 January on the above topic from David Metcalfe (School Organisation Project Officer).

By this late delivery I have been denied attending any of the four 'Drop-in' sessions all of which took place in January.

I STRONGLY OBJECT to what amounts to a device designed to prevent nearby residents asking questions and providing feedback at these Drop-in sessions. Further Drop-in sessions should be arranged and the consultation dead-line of 11th February extended to accommodate these sessions.

What is being proposed would have a great impact on the area in which I live.

I look forward to hearing that I and perhaps others living nearby will not be denied our democratic right to ask questions from Council Officers and to give our views.

I am writing to register my opposition to the current plans to increase the intake at Dobcroft Infant school.

I am a parent of a child in the school, have a younger child who will hopefully go there, and am a very local resident who has to deal with the traffic problems that already exist at drop off and pick up time.

The school is already full to the brim. There aren't enough toilets for children already there. Lunchtime already takes all of the allotted time to get every child fed, and two classes are already in 'temporary' classrooms - and have been for a very long time.

From the information I have seen, the places available are sufficient for the expected intakes over the next few years. Geographically Dobcroft may be in the right area for the overflow of the other local oversubscribed schools, but that is the only reason I can see for Dobcroft being the school that is extended. The actual layout and footprint of the school is certainly not adequate for expansion. Also it is already larger than most of the other local schools. So why should it be increased more?!

We moved to the area for a good school. We could have chosen a school of dobcroft's proposed size - but we chose to move away from that school for that very reason.

As a local resident I object to more children attending Dobcroft from out of catchment as there is already traffic chaos caused by parents parking around school. Often the bus becomes stuck and has to wait. Roads are blocked and it is dangerous for children trying to cross the road safely.

Expanding Dobcroft seems like a short term reaction to a problem that surely should have been flagged up years ago. Surely someone at the council looks at local birth rates and links this to school intake?! So why the sudden shock that local schools don't have enough places for THIS academic reception year?

Other local schools are asking to be expanded. I find it ridiculous that a school that really does not want, nor is really viable to be expanded, is.

I have seen that the council is not willing to look into the problems of the hall being too small, too few toilets, residents objections and local traffic issues will not be looked into until planning is being sought. How much time and money will this waste if then there are too many issues/objections to go forward?

I look forward to a response.

I am writing to you to ask that you please reconsider the proposed expansion of Dobcroft schools. The site is locked in by houses with little land to spare. The school buildings & playgrounds are cramped & overcrowded & in quite a poor condition. The field is regularly unable to be used/played on because of muddy/boggy conditions. The classrooms & cloakrooms are cramped & children eat in classrooms in stages at lunchtimes as the hall cannot accommodate them. This also means they have to eat in a rush & regularly do not have enough time to eat. Also, the increased traffic would cause further dangers on what is an already difficult school run. Please re-evaluate the situation to see if there is a better solution.

This is the opinion of a large group of parents.

Thank you for your attention.

We were very concerned to receive the letter about the expansion of Dobcroft School.

We do not know why you have chosen this school to expand but would like to comment on the 5 points made. All of them are valid. We live at the bottom of Silverdale Road so see the virtual gridlock mentioned twice a day. Parents park regularly AT the bus stop and opposite it and we have witnessed several occasions when the bus simply cannot get through. What if an emergency vehicle needed to get through? A full sized fire engine is as wide as a bus.

If you go ahead with this you need to ensure that there are more double yellow lines in the area and that the parking rules are **enforced**. A few fines would surely deter the parents from parking all over the place, at the bus stop, on the verges, across people's drives etc. We have not yet been blocked in but almost and it is very difficult for us to reverse out of our drive at these times when cars are right up to our exit on both sides.

We would like to register our objection to this plan.

I am a parent a child who attends Dobcroft Infant School.

I would like to outline a few of the things that concern me regarding Dobcroft School at the moment that I would like to think that the Sheffield City Council and Dobcroft have a duty of care to all the children that attend the school at the moment.

Some of the issues :

1. toilet facilities there are not enough for the children in the school at the moment and their have been incidents of children wetting themselves whilst queuing up.
2. The school hall just about holds the children for lunch time and children are rushed in / out in order to get the food eaten within an hour
3. Supervision at lunch time - their is normal only 4 members of staff/ helpers to supervise have many parents that have witness this - children are bumping into each other, staff are not able to see all incidents.
4. Class rooms are already below the legal requirement for 30 children in a class

5. Duty of Care to the children that are already at the school should be paramount before any other children are introduced into the school.

6. An issue with infections in the classes

7. The entrance into the school especially the back way is over grown, some parents see it as being unsafe, dog excrement which children more than parents carry in on their shoes then they children are asked to sit on the carpet.

My understanding is that Dobcroft is deemed to be the best location -when the information I have read states that some school are under subscribed so why aren't those schools used first?

I have also been advised that a letter was sent out to parents outside the catchment areas in a 3 mile radius to ask if they would choose Dobcroft if they had the chance and that information to be returned within 2 weeks.

If these figures are taken into consideration for the 2015 intake then that would give the impression that Dobcroft is over-subscribed when really it is not.

We live in a Society where reputation seems to counts more that children whether it is true or not - Dobcroft are always requesting money from parents and fund raising for the lines on the playground, for getting new toilets which they have only had one set done and looking for more money from us to do the others. It seems that Dobcroft need to get the school up to standard for the children that attend.

The school is meant to represent that of the parent the act of 1893 the term "in loco parentis" was used to describe the duty of care that a teacher has towards a pupil"

The rise in children has been known for some time a school was demolished on Abbeydale Road that could have been used to resolve this problem or could have been potential. I do not understand why that would be know down with all that land and then you trying to added a wooden hut into small space and reduce the facilities for the children that already attend.

I do not feel this is the right decision and I feel that it is being raced through it is not the solution to the long term problem we all face.

I have been thinking about the expansion of Dobcroft and I understand that you claim that Dobcroft is central to the area and so we will fill the extra 30 places.

However I am concerned that the children that fail to get into their catchment school in the Dore and Topley and Ecclesall schools will still not get a place at Dobcroft if places will be allocated to children who are closest to the school (ie from Holt House / Netheredge). So where will they go? How does expanding Dobcroft help them?

Will children who are not offered their catchment school be given preference for places created at Dobcroft?

I would like to formally ask the question, How many parents at each of the local schools set to benefit from the expansion at Dobcroft, actually changed their childs application, in light of the letter from the council in January, to include Dobcroft Infant school as a selection?

I am specifically asking for the numbers for the individual school catchments.

The reason I am asking for this information is because I may want to raise the concern that the extra places may not target the catchments where there is a provision crisis.

I have spoken with several parents who are applying to Ecclesall Infants as their catchment school. I asked them if they had put Dobcroft down given the extra provision this year and the answer was no. They want their children to go to a school that feeds into their catchment secondary school.

I then spoke to some parents at Holt House and asked the same question. They answered yes, as they thought Dobcroft was a better school.

I appreciate this is not scientific, which is why I am requesting the information from you. If it does confirm what I have found, then I wish to raise the following concern;

The extra class at Dobcroft will not target catchments where there is a provision crisis, instead it will target catchments with enough provision and perhaps ultimately lead to closure of such schools due to reduced up take.

Clearly to raise this concern I need the information before the end of the consultation. I appreciate this is not very long at all, but this is due to the entire consultation being incredibly short.

I look forward to hearing from you,

My child is currently at Dobcroft Infant School.

In view of your proposals to expand the school in order to accommodate extra demand for places, please confirm what you intend to do in relation to positive discrimination and the intake of more pupils from ethnic minorities. At the moment, there is a very low ethnic minority intake of pupils attending Dobcroft Infants.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

We are writing to object to the planned increase in class numbers at Dobcroft Infant and Junior schools. We have 2 children at Dobcroft Infants School and a third who will start in Sept 2016. We object for the following reasons:

1 – the outdoor play space is already very limited and crowded given the number of children already at the school. They are not allowed to play football or other ball games very often due to lack of space. We do not see how more children can be packed into this small space without it being to the detriment of them all.

2 – The playground supervisors find it difficult to observe and supervise the children during play times already, and this would be even more difficult if the playground becomes more crowded

3 – the school hall, ICT suite, library and the other communal facilities are over-stretched as it is – the school finds it difficult to get all the children through the hall for lunch, and we cannot see how they can prepare and serve dinner adequately for even more children

4 – DASH (the before and after school club) uses the library for their club, and are unsure where they will be relocated to – or even if they will be allowed to continue functioning. A lot of the children (including mine) are used to going to DASH and it would be unsettling for them – and difficult for us as working parents – if this facility was not allowed to continue. We believe the council find it is 'not their responsibility' to cater for out of school hours care. This attitude is uncaring and demonstrates that all they are interested in is fulfilling their legal responsibilities without genuinely looking out for the best interests of our children.

Given that other schools such as Clifford and Ecclesall would like to expand, we can only think that the council is looking for the easiest and cheapest way forward for them, rather than the one that is best for the children of Sheffield in the longer term.

I see again the argument that SCC could not provide more information or detailed feasibility studies due to cost and accusations that it was a done deal.

This does not reassure me in the slightest.

For my daughter who will start school at Dobcroft in 2015 it is absolutely a done deal. She will be starting school alongside 119 other 4 year olds: we have no other choice, given the timing of the announcement. Whilst outside the terms of the consultation as set, surely the need to adequately accommodate those 2015 children requires that all the same considerations be looked at and resolved in advance to the decision being made.

Or as parents are we just to accept that the experiences of our 2015 children are but a small price to pay for SCC's administrative convenience in allocating places for the whole south west area. The answer is yes, but I would like that in writing!

Further information of the prime site I would expect an Infant/Primary school to be located before any increases to current schools are considered:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/business-economy/property-available/asset-enhancement-programme/abbeydale-bannerdale.html>

SCC build a few more houses, yet pay little attention to supplying the long overdue and much needed infrastructure to support these. I know of several large developments completed in the last 8 or so years in this area which I have little doubt have had some impact on school numbers. Ecclesall Road South – Two new large Apartment/Townhouse

developments. Abbey Lane, again 2 new similar developments. Developments in Brincliffe also.

Why are you not looking to amend the plans for this site over expanding other schools?

Following on from our conversation at last weeks consultation meeting, I have listened to all arguments, digested the information made available and had time to reflect on my personal opinions.

I support the future expansion on the strict proviso that the school are given adequate funding to build a suitable environment to support the existing excellent teaching standards.

I am, along with most of South West Sheffield bitterly disappointed about the enforcement for this year. This is regarding the affect on our community, further pressures placed on the woefully under funded school and staff. If the authority had acted earlier, further school places could/should have been arranged for all catchment and sibling children.

Moving on to a more positive note. We have found the school to be everything we hoped and fought for. The children are very well supported, and the fact that the school is not given adequate extra funding to support the more vulnerable children, yet still nurtures happy, secure children with excellent outcomes is a credit to them. If I were being cynical, I would class this as one of the reasons Dobcroft has been chosen.

Despite the buildings requiring a lot of work and continued repair, the staff are so dedicated. I know that whatever is thrown at them, their team will work as hard as ever to provide the best learning environment that they can. I don't think many parents are aware of the poorer standards of teaching and support in other schools.

Millhouses is an insular, highly populated middle class residential area. We are very lucky to live in such a nice area. I feel that it is easy for some of the parents on high incomes who live in expensive houses to feel it is their child's Devine right to be schooled at Dobcroft.

Whilst it is fair to offer a school place for a child at her nearest school, it is completely morally wrong to 'buy' your child a state school place solely based on income. How can this be fair?

The inner socialist in me argues that a more varied mix of social class/backgrounds would be more 'healthy' mix of pupils. Imagine the rich environment that would create!? (An argument for another day, perhaps).

I currently have concerns about the some of the Governors following their code of practice. On several occasions I have overheard shocking conversations in which they are only looking after 'their own' or their individual family members and friends.

Selflessness - Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

Undertaking:

As a member of the Governing Body I will always have the well-being of the children and the reputation of the school at heart; I will do all I can to be an ambassador for the school, publicly supporting its aims, values and ethos; I will never say or do anything publicly that would embarrass the school, the Governing Body, the Headteacher or staff.

In summary, I am in favour of the long term expansion but ONLY if the school is given adequate financial support.

I would like to express my formal objection to the expansion of Dobcroft Infant school. The school manages its already large pupil population very well at present but I think further expansion would stretch the school to breaking point. The site is not big enough, there will be access problems and frankly I believe 360 children is too large for an infant school.

I hope the almost unanimous disapproval of this plan from the existing parents will be heard and listened to,

It is absolutely appalling that the council have taken the decision, without consultation with anyone affected, to create an extra 30 places for the September 2015 intake at Dobcroft Infant School.

As a prospective parent at the school for this year, why would I want my daughter to be 1 of 120 pupils when 1 of 90 is already more than enough, given the already limited and overcrowded facilities at the school? Why would I want her to be sharing a classroom with children from outside of catchment that may not have a very good command of the English language (especially if the children come from the Holt House/Carterknowle areas of the city as we know they are likely to, who are likely to change their school preferences now that there are extra places available - due to the current standard of their schools)? And even if the 2016 plan does not go ahead, why would I want her to be part of a 'temporary 120 intake year' throughout her primary school life?

It is clear that there is absolutely no need within the catchment area to expand Dobcroft School, either for the 2015 intake or beyond, and that the council should be taking a longer term view and expanding Ecclesall Infants to a 90 intake (where there is space to do so) and making Clifford Infants a through primary.

As local residents to the school, we pay a premium because the school is of a high standard - and making these changes will inevitably affect the quality of education and the school as a whole. Not only will this devalue our house, but the extra traffic and pollution caused by all those extra cars will also contribute negatively to the quality and safety of our family life and the school children's, as well as the desirability of our home.

I am absolutely against Sheffield City Council's proposal for all of the reasons above.

Many thanks for your reply.

However, your email does not address my concerns over the overcrowding at the school. How do you plan to address this, as this is absolutely critical. And where are you proposing to 'house' an extra 30 children per year? How much money will be spent on the school to ensure that standards and facilities are met and indeed exceeded as they have done in the past?

Traffic is a concern, but my main concern is around the welfare of my own child, and her very important primary school experience. It seems that this decision regarding 2015 has been taken with no consideration for the children themselves, which is in itself deplorable and inexcusable. It makes me very concerned about putting my children's education in the hands of a council that believes that it is acceptable to take these sorts of decisions at the very last minute, and without any consultation or in-depth consideration for the children affected.

Surely it would have been far more sensible to house the extra children at Ecclesall Infants (where there is need within the catchment as well as the space to extend), and look at extending Clifford to a through primary using the building next door? Why is this not being done instead?

We are writing to you to express our concerns in relation to the proposed expansion of Dobcroft Infant School for the intake this September 2015.

We moved into Dobcroft catchment area in 2011. We decided to make this move to fulfil our desire for our children to attend Dobcroft schools, both which have an excellent reputation and outstanding Ofsted grading.

Our concern this year was that our daughter, who is due to go to the school in September, may not have got a place due to more children in catchment than places available. Our initial thoughts on hearing about an extra class being added, were that this was to ensure all catchment children received a place.

However as details have emerged it has become clear that there are only 84 children in catchment and 90 places available.

It has been explained that an extra class will be added to Dobcroft this year to compensate for the over subscription at Ecclesall, Totley and Dore schools.

We would like to express our dismay that the perceived answer to this is to create the extra class at Dobcroft. For many reasons.

1. Increase traffic flow/parking in area
2. lack of space at DIS - the proposed extra classroom will take the place of the library which will be moved into the computer room, lack of cloakroom space, extra PE/games classes required and available time and space in school hall all reducing resources and space available to children.
3. Where will the children come from who take these places? Will their siblings have priority in subsequent years for places over first children in catchment area homes as is the order of priority now?
4. In previous years reasons have been cited in response to appeals from those whose children did not get a place in the school for the school being unable to take 1 pupil over the 90 places i.e. safety, toilets etc however now the school is equipped to take an extra 30 children with no increase in resources and or space????
5. Ecclesall Infant and Clifford actually want to increase. Surely we should work with those that want and would benefit from the changes. Once you are in the car to travel to a school out of catchment you may as well travel an extra couple of miles to a school that can accommodate your child, rather than being stuffed in like hens in a battery farm and where their education will not be at risk.

We would strongly ask that this proposal be reconsidered.

As a concerned parent living in the Ecclesall area, I am emailing in relation to the current consultation on creating school places in South West Sheffield.

From my own point of view I have a child due to start reception in 2016 and live in catchment for Ecclesall Infants. I have no other children. I have been concerned for some time about the availability of a local school place for my child. If he does not get a place at Ecclesall, the

next nearest school, Greystones is unlikely to be able to accommodate him. We live too far from Dobcroft to be able to benefit from the proposed expansion and too far from Hunters Bar to have any chance of gaining a place. I am a non-driver with the main responsibility for getting my son to school as my husband's work hours will not allow him to help. If we can't get a place at one of these schools, the travel/walking involved would have a very negative impact on my son and family life. Yet this looks like an increasingly real prospect for us.

Our own situation aside, it is terrible that so many families will not be able to have their children attend their catchment school. It is effectively telling these children and their families that they are excluded from their local community. It is tremendously unfair to do this to a four year old who has simply had the misfortune living a few metres further from the local school than someone else. One look at our local Toddler Group over the last 3-4 years clearly indicated this problem and I am amazed the Council is only just talking about what to do about it now.

I support the idea of expanding Ecclesall Infants and building a new Junior section for Clifford. Not least because we are eventually going to have the ridiculous situation where children from other parts of the city are attending Ecclesall Juniors from Clifford when local children are excluded from attending.

All the majority of parents want is for their children to attend the local school. The Council should be doing what they can to make this happen.

I wanted to express my utter disappointment in the short length of time provided for Consultation on the plans to extend Dobcroft Schools both in the short and long term.

As a fair minded and reasonable person, I find the Consultation period provided to be unreasonably short. Parents and residents have not been given reasonable time to gather information and make an informed response which therefore renders the consultation meaningless. In addition, it has been run at a time when incidences of flu and ill health are at their highest, so parents are either poorly themselves or are concentrating on helping their young children or elderly parents and neighbours. Furthermore the snow over the past few weeks has in itself further hindered parents.

The Council is good at running reasonable length consultation periods when carrying out restructures within the Council itself. Why then has the same level of reasonableness not been afforded to parents and members of the community, and indeed our children, who are unable to speak for themselves.

Please also consider how much time parents have spent since their children were born, planning and saving to help their children go to Dobcroft School. My time, energy and saving appears to mean very little when compared to the inadequate length of consultation period set. I, as such, feel undervalued as Parent and a Resident, in a City I love and am very passionate about.

I would ask you to extend the period of consultation in order to render it meaningful.

Please can you ensure the above is formally noted.

I am writing to you to put forward my view on the proposed expansion. I am totally against this proposal, I went to Dobcroft Infant and Junior schools from 1986-1992. Back then this school was neglected for reasons unknown, but I assume it was because of the area it was in. The schools still have the same gym equipment, doors and most of the windows when I attended. My eldest daughter started in 2011. When she went to the junior school and I had the chance to look round, I was horrified to find that the school

had to remove the children's changing rooms to make way for an ICT suite. So the children now have to change in the class room in front of each other. This is not acceptable. The point I am trying to make, well or not, is that Dobcroft Schools are already under extreme financial pressure to provide for their pupils, and what else will the schools have to sacrifice to make room for more children?

What will our children have to sacrifice to make way for more children? who are not from the area! What about the added pressure in parking for parents who have to drive a car to pick children up, what about the residents in the area that will get even more upset with the parking situation, as more cars descend on the area? Don't say that it won't become a problem, as the children will be traveling from out of area.

We as parents already pay through the nose on school trips and extra in school activities. Every 2 weeks, at least, we receive letters with some fundraising efforts for the school or letters asking for 'Voluntary' contributions which in fact turn out to be compulsory other wise the children will miss out.

I am tired of the council deciding on spending money on schools in deprived areas, who don't treat the buildings with respect, that's why Dobcroft schools are shabby and school funds are having to pay for building repairs for a school which quite frankly should have been bulldozed a long time ago.

To add this pressure on the school will be a burden to far, and our children will suffer.

I ask you don't go ahead with this proposal of expansion.

I am a mum of two. My son is in Clifford's Y2 class and my daughter is due to start school in September. I have visited the consultation at the junior school and have read through the consultation documents. I have a number of concerns.

Councillor Jackie Drayton rightly said at the consultation that the cabinet will base their decisions on the figures presented to them. This is the right thing to do. Perhaps despite appearances, I actually think highly of her as a councillor. My biggest concern in this whole consultation is that the figures being presented are deeply misleading.

At a meeting with school head teachers and governors back in November (during which, I believe, it was initially made clear to them that the was an issue with places that needed to be addressed) the following numbers of children living in catchment were given:

<i>School</i>	<i>Places Available</i>	<i>Children in Catchment for Sept 2015</i>	<i>Number of catchment children who will not be offered a place</i>
<i>Ecclesall Infants</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Greystones</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>104</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Sharrow</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Lowfields</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Holt House</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Nether Edge</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Hunters Bar</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>74</i>	
<i>Dobcroft</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>76</i>	

St Wilfrids and Clifford School are in the same area and do not have specific catchments. Clifford takes 30 children and St Wilfrid's 45, not all of these children are from SW Sheffield as these schools have no catchment.

These figures are actually very similar to those quoted in the Dobcroft consultation document. However, the document frustrates me by excluding a number of schools. Sharrow, Lowfields, Nether Edge and Hunter's Bar are all excluded from the document. Furthermore, all of these except Hunter's Bar have a greater number of children living in catchment than they have spaces for. Porter Croft are also excluded from the figures and, having emailed their head teacher, I know they are also currently oversubscribed.

I do understand that there is an argument that some of these children will have the ability and means to choose to go to a school not in catchment or to a private school. Parents have an element of choice. However, Sharrow has the highest number of children living in catchment who potentially will not get a catchment place. The economics of the area mean that it is unlikely that the vast majority of parents will be applying for private education and they are unlikely to be helped by the Dobcroft expansion. I'd like reassurance that the council is both aware of this and has plans to address this.

The second lot of figures that I find concerning are those given to a friend who has her eldest starting school in September. She wanted clarification of numbers in order to help her make an informed choice for primary school options. John Bigley sent her the following:

"In terms of the wider area, the table below shows the pupil Admission Number of each school and the expected demand for places from catchment residents for the relevant school. These figures relate to the September 2015 Reception intake.

Dobcroft I (90)	65
Ecclesall I (60)	70
Greystones IJ (90)	79
Holt House I (60)	59
Hunters Bar I (90)	46
Lowfield IJ (60)	36
Sharrow NIJ (60)	39
The Nether Edge NIJ (60)	33"

These 'expected demand' figures differ greatly from the number of children in catchment. I do find it a little difficult to stomach 'expected demand' figures from an administration that was seemingly unable to predict that this coming September's intake needed more places before November. Would it not have been more honest to send her the catchment figures? As it stands, she was put in an impossible situation. She read the consultation document and couldn't work out how these new figures affected her. As a mum with her first child due to start school in September, these deeply unclear statistics have made her attempts at filling in her admissions form all the more stressful. The whole process must be

made clearer. Parents don't know where they stand. It was only by attending the consultation that I was assured that the Dobcroft catchment was not changing - vital information which my friend needed and did not have.

I believe the proposed Dobcroft expansion is being rushed through. No plans have been drawn up or are available to look at. When I asked if playground, library or non-classroom work spaces were to be lost, this couldn't be confirmed or denied. The one-class increase taking place from next year has already had an impact on DASH (Dobcroft After School Hours). At the same time, the possible expansion of Clifford and Ecclesall was derided at the consultation for its lack of figures and detail. This is deeply unfair. If the proposal is to lose non classroom work spaces or playground spaces it is the council's responsibility to be honest about that now. It has a deep negative impact on children's education when this happens. The playground shrinkages that we have seen at a number of schools including Greystones do not demonstrate effective school planning. Dobcroft has already been squeezed by having 'temporary' classrooms on its playground which, I believe, have been there a decade. It feels as if the council will say 'there are no definite plans' until the cabinet has agreed on the expansion, after which no further consultation is required.

At the same time, the Clifford/Ecclesall proposal has not been properly investigated. Increasing Clifford to a through primary and increasing Ecclesall Infants by one form entry has the backing of both head teachers. There are a number of possible ways to do this: a mezzanine above Y1, the empty building next door and the empty PRU building opposite are all possible Clifford options. This will need financial and practical consideration. However, as I am repeatedly told there are no firm financial or practical plans for Dobcroft, I fail to see why this option is being given more credence. Likewise, there are a number of possible viable options mentioned in the council's own consultation document. I find phrases such as 'does not share the central position of Dobcroft', 'the pressure in the catchment area is not as clear or sustained', or even dismissing the possibility of mixed-age classes (especially given outstanding schools such as Nether Edge, who manage this brilliantly) unjustifiable in the light of such selective figures.

Finally, I would like to know which families did and did not receive the letter about the class increase at Dobcroft. It has not been given to all families with children starting school in September and neither does it appear to have been given to everyone living within a certain distance of Dobcroft. This question was raised at the consultation by myself and a friend. I received the letter; she did not. Other friends who live closer to Dobcroft did. We don't understand this. We were promised someone would get back to us with the answer.

I do believe there are a number of people at the consultation who have the best interests of children in south west Sheffield at heart. However, the consultation document in its current form does not present the facts accurately. It is extremely selective and, if this is what the cabinet is basing their decisions on, they may well reach the wrong conclusion.

I understand there is currently a proposal to extend class room space at Dobcroft Junior School. As a local resident who lives on Whirlowdale Crescent, very close to the main entrance to the school I feel very strongly about this. There is currently a lot of pressure put on local residents by traffic from parents and I do not feel an increase in the number of pchildren, parents and cars is in the best interest of the local people who are by and large very understanding.

Please could you inform me how I can formally comment on this proposal. I also understand

there is to be a public meeting regarding this, I would appreciate some more information on how to attend this.

It is a great shame that your letter dated 16 January 2015 did not reach me until 29 January 2015, so I have not been able to attend the drop in sessions which you advised were being held on 26 -28 January 2015.

I have therefore been denied an opportunity to understand and discuss the developments that you are planning.

My questions are as follows:-

1 At what stage do you plan to undertake a traffic management study, which will need to address both the temporary situation during construction and the long term increase in traffic which is a likely consequence of more school places.

2 Will you please forward a hard copy of the information already available following your meetings with the governing body of the school.

3 What incentives or conditions will you place to discourage the use of private transport associated with the additional numbers of school places?

4 In association with point 3 above what are the proposals for ensuring that a comprehensive environmental impact assessment is undertaken?

As I presently live within 100 metres of both entrances to the school I am concerned that increased traffic congestion , in the morning and afternoon peaks ,on Dobcroft Road will lead to the bus companies withdrawing their services which will be a distinct disadvantage to the local area.

I am writing to express my grave reservations regarding the proposed expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools. I am a local resident, living adjacent to the school on Dobcroft Road, and the father of two pupils currently in year two and foundation at the infant school. My concerns include:

- **The physical constraints of the site, particularly the infant school.** The site is already cramped for 270 pupils, with all of the outdoor play areas full to capacity at break times. An additional 90 pupils will make this situation worse, particularly as play areas will have to be lost to accommodate further classroom space. There are already two "temporary" classrooms on site, as the original scope of the building and plot has been exceeded. The junior school site, although larger, would lose either some of its playing field (essential if a total of 840 pupils are to be offered use of an outdoor area for sports' days and physical education) or hard playground, whilst catering to an additional 120 pupils day-to-day.
- **The loss of non-classroom learning space.** It is disturbing that the council has decided to add an extra class in September 2015 without consultation. This additional class will result in loss of the school library, a vital space for learning. Subsequent expansion of numbers will further reduce non-classroom indoor space, and make the school hall even less adequate for the numbers of pupils there.
- **Inadequate indoor facilities** The logistical challenge of seating the existing pupils for lunch is already very difficult; the hall is inadequate in size to accommodate any more. Christmas plays and other events are done by year group, and these already leave only standing room when the parents, grandparents and carers of 90 children attend. There are not enough toilet facilities at the moment, a point raised by the

headteacher in a communication to the council. It may be possible to build more, but only at the cost of indoor or outdoor space as above. During recent icy weather it was not possible for the children to play outside; this resulted in all of the foundation year group (91 children at present) watching one television screen during break. How will 360 children safely have an indoor play time during inclement weather under the new proposals?

- **Pressure on the local area** As a local resident and a parent, I daily see the effects of school traffic on Dobcroft Road, Pingle Road, Whirlowdale Crescent and Millhouses Lane. I cannot see how the additional traffic associated with bringing in a further 210 pupils to the two schools can be safely accommodated.
- **The rationale for expanding Dobcroft** The reasons cited by the council for expanding Dobcroft, as opposed to other local schools, include the projected numbers of children in catchment. However, the councils own figures demonstrate that Dobcroft does not have a particular problem in this regard, over and above other surrounding schools. It does not make sense to overload one central school with 120 children per year, whilst leaving surrounding schools with only 60 or fewer pupils per year. Why should Dobcroft pupils be the ones to suffer from such overcrowding? There are campaigns underway from parents of children in both Clifford and Ecclesall Schools to expand capacity in their schools, whilst I have heard only opposition to the expansion of Dobcroft from its parental body and governors. Dobcroft Infants was described by the council as being a popular and successful school, which it is. I am very concerned that cramming more pupils into it will damage that success and reputation for excellence in education.

For the attention of Sheffield School Reorganisation Team,

I wish to object to the decision to expand Dobcroft Infant School to a 120 Pupil Admission Number from September 2015, in the absence of any dialogue or consultation with the Parents / Carers or the wider School Community.

I have outlined my concerns in the attached letter and base my objections on concerns as a Grandparent of children at the school and as someone passionate about the quality of early years education:

To expand the Pupil Admission Number at Dobcroft Infant School to 120 from September 2015 is certainly not in the best interests of young children.

As a City once at the forefront of exemplary practice in Early Years Education, Sheffield now seemingly lacks the crucial consultation and genuine debate between Officers looking to place on numbers alone and Officers who need to be more proactive as Advocates for ensuring appropriate quality learning and teaching environments.

How can such a disparity arise where the School is already successful in many areas? It is utilising space to a maximum in providing a very good education, achieving good results and working well with Parents / Carers and the School Community. By going ahead with the proposed additional numbers it will lead to overcrowding, and question the viability of continued success in all the crucial areas mentioned, as well as putting pressure on relationships with families and the wider School Community.

Some existing spaces that are conducive to learning experiences would be subject to re-modelling, taking them away from use for existing children. Much more consideration should be given to how overwhelming such large numbers are to the very young and to what degree a lack of appropriate space has a negative impact. It is certainly not about how many chairs and tables can be squeezed in!

I am concerned about the decision taken by Sheffield City Council, both as a Grandparent of children attending Dobcroft and also as an Advocate for Quality in Early Years. As a retired Sheffield Nursery School Headteacher, my view is that all children need to be facilitated as lifelong learners through an appropriate learning environment as integral to their Curriculum. Adequate space to explore and learn through structured play, whilst developing increased confidence, is key to maximising educational attainment. How then is such overcrowding seen be conducive to current children attending or the new cohort?

Overcrowding creates potential "obstacles" to a happy and thriving learning environment that may also impact on children with additional and specific needs, in terms of the loss of any quieter areas and overwhelming numbers of children sharing very limited space. A space in which to support children working with other Professionals is always an important factor.

Officers recommending this action towards resolving a crisis in places should be urged to re-think the issues around Quality for all children and not purely on 'Affordability'!

Birth rate figures and trends have been available in time for better planning options to be consulted upon and discussed with the rigour deserved. So, why the late urgency to create these places with no consultation? The Council's own figures suggest that other local Schools have a greater capacity to expand in order to offer places to children in their catchment. There is significant support for this option which explores better long term solutions, without the overcrowding that Dobcroft would endure.

It's surely no surprise that there are significant objections to the Council having a right to implement these changes in 2015 without consultation or due care about the impact on children. Children only have one chance of experiencing a quality School environment to support their learning. An increase in number in a building with very limited space indoors and outdoors is not the solution for any of the Council's objectives.

Whilst the City Council has legal obligations to provide places in a complex framework and the powers to implement decisions, informed debate and better communication is crucial. Being able to impose changes to practice doesn't necessarily mean that it is the most appropriate route to ensure maintaining and continuously striving to improve on the quality of education. Offering children the best learning environment possible, is surely the most important goal. This would surely be best achieved by forward planning long term solutions instead of more temporary measures that risk a negative impact on the children and School Community!

I wish to object to the proposed plans to expand Dobcroft infant and Junior school.

As a parent of children in Dobcroft and a local resident it has raised many concerns.

Dobcroft is an excellent school but is already struggling for space. By losing the library this will have a major impact on the children's learning. The library and IT suite are extremely small areas and I can not see how you could possibly allow a class of 30 to occupy this area as a classroom.

The children would be learning in extremely cramped conditions and this would have an impact on learning.

The dining room, school playground can not accommodate an extra 90 children. Also the school has excellent after school clubs and Dash, these currently have limited places, and do not have the space to accommodate extra children.

As a resident of the area I can only see this having a major impact on local parking and the flow of traffic during school drop off & pick up times. Parking is very limited on Whirlowdale Crescent, which is also used as a short cut for a lot of commuters. As the majority of extra places will be taken by pupils outside the catchment area, I can not see how the immediate area surrounding the school will cope with potentially an extra 30 cars. In time this will increase to 90 cars, the area could not cope with this. With cars parked on either side of

Whirlowdale crescent and Pingle road, the roads become single lane causing traffic to back up on the surrounding areas.

I have to travel to school three times a week by car and currently have to get there at eight thirty to be able to park safely. Whirlowdale crescent, pingle road , Dobcroft road and Millhouses lane are used as parking for Dobcroft and St Wilfred's. Any extra cars would cause a massive safety risk for the children.

I feel very angry that the school, parents and local residents have not been consulted on the proposed expansion.

Other schools in the area are wanting to expand and have the space to expand. Surely, this is the only solution that can be taken to accommodate the demand for places in the area.

We understand from your "Newsletter" that the first step is a decision making process in principle by Sheffield City Council Cabinet which will consider comments from this consultation process. The second step is to progress to a planning application. We are concerned that any decision on the matter in principle will be pre-emptive on the ultimate outcome. We request information on what alternatives have been considered before deciding that provision of more local primary school places at Dobcroft Infant School and Dobcroft Junior School is the only option provided at this consultation stage. Why has it been decided that expanding the Dobcroft schools is the only option?

Has the former Abbeydale Grange School site which is vacant land been considered to develop a purpose built new school that would create the extra school places needed for the area?

EDUCATION

If the proposals go ahead will the standard number of the school be increased to 120? Dobcroft Infant and Junior schools already form a large primary. It is difficult to understand how the social, emotional and educational needs of young children will be met in an even larger school.

With an additional 210 pupils this will create a school that is the size of some secondary schools on a site not intended for that purpose.

Since the site of the school cannot be extended the addition of extra classrooms decreases the amount of outside space for play and games whilst increasing the number of pupils using that space.

Your newsletter only states that extra funding will be available for staffing. The school budget will have to support the extra facilities and increased running costs of a school with an additional 210 pupils. This will have a significant impact on staff and pupils.

If funding for extra staffing is based on a class number of thirty what happens if that number is not reached. Will this create a shortfall in funding that will result in larger class sizes for existing pupils.

TRAFFIC

We understand that it is your intention to consider matters such as traffic and road congestion at the planning application stage. However, traffic problems are of such importance in the locality of

the Dobcroft Schools that they form a crucial part of the decision making process and should be considered at the outset. As a resident living on Whirlowdale Crescent between Pingle Road and Dobcroft Road, we would raise the following traffic related problems:

Congestion and highway/junction capacity

We would point out that there are there are severe traffic capacity problems at the following three junctions:

- Whirlowdale Crescent – Dobcroft Road
- Whirlowdale Crescent – Pingle Road
- Whirlowdale Crescent – Millhouses

At times when people take and collect children to and from the schools, there is severe traffic congestion at these three junctions This is compounded by the presence of St Wilfrid Primary School located on Millhouses Lane and Mylnhurst School also on Millhouses Lane. When cars are parked on both sides of the road (mostly cars belonging to people

dropping/picking up children attending Dobcroft Schools) there is only enough space for one vehicle to travel along Whirlowdale Crescent and the upper part of Pingle Road. Traffic can only travel in one direction at any one time and two way traffic is not a possibility. The highway/junction capacity and operation is at present inadequate at these times. With additional traffic resulting from the proposed additional places at the Dobcroft Schools extensions it is clear that the situation will worsen.

Safety

Because of the inadequate highway and junction capacity, vehicles park partially on the footway making conditions for pedestrians, particularly those with push chairs and disabled people using wheelchairs, difficult and unsafe. A serious safety concern is that access for emergency services vehicles to residents houses and the schools is difficult or even impossible because of congestion at school times. Additional places at the Dobcroft Schools will undoubtedly worsen the situation.

Environment

We are concerned that the reduction in air quality as a result of increased traffic and increased congestion will be detrimental to the health of pedestrians and people living in the area affected.

Could the Council please advise whether there has been any consideration of air quality issues?

Conclusion

In consideration of the above comments, we object to the proposals to provide more local primary school places at Dobcroft Infant School and Dobcroft Junior School.

We wish to raise our concerns and objections to the proposed increase in school places at Dobcroft school from September 2016. We live on Millhouses Lane & have watched over the years the massive increase in traffic at school times. There is constant horn blowing, leading to regular driver & pedestrian agitation. The roads surrounding Dobcroft school are already gridlocked every school day. We understand the places are being created for children living outside the existing catchment area, surely resulting in even more traffic and traffic pollution. The whole point of going to a local school is that you live locally and have the option to walk to your school, by allocating spaces to children outside the area this will not be an option for many.

The grass verges on the roads surrounding the school are destroyed due to cars mounting the grassy area beyond the kerb stones resulting in double parked roads. The traffic problem is compounded by St Wilfrid's school located around the corner from one of Dobcrofts entrances (Whirlowdale Crescent). Cars are parked up to the edge of Whirlowdale Crescent and Millhouses Lane, resulting in complete obstruction and visibility. It is an accident waiting to happen & God forbid that an emergency service needed swift access to a local accident.

We urge Sheffield City Council to look at alternative schooling arrangements & leave this already over-populated area as it is.

I am writing to formally object to the proposals for both the expansion of Dobcroft Infant School by 1 class in 2015 and also to the proposed permanent expansion from 2016.

I believe this proposal will have an extremely negative impact on the school, the pupils and the surrounding area in many ways.

1. The school is already a 90 year intake, more than the majority of infant schools in the area. To increase this to 120 will make an already large intake feel extremely overwhelming to the very young children entering into the school especially at a time which is an extremely big step for most 4 year olds emotionally and mentally. This initial introduction to a school environment paves the way for a child's education and development and I believe this would be severely compromised should this increase go ahead.

2. Overcrowding

- the school is already an overcrowded school which only just manages to accommodate the current number of children safely. The children already have less time both at PE and ICT on a weekly basis than the majority of schools and indeed than the recommended amount. This is due to limited central facilities to be shared amongst the current years. This pressure would only be increased. This also follows though to the playground area which is far too small to accommodate even another 30 children let alone another 90. I am extremely nervous that this could cause a real risk of serious accident to the children and also compromise the amount of playtime and fresh air the children can have which is essential to be able to learn effectively.

3. Disruption to the school with building work

- the current school is a not fit for purpose school to safely and effectively manage any further children so more suitable facilities and classrooms would be required. This will cause significant noise, disruption and a dangerous building site environment continuously each year. This is not a suitable environment for children to learn and play safely.

4. Increase in traffic

- there is already a significant number of cars at drop off and pick up time causing issues for residents and for children. Whilst I appreciate this is a common issue at schools, increasing the school size to above average would make this a really high risk issue

5. Lack of consideration for more suitable schools for expansion

- has Dobcroft been chosen purely for cost reasons over other local schools such as Dore or Ecclesall? This appears to be the case rather than actually assessing the real impact and actually fairly considering more appropriate alternatives

There are many other issues which need to be discussed and reviewed I believe the lack of consultation over the proposed increase in intake in 2015 shows a panic response to a proper lack of planning rather than a properly managed process and a real lack of care for Sheffield residents.

Please take all mine and I'm sure other extremely concerned parents views into consideration and take this email as formal objection to both proposals.

I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed plans to permanently increase the pupil intake for Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools.

I am a local parent with children at both schools and with another child yet to enter school. I therefore have experience of both schools as they currently operate and an interest in future plans for the schools.

Dobcroft schools are great although already take far more pupils than they were originally designed to hold. This creates problems with lack of cloakroom space, inadequate toilet facilities, dining space and classes already housed in mobile classrooms in the playground. Congestion on the surrounding roads and pavements from parked vehicles is also a cause of frustration and safety concern. Any increase in pupil numbers will exacerbate these problems. The schools work tirelessly with children to organise performances, special

assemblies and trips for each year group. Enabling parents to attend in the audience of such events is already difficult, with more children, if these activities had to stop, the benefits that children gain from these will be lost and parental engagement decrease with negative implications.

I also feel that increasing to a four form entry with 30 pupils in each class will result in too large a school, which will have a negative impact on the pupil well being and the nurturing ethos of the schools where staff and students feel valued. I fear this could lead to less effective communication and a situation where children are known and treated as individuals less. If morale and cohesion between families and the school fall a lack of community spirit that the children currently benefit from could follow.

A 120 year group just seems too big, would it not make more sense to increase pupil numbers at a school which currently takes less than 90 pupils? From the past data of demand for school places and the projected figure for the next five years I don't see that Dobcroft would be best placed to meet the need as it appears to me that Ecclesall School has more demand from children within its catchment area and the advantage of large school site, currently takes less children than Dobcroft and is located reasonable centrally.

In summary I am concerned that if the proposal to expand Dobcroft schools goes ahead, this transition would result in a lower quality educational experience, with fewer opportunities and resources stretched between more pupils in an environment which could be quite overwhelming and intimidating.

I hope my views will be considered

I am writing to express my concerns at the proposed expansion of Dobcroft infant and junior schools.

I have children currently attending both these schools and I feel very aware of the impact the proposed expansion would have on current and future students. The schools are excellent but already very cramped with many children already being taught in temporary classrooms. There is already insufficient room for hanging coats, insufficient toilet facilities, and the children have to have their lunch in strict rotation in order to fit them all in the dinner hall (please note that the junior school dinner hall also doubles up as a classroom and has to be cleared daily for dual use). Children enjoy all attending school concerts and plays together in the hall and this would not be possible if numbers were increased.

I cannot imagine where the extra classes could be accommodated on the current sites. Any additional classrooms would surely mean the loss of extremely important facilities such as the library, forest school area, playing field or playground- all areas that are vital for the children's development and which have helped to foster the school's excellent reputation. I also believe that extensive building work would be detrimental to the current student's school experience in terms of noise, safety, and general disruption.

I am also concerned about the impact the proposed expansion would have on the local area. It would result in a large increase in cars (with more children attending and more coming from further away so less likely to walk to school), with increased concerns over traffic safety at the beginning and end of the school day.

I understand that the other suggestion of expanding both Clifford and Ecclesall schools has been relatively well received, and it is felt that this would cause much less disruption to the children at these schools.

I have serious concerns about the Dobcroft expansion and I know my views are shared with many other parents. In fact I have yet to speak to anyone who is in favour of this proposal, and feelings are generally strong on this matter.

Thank you for taking these concerns seriously and for considering other options.

It is inconceivable how the council can consider expanding this school.

1. It is landlocked. Where is the scope or space to expand? As it stands there is not enough space for the children to play.
2. The buildings are archaic but still function.
3. Increasing capacity with little insight into impact, will have an effect on the pupils and teachers. Standards will fall. It is already stretched at the seams.
4. Other schools mentioned have capacity to expand, and I disagree that Dobcroft is the only one central enough.
5. Yet again, I like many others, believe that this is more a geo-political, economical move targeted at a school for gains other than that proposed.

I felt I should write to express my concern over the planned increase to Dobcroft infant school.

My first point is that I was hoping to get my daughter into Dobcroft for the 2015 intake but was already concerned that 90 children in a year was too many. For 4 & 5 year olds the school would be a scary place. After visiting the school with the current numbers it feels cramped.

Because of this plan we have changed our preferences for our daughter.

My second concern is that the school will not be able to offer the same facilities for 120 children e.g. before & after school clubs.

My third concern is that all the extra 30 will be coming from outside the catchment area (as from the numbers I have seen there are less than 90 children in the catchment area). This will mean the traffic in the local area will be effected. Causing extra pollution and risk to children's safety with the extra cars.

My final concern is that this will not solve the problem you need to fix, you are assuming that preferences that parent's will choose will match your expansion plans.

I do understand that extra places need to be made available, but this current seem to be right option. It would seem that the increase demand warrants a new school or increasing a school that has an intake of 30 or 60 children.

I am writing to formally object to the proposals for both the expansion of Dobcroft Infant School by 1 class in 2015 and also to the proposed permanent expansion from 2016.

I believe this proposal will have an extremely negative impact on the school, the pupils and the surrounding area in many ways.

1. The school is already a 90 year intake, more than the majority of infant schools in the area. To increase this to 120 will make an already large intake feel extremely overwhelming to the very young children entering into the school especially at a time which is an extremely big step for most 4 year olds emotionally and mentally. This initial introduction to a school environment paves the way for a child's education and development and I believe this would be severely compromised should this increase go ahead.

2. Overcrowding

- the school is already an overcrowded school which only just manages to accommodate

the current number of children safely. The children already have less time both at PE and ICT on a weekly basis than the majority of schools and indeed than the recommended amount. This is due to limited central facilities to be shared amongst the current years. This pressure would only be increased. This also follows though to the playground area which is far too small to accommodate even another 30 children let alone another 90. I am extremely nervous that this could cause a real risk of serious accident to the children and also compromise the amount of playtime and fresh air the children can have which is essential to be able to learn effectively.

3. Disruption to the school with building work

- the current school is a not fit for purpose school to safely and effectively manage any further children so more suitable facilities and classrooms would be required. This will cause significant noise, disruption and a dangerous building site environment continuously each year. This is not a suitable environment for children to learn and play safely.

4. Increase in traffic

- there is already a significant number of cars at drop off and pick up time causing issues for residents and for children. Whilst I appreciate this is a common issue at schools, increasing the school size to above average would make this a really high risk issue

5. Lack of consideration for more suitable schools for expansion

- has Dobcroft been chosen purely for cost reasons over other local schools such as Dore or Eccelsall? This appears to be the case rather than actually assessing the real impact and actually fairly considering more appropriate alternatives

There are many other issues which need to be discussed and reviewed

I believe the lack of consultation over the proposed increase in intake in 2015 shows a panic response to a proper lack of planning rather than a properly managed process and a real lack of care for Sheffield residents.

Please take all mine and I'm sure other extremely concerned parents views into consideration and take this email as formal objection to both proposals.

I am writing to convey my grave concerns regarding the planned expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior School. My son is a prospective pupil, due to start there in September. We moved into the catchment area 5 years ago so that he would be able to attend Dobcroft. Given that this year's expansion is apparently a 'done deal' as was communicated to parents at the recent consultation meeting, I wish I could now change our first choice, but our current circumstances don't allow us to travel further afield. I have signed the petition calling for the abandonment of these plans and I wish to state on record that I strongly object to them on the following grounds:

- Dobcroft is already a large school, operating in a cramped environment. There is no room for an additional 30 children. Just last year, Dobcroft were unable to accommodate children in catchment and their message was clear – we cannot fit even one more child in this school. What has changed?
- Where will the additional 30 children be put? What resources will be lost as a result?
- Other schools are more oversubscribed than Dobcroft, particularly Ecclesall Infants. Why is the additional class not being put there?

- Why are you 'advertising' Dobcroft to families who are not in the catchment area? How is this fair?
- The learning experience of the child is clearly very low on your agenda here. This move will have a negative impact on pupils and I am concerned that attainment will suffer.
- The emotional needs of the children are also being ignored – how will this year's young intake cope in such a chaotic and busy environment? Quieter children will surely be overwhelmed by the sheer size of this 'super-school'. What additional support will be provided for them?
- Why haven't you consulted on the plans to increase Dobcroft this year? Why is the consultation period for permanent expansion so short? Clearly you are attempting to push this through and minimise any opposition, which is neither fair nor democratic.

I could ask additional questions such as 'why did you not start planning for this when you were first aware of the need to place extra children' but there wouldn't be any point, we are where we are. However, I am quite frankly appalled that the council's lack of foresight and judgement will potentially be to the detriment of my son's education and emotional wellbeing.

Please address my questions and concerns with full and frank responses asap.

Thank you for your response, which I find inadequate for a number of reasons.

Firstly, you describe this year's increase as temporary, and therefore not eligible for consultation. Do you understand that this is not a temporary increase for the children in that year group? Those extra children won't simply disappear after a year. This is a permanent change that will affect them throughout their early academic career. Worse still, the very fact that it is a 'temporary' arrangement, may lead the school to avoid ever putting permanent measures in place to support that year group.

Your Q&A document, and the cut and paste job you sent me below, fails to address the most important issue - the impact on the children. You state that an increase such as this has been made elsewhere with little impact on the school. Would the schools, children and parents in question agree with this generalisation? What evidence can you provide?

What attempts have been made to find an alternative to this year's increase? I demand to know why my son's year group is to suffer the effects of the council's shortsightedness. It is clear to me expanding Dobcroft is wholly unsuitable, even as a temporary solution. There is no good reason for it, no support for it and there is no room for it. The educational experience and attainment of the students will doubtless suffer if you continue to push these plans through, and I am certain that the next Ofsted report will show this to be the case.

It goes without saying that I strongly oppose the permanent increase at Dobcroft school from the next academic year. But I would also like answers regarding this year's expansion. In my view, as well as most other parents in the Dobcroft area, the council needs to take a step back and reconsider the plans for 2015-6. I do not accept your excuse that this change is

merely temporary and I refuse to allow my son's education to suffer as you attempt to put yet another 'patch' on this problem.

I await your satisfactory response.

If you have ever tried to drive down Millhouses Lane or Dobcroft Road or have ventured along Whirlowdale Crescent between 8.40 and 9.10 a.m. and between 3.15 and 3.50 p.m. every school day you will be aware of the traffic gridlock and ensuing chaos. Parents driving their children to school are already creating a dangerous situation twice every day and they are causing hazards for the children who are allowed to walk to school. These roads are really dangerous already for pedestrians and the prospect of 30 more cars is plainly ridiculous.

The proposed expansion of 30 more cars each day (to start with) and maybe more to follow in subsequent years, leaves me dumbfounded. Plainly the councillors planning this expansion do not live locally – if they did they would never have suggested this expansion.

Apart from the danger to the children walking to school (I wish there were more walking instead of being driven there), there is increasing bad behaviour seen between parent drivers and other motorists who are trying to negotiate their way through the gridlocks on all our local roads. Even the local cul-de-sacs have cars parked on both sides of their narrow roads during school starting and finishing times. The situation has worsened since September noticeably so and the prospect of 30 more cars arriving every day fill me with despair.

Stop this expansion idea now. There must be other schools in the area that would be willing to offer more places and where lives of pedestrians would not be put into danger.

Yours sincerely,

Local resident – watching the chaos unfold every day and having to wait until the school traffic has gone in order to get out of my property safely.

P.S. Residents who have to back out of their drives are increasingly in danger of being hit by another car – they can't see what is coming because of all the adjacent parked cars.

I have written previously expressing my concerns about the proposed Dobcroft expansion. I still have a lot of concerns, particularly about any building work etc being done correctly, however, following a meeting with governors today, it does appear from their figures that there will be more Dobcroft children in catchment not getting a place than I previously realised if the expansion does not go ahead.

I believe that children in catchment should be able to go to their local school if at all possible. Although I am aware that other schools have a greater problem than us, I do think that the expansion will at least mean that all our catchment children will get in and therefore I do support it for that reason.

I have today (2nd February) received an important consultation letter dated 16 January on the above topic from David Metcalfe (School Organisation Project Officer).

By this late delivery I have been denied attending any of the four 'Drop-in' sessions all of which took place in January.

I STRONGLY OBJECT to what amounts to a device designed to prevent nearby residents asking questions and providing feedback at these Drop-in sessions. Further Drop-in sessions should be arranged and the consultation dead-line of 11th February extended to accommodate these sessions.

What is being proposed would have a great impact on the area in which I live.

I look forward to hearing that I and perhaps others living nearby will not be denied our democratic right to ask questions from Council Officers and to give our views.

Your letter fails to address the fact that I missed the four drop-in meetings because of the late posting of your letter informing me of these meetings.

Your apology, acknowledging that I and others have been denied public access to Council Officers goes against your implied claim that the regulations in these matters have been followed

Sending an e-mail or letter in isolation is no substitute for taking part in question and answer sessions at public meetings.

If my original letter will be logged as feedback then it must be as a protest that I was not informed about the four public meetings with Council Officers.

My wife and I would like to lend our weight to the concerns shared by many parents (and residents) affected by the proposed expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior schools from 2016 to permanently support 4 classes in each year group and formally object to the proposal.

We like others are concerned with the logistics of expansion and why the school has been proposed in the first place. We understand and support the fact that there is a need within SW Sheffield to provide additional provision for primary school education and hope that there is sufficient funding in place that these needs can be properly met.

We believe that the children's' education, sense of well being and feeling that they are an integral part of a community is at the heart of providing a quality experience in which to foster positive outcomes for all children. Our principal concern is the experience of the children at the school and the quality of the environment in which they will spend the formative years of their education.

It is our understanding that there is evidence to support the fact that children thrive better in smaller schools and that the SCC believe that it is both preferential and beneficial to maintain primary schools with 3 intake classes or less per year group. For this reason alone the proposal to expand DIS/DJS appears to be incongruous although we recognise that many factors have to be taken into account. We have not evidenced the SCCs work done to date in terms of alternative options and would welcome the opportunity to have these evidenced to better understand how the SCC has arrived at their decision to support this proposal. (We have read the available information on your website but do not feel that it is particularly exhaustive nor encompassing).

Whatever the result of the proposal the SCC needs to consider the long term provision for primary education and the provision of quality places for all where they are required. This is a view shared by our MP Nick Clegg. In our view and in line with a steadily increasing birth rate it would seem prudent to consider the possibilities of constructing new schools.

We feel that the current size and scale of the school must already be sufficiently daunting for the children, without the prospect of a third more children. This will more densely populate an already crowded site. Already we feel that there is a degree of segregation that has to necessarily exist within the school (to allow it to function with its existing resources and amenities) and that children do not already know children across their year group. This affect would be further exacerbated by an increase in intake numbers leading to the children recognising fewer and fewer of their peers. This leads in our view to children potentially feeling less a part of a community and more of a number. Some secondary schools are this size and I still recall how daunting the first few weeks / months of secondary school were at 11.

The way that the school is currently sited and being single storey means that it is less imposing than a similar school would be if it were more condensed (taking up a smaller or even less footprint than the existing school). Although this does make the school sprawl and limits the amount of external space available for outdoor activities (supporting of physical and social development), we feel that it is important as it humanises the scale of the school. Entering into an environment at the age of 4/5 that is so densely populated we believe can be very intimidating for children and potentially limiting their well-being, happiness and development.

Any proposal to physically increase the number of pupils on site would necessarily impact on either the provision of outside space or the scale of the existing buildings both of which would have a negative impact on the school and the children's experience of it. The strain on common amenities and resources would of course be evident and adversely affect the children.

The demands on the teaching staff, management and administration would obviously also be affected and would need to be adequately catered for but the increase in pupil numbers can only be detrimental to some of these resources again potentially resulting in reducing the quality of the provision of care.

The logistics of trying to implement the use of shared resources such as the Hall, Kitchen, Library, IT suite, playground, around-school care without increasing the number of each of these facilities is likely to lead to compromises having to be made and again resulting in a poorer experience of school. Having read the Junior schools governor's report this view certainly seems to be supported across both sites and there is a concern that if the proposal were to go ahead there are insufficient funds to ensure the quality of provision of education.

We believe that the proposal is ill-considered and that alternative options should be studied further. We also recognise that both Clifford and Ecclesall infants / juniors would welcome the possibilities afforded by expansion and believe that there is scope to do so on their existing sites another view mirror by our MP.

We have read and support the analysis undertaken by Iain Bradley and many of the conclusions that he draws.

We believe that the following issues will also significantly detrimentally impact on the school:
Health and Safety Risk due to Increased Road Traffic/ Congestion / Pollution

- Compromises the quality of indoor amenities and outdoor spaces
- Health and safety risk in the playground and hall
- Lack of provision for nearby tertiary early learning provision (nursery places)
- Environmental impact

We also understand that there is a consultation planned which will affect catchment areas, the result of which will not be known prior to the Councils decision whether to proceed with the current proposed expansion.

Thank you for your consideration

I would like to raise my objection to the proposed plans to increase capacity at Dobcroft Infants and Junior School.

The parking and vehicle access to the school and surrounding roads is already dangerously over loaded. On numerous occasions i have had to go into the school to find the car owner who has blocked my drive, stopping me leaving for work.

This picture was Wednesday 4th February stopping me entering my drive. This is by no means an isolated incident. Most days cars are parked on the yellow lines on the junction of Whirlowdale Crescent and Pingle Road. Parents also park for up to 40 minutes before the end of school, just to ensure a parking space within close proximity to the school.

I will be strongly objecting to any additional places at this school, as the school management have shown that they can not manage the current volume of traffic and parking, so it can only get worse for residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to let you know what i think.

I am writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Juniors Schools. As parents of two children attending foundation stage in the Infants and Y3 in the Junior school and as a resident of the local area living on Dobcroft Road - where parking at school times is already a problem.

Please see below a summary of my concerns:

Dobcroft already has the **largest annual intake of children in the area**. The teachers already have to work very hard to stop this feeling intimidating to children. The addition of an extra 30 children per year will make the school feel much bigger and more overwhelming to new and existing children alike.

There is insufficient shared space and considerable **pressure on already tired shared areas**.

- The ICT Suite – because of existing demand for these facilities the children are only able to have a short period of time allocated to ICT each week. More children in school will squeeze this available time even further
- Twice weekly PE sessions may be threatened if the already complex logistics of the Hall can't accommodate the additional classes, especially in winter.
- Areas like the Hall, Library, play facilities and toilets will suffer significantly greater wear and tear as the number of children increases.

Lunchtimes will be even more busy and rushed. If the school is forced to move to three sittings to accommodate the extra numbers then some children will either be forced to eat very early or very late.

After -School Clubs, DASH (which I currently use will be busier and where will this facility go to?) and activities such as School Disco's, School Plays and Sports Days will become overcrowded and potentially a logistical nightmare for those organising and supporting

New classrooms cannot be added without **removing outdoor space**. With more children attending, more outdoor space would be appropriate rather than less. Children need enough space to let off steam after periods of intensive classroom learning.

Any building work needed will undoubtedly bring with it **disruption and safety implications** for the children. Our Foundation Stage children will experience this at least three times as:

1. the building work to create the new library & ICT area takes place
2. the building work to create new classrooms for the additional children in 2016 and 2017 takes place in the Infants School
3. the building work takes place to the Junior School to accommodate the additional numbers, starting the first year our Foundation Stage children join the Junior School. (If the Junior School building work is phased in year by year then our Children will experience this every single year they are at Junior School!)

Road Safety Danger and Traffic Congestion: The vast majority of new children will be from outside our catchment area. This means there will be a **significant increase in road congestion and parking challenges** in the surrounding roads at drop off and pick up times. By 2020, when our foundation children are in their final year of Juniors, this will mean the potential for an additional 180 parking spaces being sought (and fought over) in the area. We've all witnessed some of the "parking" and "right of way" wars that take place every morning along Whirlowdale Crescent, Pingle Road and Dobcroft Road. This a major concern to me as I live on Dobcroft Road and the road is already double parked at school times, making it difficult/impossible to safely reverse off our driveway currently.

I write with regard to the proposal to increase the capacity of Dobcroft Infant and junior school, therefore increasing the volume of traffic.

I live at the end of Whirlowdale crescent, on the corner to Dobcroft road. Some years ago yellow lines were painted on the corners around the school entrance but none were put on the corners at the end of Whirlowdale crescent. Subsequently there is alot of congestion in this area already.

I have great difficulty reversing out of my drive as people park close to my drive and on the corners. This with the increased traffic at school times, it is becoming a nightmare and not at all safe.

I did request double yellow lines in this area and was told I could have a single yellow line at a cost to myself which I was disgusted with.

I would definitely oppose this proposal unless I had help with at least some double yellow lines to help me get in and out of my drive.

I originally emailed you on the 20/1/15 outlining my concerns! Worryingly, to date I have not received an email back addressing this, why not?

In that email it gave you a link to an online petition that is currently live and actively attracting lots of support. The full petition and signature list with comments will be presented in full before the Cabinet meets in March! It would be useful if you could let me know ASAP if I need to submit the petition and support we have to date before the end of the consultation period 11/02/15? If so how?

To begin with I would like a response to my original email. However, following on from that I still feel there are many unanswered questions, which is unacceptable! I feel the Q&A document unhelpful and in its entirety doesn't answer any of the main concerns / worries.

I'm going to list direct questions to you in order to receive direct answers, something I feel is lacking from the consultation;

- My concerns lie with the lack of detailed information and genuine consultation, alongside the attitudes the 2015 intake will have to 'make do' and it's tough luck. These children have the same rights as the 2016 intake but are not being treated that way. With that in mind I want to specifically question the 2015 situation, although with no consultation being allowed it's difficult. I want to see the feasibility study for 2015.

- How are the health and safety implications of putting 30 children into an already crowded school being addressed? Please refer to the attached letter sent to a parent in 2014 as part of an appeal process. I would very much appreciate your comments on this document.

- In light of this how is the school going to comply with the BB103 guidelines in 2015?

- What provision is going to be put in place for 2015? It's happening in just over 6 months so I do not think the answer, "We are working with the school" is acceptable.

- The school has twice the national average of PLUS STAGE SEN (not SEN as the Q&A states) how will this be managed with a significant reduction in intervention space in 2015? This would be catastrophic for these children i.e loss of library, loss of ICT to accommodate the library books, less hall access due to extra demand for further PE lessons and staggered lunch entry.

- Why is there no consultation for 2015? There is no emergency in Dobcroft so a carefully planned increase is appropriate, if that is what is necessary.

- Why was Dobcroft selected and not Greenhill, as this has a central location, gross site capacity and is a good school (which all seem to be the relevant criteria)?

- I would like space per pupil figures for all the schools in the 2 mile radius of Dobcroft? These should be available as part of the feasibility studies.

- I have asked on numerous occasions for a response from Jayne Ludlam, Interim Executive Director for children, young people and families. As an advocate for excellence in Early Years Education across Sheffield what is her view on a four form intake with limited provision? The children are being forgotten and the council's primary concern is traffic! It's interesting to note that some of those children starting in September are barely 4 years old and under the old system would still be accessing nursery provision in a much smaller / nurtured environment! I want to hear Jayne's response please!

- Children have to walk through classrooms to access outside, hall and ICT space. Coupled with potential building work this is incredibly disruptive, children cannot learn in an environment like that, how will this be addressed?

- Will this make Dobcroft Infants and Juniors the biggest school in South Yorkshire? Talking about them as separate schools is ridiculous, they are both accessed through the same gate!

- Why is the consultation so short? Can we have more time?

- The biggest issue from the school staffs point of view is the budget.. Why just over 2 million? Who decided on the budget? How was it worked out? Will it cover the expansion needed in such an under funded building?

- If the proposal goes through, how will it be ready for 2016? It has to be designed and go through planning before it even starts. If the proposal does not go through, exactly what is in place for the 30 displaced children of the 2015 cohort & their sibling priority for school places in future years?

I hope that you are able to answer my questions and I look forward to your response
I can not stress enough how opposed I am to the expansion and how I feel that the people most affected by all of this have been forgotten.... OUR CHILDREN

I am writing to object to the plans for adding an extra class of thirty children to the intake of September 2015.

Dobcroft school is already at absolute capacity if not in fact already suffering from over crowding. As a parent of two children currently attending the infant school and being a regular volunteer I have first hand experience of how the school works.

Whilst the library may be seen by the council as a luxury that can easily be disposed of I would like to point out that this space is absolutely vital for quiet learning, small group teaching and special needs children. This is not purely a lending library.

I have helped voluntarily in school for three years and have experienced the needs of foundation, Y1 and Y2. In every year there has been need for this space whether it's one to one reading with a child that struggles to concentrate in a classroom environment or helping small groups of high achievers so they don't get bored because the rest of the class can't keep up with them. There are many examples but perhaps most importantly it's the children with special needs who will suffer the most without this space.

There are also health and safety issues, for example there is a child in my child's class who despite having full time one to one supervision regularly throws things across the classroom.

I have witnessed this child throwing chairs and swiping the entire contents off a desk before. This child has to be physically restrained by 2-3 adults and is immediately removed from the classroom into the library to calm down. If the library is turned into a classroom where do the staff take children like this? It is certainly not acceptable to use the hard floor areas of the cloakroom or main hall, perhaps it will be in reception or even worse in the classroom. Has this even been considered?

There are many other reasons why I object which have been covered very thoroughly by other parents.

I find it very disappointing that Dobcroft is generally penalised because of its location and success. It is to the immense credit of the staff and management that the school is doing so well as the lack of funding is disgraceful. We as parents are having to finance basic repairs and improvements to an ageing and neglected building whilst in less affluent areas we hear of schools with amazing facilities and equipment because funding is thrown at them via pupil premium and because they are failing. Will the council not be satisfied until Dobcroft is dragged down to its knees?

I appreciate that school places are in crisis but evidence suggests that the need for extra places does not lie within Dobcroft catchment. Please put the extra places where there is a proven and long lasting requirement and don't ruin a great school with a short sighted and ill considered knee jerk decision.

We are local residents living at the junction of Dobcroft Road and Silverdale Road and wish to lodge our objection to your proposal to permanently add another class to each year at Dobcroft Infant and Junior schools. We have no vested interest in the school per se as our children are past school age. From Reception to Year Six is seven more classes of thirty children each – a total of 210 extra children in the two schools eventually.

We wish to object on two grounds – traffic congestion outside our house and the fact that your own Q&A paper indicates that expansion is unnecessary anyway.

Traffic

There are three means of access to the schools at present – via Whirlowdale Crescent and via each end of the footpath at the back of the school that runs between Dobcroft Rd and Millhouses Lane. Already the school run situation is inconsiderate to local residents and dangerous to children as literally hundreds of cars transport their children to and from Dobcroft Schools each day. Whirlowdale Crescent becomes totally gridlocked meaning more and more cars stop in the two areas around the end of the footpath. Parents start arriving with their cars up to thirty minutes before school times so as to get a parking space. The nearer it gets to school time the more parents arrive late and stop on the double yellow lines, white zigzag lines or park across residents' driveways while they wait to collect children.

At the junction of Dobcroft Rd and Silverdale Rd, cars parking on the double yellow lines and pavement outside the electricity sub-station is a regular occurrence. We have seen vehicles drive onto the grass verges and even onto the middle of the grass island at the road junction outside our house. We have directly experienced cars blocking our own driveway and driving onto the verge in front of us leaving tyre tracks and mud. We have never ever seen any police or traffic wardens attempt to control this chaos but have witnessed plenty of arguments and bad language as a result.

Very occasionally the school arranges for coaches to pick up and drop off children for school trips. The coaches park at the junction outside our house to do this and the chaos has to be seen to be believed.

Your consultation document makes no mention of the fact there is another school less than three hundred yards away on Millhouses Lane – St Wilfreds – where virtually every child is transported by car as the catchment area for this Catholic school is the whole city. That already brings many dozens more cars on to Millhouses Lane at the same time. It is literally impassable along Millhouses Lane and Whirlowdale Crescent at school drop off and pick up times already. We are concerned that if your proposal is approved then most of the extra traffic will come to the area outside our house.

To suggest that the area can sustain a development that would add 210 extra children to the schools – most of whom will be transported by car - is frankly impractical. For whatever reason, many parents drive their children to school rather than walk hence the current chaos will be exacerbated by your proposal. Very few children of primary school age seem to arrive by the number 83 bus.

In your consultation document you clearly argue that it is more economic to create extra capacity in one school rather than try and add smaller capacity at each of several schools. Dobcroft has presumably been selected because it is in the middle of the South West area therefore in relative terms it is the easiest for the most number of pupils to get to. However this is quite a big area. Springfield School catchment extends over four miles away so any children transported from that area will be brought by car. Your proposal therefore will inevitably result in greater congestion, traffic chaos and pollution (both noise and air) in the area around our houses.

Capacity

Your own Q&A paper states that five schools in SW Sheffield have capacity already (40 spare places in 13/14). It also states that seven schools have more spaces than first choice requests (183 places). To an impartial observer that suggests the problem is that parents want to choose the 'outstanding' schools (Dobcroft, Ecclesall, Totley) even though they don't live near to them.

Obviously if a parent knows that there are spaces available in their local school and thus they are guaranteed to get in, there is no incentive at all to put that school as first choice – you know you can get it no matter what you put first or second. So obviously those parents will put perceived 'better' schools first and second on the off-chance that they might be lucky. They have nothing to lose. Your solution appears to be to create more capacity at Dobcroft so that more parents can choose it as first choice even though it is not their nearest school. A solution that involves expanding Dobcroft is addressing the wrong issue. You should be improving the other schools that have capacity so that parents will put them as first choice. Even more straightforward is to remove the concept of choice in the first place – everyone should go to their local school which should be of sufficient quality. Education is not a market so demand and supply rules should not apply.

By allowing children to go to their nearest school also addresses the traffic issues. Indeed at this time, an alternative proposal that you should consider is adding more capacity at the other schools and actually reducing Dobcroft's to enable children to go to their local school in order to alleviate the existing problems.

The South West of the city generally already has massive congestion and pollution in the rush hour caused almost exclusively by people transporting their children to school by car. The difference during school holiday time is startling with virtually no queues at all on the main roads and no traffic outside our house.

The Council's own Transport Vision (from your web site) states you want to "reduce congestion, reduce the number of car trips, reduce carbon, reduce noise pollution, improve air quality and encourage walking". Precisely how adding a couple of hundred car trips twice a day to Dobcroft school helps to achieve any of those excellent objectives is difficult to see. Indeed the existing situation of a large number of school runs in cars is producing exactly the opposite effect on the environment.

I would like to raise the following concerns regarding the proposed permanent class expansion per year group from three to four.

Given that parents have not been consulted over the temporary increase for school year 15/16, it is only fair that we get the opportunity now.

I have significant concerns about the ability of the Dobcroft School site to accommodate what eventually will be 190 more pupils plus teaching and support staff.

- There is limited scope for further physical development of the site. There are already six classes housed in temporary mobile classrooms. The fact that a key learning resource, the infant's library, is having to be turned into a classroom shows that room is already at premium. It is impossible to see how any additional space could be found without negatively impacting on the indoor or outdoor space needed by current students never mind the additional year groups that will need some where to go at break and mealtimes.
- The Dobcroft site is already struggling for sufficient and accessible sanitary arrangements – for 180 children in the mobile class rooms a visit to the toilet is a trip outside and to a facility is also then shared with 60 other children. I am not sure how this sits with any relevant Health and Safety legislation, but more students will only add to this unsatisfactory situation.
- Provision of suitable space and time for lunch is also a concern - again the site is already challenged with servicing its current headcount within the time and space available at lunchtime. Moving one hundred per cent of the infant population to free school meals already seems a big ask. I already feel that children are being rushed through meal times and more children in September will obviously make this situation considerably worse.
- The existing issue of traffic congestion will already be apparent to anybody driving through this part of Sheffield at the start or end of the school day.
 - The local roads are simply incapable of coping with the current traffic levels - adding 400 more journeys everyday would simply be disastrous! An increase in traffic is guaranteed since the new places are being offered to families well outside of the defined catchment.
 - Each term there is some incident regarding dangerous or illegal parking – this ranges from the school leadership having to remind parents of their responsibilities to the police becoming actively involved.
 - The traffic issue not helped by the main access roads also being key routes for other schools – Dobcroft Road & Silverdale to the north and Millhouse Lane & St Wilfred's to the East.

- Car parking on site is already insufficient. In addition to the immediate danger of high levels of traffic poses I suspect that pollution levels would already be much higher than desirable.

Notwithstanding these clear practical concerns I have over the proposal, I am also uncomfortable with the whole principle. There is no issue with provision within the long defined Dobcroft catchment. In fact over last few years Dobcroft has consistently welcomed children from outside its catchment.

Since the lack of places exists elsewhere in the city then perhaps the situation is best resolved at source, rather than shifting the problem elsewhere and forcing families to travel further to school.

This proposal poses a significant threat to the quality of education & experience provided by Dobcroft Schools – such an outcome does not serve the needs of any future pupils, whether within current catchment or forced to cross the city for a school place.

Regarding the proposed expansion plans for Dobcroft Infant and Junior schools, we would like to make the following points:

Traffic/congestion

As a resident of Whirlowdale Crescent we already experience the following issues:

- a) Parking over drives
- b) Double parking so emergency vehicles wouldn't have access
- c) Inappropriate parking such as parking too close as to block other cars from leaving
- d) Disputes between drivers over parking spaces in some cases leading to confrontation
- e) Safety of children walking to school

These problems are already at such a level that on occasions police have had to come into the school to ask drivers (who were watching a school play) to move their cars.

Having read the statistical information provided, it is apparent that the majority of these additional places will be filled by people living further afield. Therefore, this will undoubtedly lead to an increase in the number of people driving their children to school.

Whilst I appreciate that both the Infant and Junior schools support and promote a 'walk to school' policy, I do not feel this is adequate in relieving any of the problems listed above as not only will people live too far away to walk but also many are working parents who need to drive their children to school before going straight to work.

I write to express my consternation at the plan to increase the intake at Dobcroft Infant and Junior schools.

Firstly, in my opinion, 120 pupils is too large an intake for an infant school. Pupils, who in some instances are only just 4 years of age, find the transition to infant school from their home setting, or from nursery, a daunting one. To transfer into an intake of 120 pupils is unacceptable. Pupils will feel intimidated and personalisation will be compromised leading to a fall in educational standards. Many educationalists argue that a two form entry is the ideal. It allows the children to know all the adults who work in their school thus allowing them to feel safe and secure. A four form pupil entry is not educationally desirable.

Secondly, the traffic around Dobcroft schools at the end of school and at collection times following after school clubs, is already a real issue. The extra cars an additional 210 pupils will bring (most of whom will be drawn from well outside the current catchment area) pose a huge health and safety risk to all. The local area simply cannot cope with an influx of an extra 120 pupils plus parents and younger siblings. The belief that this issue could be resolved by the addition of access points and parking arrangements, as 'has been achieved in other schools' (FAQs), is frankly laughable. It can surely only be the conclusion of someone who has never seen the school site.

Thirdly, the school simply does not have the capacity to increase any further. Cloakroom, dining, IT facilities are already stretched to breaking point. Building mobile classrooms on site does not solve this problem. Whilst it may be physically possible to put an extra 6 mobiles onto the site, there is no way students would be able to fit into the dining hall at lunchtime or have timetabled access to IT or PE facilities. The building of an extra 6 mobiles on site will mean that Dobcroft's hard work to become an eco school will be forgotten as the council builds on top of the allotment and forest school areas. There will thus be very limited outdoor space for children to play. Outdoor play is a vital element of pupils' education and contributes to their health and well being. This, therefore, will lead to a fall in educational standards. As the Junior school governors have pointed out, many of the elements that give the school it's Ofsted outstanding rating will be lost. School performances, residentials, whole year group outings will be a thing of the past, destroying the outstanding educational experience currently offered.

Finally, the figures that project future pupil numbers show that Dobcroft should not be expanding as it can offer sufficient places to catchment pupils. Next year, the projected figure for students in catchment is less than the 90 places currently available! Expansion is required at Ecclesall Infant school /Clifford and both schools would welcome the opportunity to expand to welcome in the increased pupil numbers from their local area.

I strongly urge the council to re consider this ill conceived proposal.

We wish to raise our formal objections to the proposed expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools. We are local residents as well as parents of children at the schools and object strongly on the following grounds.

Firstly, regarding the extra intake planned this September , it is very objectionable that this has been pushed ahead without consultation with parents and without, what we feel to be appropriate supporting statistics. The small number of projected place shortages for this intake does not warrant the disruption to existing children and is particularly short sighted given that it will increase pressure on the school in future years, as places filled this year by out of catchment pupils, will have a knock on effect with sibling applications in subsequent years (years in which it could more reasonably be agreed that there is legitimate pressure on places from catchment children) . The plan to cram in an additional class in September will have a negative impact on all existing pupils by reducing space for play and shared learning , mealtimes , PE and cloakroom and toilet access will be very problematic. Increasing numbers will make the infant school a more intimidating place for the young children. Dobcroft already has three form intake and is, as such bigger than other schools in Sheffield, it is clearly at capacity and it is impossible to see how the wellbeing and education of the children will not suffer by further expansion. Although we are convinced that staff and leadership at the schools would always endeavour to do their best for

all pupils , it is difficult to see how they could manage with such increased pressure. The plans for expansion are particularly frustrating given that there is massive opposition by parents and local residents, but significant support for expansion at other local schools (Ecclesall).

It follows that all the above objections apply to any further expansion , Dobcroft is already a large school and we feel very strongly that increasing numbers would destroy the community feel of the school and make the experience of children much poorer. Young children at the schools can already find the transition to a large school setting very difficult and increased numbers would make their experience more frightening. Overcrowding at meal times , whole school events and playtime would be significant .

Please accept this email as notification of my grave concern at the proposal to expand Dobcroft Infant and Junior School.

My concerns centre around the following:

1. The huge loss of outdoor space that would result from the creation of a new building. Just when the benefit of outdoor learning is starting to be recognised, you decide to drastically reduce the space available AND add another 200 or so children to share that reduced space!
2. The funding, which should you go ahead with your proposals I will be seeking re-assurances on.
3. Where the additional children will be from - it must be outside of catchment as there aren't a further 30 children IN catchment? This then changes the nature of what has been a very local school.
4. The additional traffic in Millhouses which will become unbearable and quite frankly dangerous.

I am very interested to hear why you would choose to expand Dobcroft school given all of the substantiated concerns that have been raised by a huge number of people, and given there is a very clear, and welcome, alternative in expanding Clifford and Eccleshall? I would like to see the Impact Assessment that was presumably prepared in reaching your proposal - pls could you forward / provide a link?

I am also particularly incensed that you have been able to increase the coming September intake without any consultation and only communicating your intent 9 months in advance (giving parents no time to properly consider alternatives)! Was that a lack of planning?

I look forward to hearing back from you.

As a grandparent of two children @ Dobcroft, I am very concerned re proposal for expansion @ Dobcroft.
It is not appropriate.
I support the petition against this proposal.

I found out about the Sheffield School Reorganisation through my three year old son's nursery. My family and I have been resident in the catchment for Dobcroft for a long time now and have always expected our children to go to Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools. Needless to say we were alarmed to hear that in recent years children had been rejected from the catchment due to the school being oversubscribed. We felt it was particularly unfair that new families moving to the catchment area specifically so that their children could attend the school would and could be prioritised over us if they lived closer in distance despite living in the area for much less time than us. Having to send our son to any other school would make our lives extremely difficult given that my husband has a long commute to work and has to leave at 5.30am and that we share transport and have more than one child to attend to in a morning. Dobcroft is the nearest school to us and the easiest by far to walk to.

Consequently we were absolutely delighted to hear about the potential extension to Dobcroft Infant School and would be fully in support of such a measure. In our opinion it is a fair and sensible longer-term solution to the problem of over-subscribed schools in the area and having read the more detailed information on offer regarding the proposal it seems favourable over the alternatives that have been considered. I wanted to take this opportunity to express our full support regarding the extension to Dobcroft School.

I am a local resident (Millhouses lane) and very concerned about the expansion of Dobcroft school, and its proposed permanence. **I wish to formally object to this proposal** as I am worried about the increased volume of traffic along an already very busy road-particularly at school times.

I was recently on paternity leave for two weeks and witnessed first hand for the first time the chaos and gridlock outside our house. The double parking and three zebra crossings mean incredible congestion. There are three schools on our road!

Personally, we will be able to walk when the time comes, as many local residents clearly already do (I saw the numbers blocking the road on the crossings) but I understand these extra places are from outside catchment, so will mean extra cars clearly. Its hard to see how this will work next year, let alone if the increase is made permanent and 200+ extra cars are in the area every day.

Moreover I have worked in schools in more affluent areas where students from outside local catchment have been integrated. This can be a very effective and desirable way of raising aspiration and attainment. I am in strongly in favour. However, I believe it is best implemented when such pupils are in a small minority and are spread across year groups. **In my experience, there is a tipping point where you start to see the school that you valued and wished to spread being instead overly diluted. A increase of 50% (it is not 33% as has been stated, as it means 30 extra on top of 60 that exist) in pupil intake is a huge proportional increase.**

For me, for such a drastic problem regarding numbers as it seems exists, **a new school has to be part of the solution. I am unaware if this is feasible, but the old LEA building at Bannerdale is set in massive grounds and seems to be doing very little...**

I understand Governors at Dobcroft are against this decision, both in the short and long term. There are other excellent local schools who are keen to increase their size and number of pupils. Surely this is a better option?

This also seems to be the preferred option of Nick Clegg MP. I am sure you will not be

engaging in party politics in making further decisions.

i am a local resident of this school, and my 2 older children attended both schools, my younger child attends Dobcroft Junior at present.

I have three main areas of concern regarding this expansion,

1- how the quality of education will be affected at the schools. ? This could be related to limitation of classroom space, staff ratios, play space.

2- The impact on the local roads with extra numbers driving to the schools.

3- The demographic mix at the schools- will they inevitably take non catchment children from different parts of the city

I would like to object to the proposed expansion of Dobcroft school. At the moment, one extra class is proposed for the Infant school. This will involve the closure of the library which you would thought of as vital when you are introducing infants to reading and the contraction of Dash which is very important to working parents. If the school is expanded by an extra 33 per cent then the consequences for parking will be dangerous as it is already very busy as any out of catchment children will be coming by car.

I write with reference to the proposed expansion to Dobcroft Infants and Junior schools in 2016 and the proposed emergency expansion in 2015.

I live in the catchment for Ecclesall Infants and would be very disappointed if my child did not get a place at our local school. Local schools are essential to community cohesion and reducing road traffic . I note that you consider that Dobcroft is well served to meet a wider geographic area, though your consultation document does not anticipate an extensive need across that wider area.

However, I do think that due to proposals for housing and an increase in families in the local demographic, it is likely that an expansion is required at several schools, including Ecclesall, Dobcroft, Dore and Totley.

I note that the option of expansion at Ecclesall and Clifford is considered unduly expensive, though this does seem to me to be the most appropriate option to meet the actual identified need.

I would suggest that other savings could be made in merging linked infant and junior schools in terms of management and governance. Having separate governing bodies and management teams appears to me to be excessively wasteful in these times of reduced budgets.

I trust that my views will be reported in full to the committee considering this matter.

I am writing with regard to the proposed increase from 3 classes per year to 4 classes per year at Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools.

As a parent to one child currently in Year 3 (juniors) and one in Year 1 (infants) and also as

a local resident, I would like to express my concerns over the impact the proposals will have over the education of my children, their well being and the impact on the local area.

It seems to me that Dobcroft is an easy choice for the Council because they are strong schools which still carry "outstanding" classifications from Ofsted so it prevents putting further pressure on other local schools which do not fare so well. However, with 3 classes per year group, Dobcroft already has one of the largest year groups in Sheffield, let alone the South West region. Topley school only has one class per year and recently appeared at the top of the Primary School league tables. This cannot be a coincidence and my fear is that the quality of education provided at Dobcroft will slip as the Schools struggle to cope with the sheer volume of children coming through.

My other concerns are as follows:

1) The issue with increased school places required from September 2015 intake, according to statistics, is not an issue within Dobcrofts' catchment area. In fact the issue lies within Topley and Ecclesall Infant Schools' areas. In addition, I understand that Ecclesall Infant School welcome an increase from a 2 class to 3 class intake.

2) By adding an additional Reception Class in September 2015, which I understand is "a done deal" with no consultation, you will be taking a much needed and wanted resource, as this additional class will be placed in the current Library. It also means additional children are crammed into a school which is already not 'fit for purpose'. We already have 1 classroom where children need to walk through another classroom to obtain access to the rest of the school. By placing this additional class in the Library this will create the same problem. Why is it acceptable to disrupt other classes?

3) Dobcroft Infant & Juniors Schools have a high proportion of SEN children. By adding additional children numbers to the school I fail to see how the excellent level of teaching for these children and infact all children can be maintained?

4) There are currently insufficient toilet facilities at the Infant School to cope with an additional class in 2015 let alone any more. Already there are 2 classrooms that are in portacabins which need to cross outside to access the toilets. Is this really acceptable?

5) There is not enough spare land at either school to facilitate further buildings. The Infant School playground is already small and cannot be made any smaller without infringing on the safety and enjoyment of the children. If the plan is to build on the playing fields at the Junior School then this sends out a particularly negative message the Council places on health, fitness and sport in Schools and will meet fierce opposition from parents across both Schools.

6) Following the introduction of free school meals, the Infant School already struggles to get the children through at lunchtime and in fact lunchtime already lasts 1hr 20 mins so already cuts into the daily teaching time. If the proposals are to stagger lunchtime, this will mean some children going long periods of time without a meal which will, without question, affect their concentration in lessons. In fact no child should be expected to eat their lunch after 1.00pm as many will have had their breakfast before 7.30am and can not last until 1.00pm before eating their lunch.

7) The school hall will not be able to hold all children at once if there is an increase in numbers, especially for assembly time. What about community spirit - bringing all the children together?

8) Increasing the annual intake and presumably the catchment area will result in more parents dropping off by car as they will have to travel further to get to the schools. As both schools are adjacent with 2 other schools very close by, it is already a bottle neck in the local vicinity and there is a significantly increased risk to the children of bringing extra traffic to the area at drop off/pick up time. Has anyone from the Council been to the school at drop off / pick up to see the problems we already have?

9) I understand Ecclesall C of E School and Clifford Infant School are both canvassing to obtain the extra intake and obtain the extra funding. Other schools in the South West of Sheffield have class sizes of under 30 such as Hallam and Nethergreen so there are other options for the Council.

10) Last year, 8 children in catchment did not get a place at Dobcroft. This was unprecedented. Is that enough to warrant an increase of 210 children across both schools? In addition, I would be interested to know how many children outside catchment obtained a place in the school last year?

11) Finally, I don't want my children or anybody else's children to attend a 'super-sized' infants school. It will be more like a Secondary school and far too large for them to feel safe and noticed. I understand this point is an emotional statement, but we are talking about children, where many will just have turned 4 years old!

Please consider these points when making the final decision about where the increase will be and if they are absolutely necessary at all.

Having now had the opportunity to read the Frequently Asked Questions document (as updated 4th February 2015), I have a number of concerns and queries in regard to the information provided on page 5 under the heading "Won't this make the school too big?"

If one had no knowledge of the layout and proximity of the Dobcroft Infant and Dobcroft Junior schools, then the comparisons drawn in this section in relation to 'through' primaries and Lydgate Infant and Junior Schools may provide a relevant response. However, as I would assume that those responsible for preparing the document would know the layout and proximity of the two Dobcroft Schools, it should be clear that the comparisons made on page 5 are incorrect and misleading. Whilst Dobcroft Junior and Dobcroft Infants schools are separate buildings and have separate leadership, they essentially share the same site, with the schools only separated by a fence. As such they have a shared car park, a shared main entrance and exit, both schools are only accessible via Pingle Road or the pathway that links Dobcroft Road and Millhouses Lane.

As such if comparisons are to be made to 'through' primaries, then it seems unreasonable to compare the size of each school individually rather than as a combined entity, i.e. having 630 pupils currently and 840 if the proposed expansion goes ahead. This would make it impossible to provide any comparison in size between Dobcroft and any 'through' primary.

Also the comparison to Lydgate Infant and Junior schools also fail to provide details on the significant (and therefore material) differences between these schools and Dobcroft. You fail to articulate that the Lydgate schools occupy two completely separate sites. They have

completely different entrances, different parking arrangements, are accessed via different roads, etc. Therefore, it must be made clear at the presentation of any proposal that the council has NO comparator or case study for how a school of 840 pupils, which are both accessed via the same entrance, and are both essentially on the same site. Therefore, Sheffield council cannot, with any accuracy, predict the impact on children attending the school, the impact of parking in the local vicinity, etc. A fact which will be further compounded by the fact that there is less distance between the Dobcroft Schools and St Wilfreds School, than there is between Lydgate Infants and Lydgate Junior schools.

Whilst it is reasonable to seek to reassure parents and residents with the FAQ document, it is not reasonable to fail to articulate major disparities when one school is compared to another to provide reassurance. I would therefore seek some reassurance that these comparisons will not be made as part of any proposals put in front of the Councillors without clearly highlighting where such major differences occur.

I am writing to register my opposition to the current plans to increase the intake at Dobcroft Infant school.

I am a parent of a child in the school, have a younger child who will hopefully go there, and am a very local resident who has to deal with the traffic problems that already exist at drop off and pick up time.

The school is already full to the brim. There aren't enough toilets for children already there. Lunchtime already takes all of the allotted time to get every child fed, and two classes are already in 'temporary' classrooms - and have been for a very long time.

From the information I have seen, the places available are sufficient for the expected intakes over the next few years. Geographically Dobcroft may be in the right area for the overflow of the other local oversubscribed schools, but that is the only reason I can see for Dobcroft being the school that is extended. The actual layout and footprint of the school is certainly not adequate for expansion. Also it is already larger than most of the other local schools. So why should it be increased more?!

We moved to the area for a good school. We could have chosen a school of Dobcroft's proposed size - but we chose to move away from that school for that very reason.

As a local resident I object to more children attending Dobcroft from out of catchment as there is already traffic chaos caused by parents parking around school. Often the bus becomes stuck and has to wait. Roads are blocked and it is dangerous for children trying to cross the road safely.

Expanding Dobcroft seems like a short term reaction to a problem that surely should have been flagged up years ago. Surely someone at the council looks at local birth rates and links this to school intake?! So why the sudden shock that local schools don't have enough places for THIS academic reception year?

Other local schools are asking to be expanded. I find it ridiculous that a school that really does not want, nor is really viable to be expanded, is.

I have seen that the council is not willing to look into the problems of the hall being too small, too few toilets, residents objections and local traffic issues will not be looked into until planning is being sought. How much time and money will this waste if then there are too many issues/objections to go forward?

I look forward to a response.

Many thanks for your reply. A number of concerns that parents/the school have are still not being addressed by the team. These are:

How are the health and safety issues being addressed? The stock answer of "30 extra children isn't that much" doesn't apply when you are talking about a building designed as a 2 form entry and is full to bursting.

What provision is being put in place for 2015? It's happening in just over 6 months time the stock answer of "we are working with the school" is insufficient.

The school has twice the national average of Plus Stage SEN children, how are their needs going to be met with a huge loss of intervention space in 2015? This will be catastrophic for these children if it's not addressed.

Why no consultation for 2015? There is no emergency in Dobcrofts catchment.

Crisis catchments such as Ecclesall and Totley will not be able to access the extra places at Dobcroft, these will be filled with children from closer schools such as Holt House, as they have admissions criteria priority. How is the SCC addressing the immediate crisis in Ecclesall and Totley?

Can we have a copy of the feasibility report?

Why Dobcroft and not Greenhill? It's central, has gross site capacity and is a good school.

Can we see the space per pupil figures for the schools in a two mile radius? We need this information for informed consultation.

Why is the consultation so short? We still do not have all the information? Surely to consult you need information.

Why 2.1 million? Who decided the budget? Will it cover all the expansion needed in buildings already not fit for purpose? How was it calculated?

If the proposal goes through, how will it be ready for the 2016 intake?

If the proposal does not go through what will become of the 30 displaced 2015 children?

If you could reply specific to any of these concerns it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you

As a local resident, I would like to register my opposition to the proposed expansion of Dobcroft School on the grounds of traffic management and the health and safety implications of the additional traffic movements.

The increased traffic movements/parking requirements that the additional places would generate would have a negative impact on the already congested streets in the vicinity of the school at drop off and pick up times. This would increase the risk of serious injury to pupils crossing the roads to school as parents increasingly park close to junctions and in restricted areas in their bid to get as close to school to park to drop off their children, giving no regard to the children either walking to school or crossing over in the vicinity of school.

With only 2 days to go until "consultation" closes we still have not received a response from you regarding these basic questions.

We do not believe this process can be considered in anyway a fair consultation as requests for information which fundamentally shape the nature and issues of the proposal are being ignored. We wish this observation to be clearly registered with whoever is running this process!

Please provide the information requested below before the end of consultation.

There are now only 2 days to go until the end of consultation and I have received no acknowledgement or attempt to answer the questions I raised with you on 26 January.

Please could you provide some meaningful responses to key questions and concerns parents are raising over this proposal:

The school has twice the national average of Plus Stage SEN children, how are their needs going to be met with a huge loss of intervention space in 2015? The effects will be catastrophic for these children if it's not addressed.

Why has there been no consultation for 2015? There is no emergency in Dobcroft's catchment area so do your "emergency laws" actually valid in this scenario?

Crisis catchments such as Ecclesall and Totley will not be able to access the extra places at Dobcroft as these will be filled with children from closer schools such as Holt House, as they have admissions criteria priority. So how is the SCC addressing the immediate crisis in Ecclesall and Totley?

Can we have a copy of the feasibility report?

Why Dobcroft and not Greenhill? It's much more "central" to the SW area and has gross site capacity?

Can we see the space per pupil figures for the schools in a two mile radius? We need this information for informed consultation.

Why is the consultation so short? We still do not have all the information? Surely to consult you need information?

Why 2.1 million? Who decided the budget? Will it cover all the expansion needed in buildings already not fit for purpose? How was it calculated?

If the proposal goes through, how will it be ready for the 2016 intake?

What expert advice has been sought about the psychological and educational implications of imposing a very large school on very young children? And if so, what specifically was advised?

What will happen to the Dash facility? The school do not appear to have a workable solution

despite you saying that it is for the school to resolve.

How is encouraging more cars into a heavily populated residential area acceptable?

The Consultation meetings at school were billed as the opportunity to get questions answered and to register concerns. However, the majority of Council Officers attending knew little of the proposal and could not answer questions. They also captured very few questions or concerns raised which means that the parents concerns and questions are likely to be woefully under-represented both quantitatively and qualitatively. Surely that means that due process has not been followed?

Please respond to these questions, none of which are new, before the end of consultation so that other parents may also consider the responses meaningfully.

Also see attachment at end of document

Please consider this a formal contribution to the current consultation about 2016 expansion of Dobcroft Infant School. I write in the capacity of a parent and citizen, rather than a school governor, although I do also sit on Dobcroft Infant School Governing Body as well.

I am firmly of the opinion that Sheffield City Council should be acting based upon the best evidence available to them. Over the last few weeks I have been looking at the data behind school application forecasts, and produced the attached note using public data provided by SCC. Of course, these forecasts are merely estimates - the factors of migration and school preference are imperfect things to model. But, I believe they are as robust as anything the council has to work with. On that basis my comments are thus:

1. The 2015 temporary expansion of Dobcroft School (not formally part of this consultation).
- The data suggests that Dobcroft Catchment will have a small amount of pressure in 2015. It suggests Ecclesall catchment will have SIGNIFICANT pressure. Why was the decision taken to expand a school with much less pressure than one with greater pressure? Is there a better answer than 'So children in Ecclesall and Totley who won't get a place in their chosen school won't have to travel too far to the school we put them in but they didn't want to go to?' That is the conclusion parents are drawing. If there is a better one, I urge you to publish it.

2. The 2016 expansion of Dobcroft School
- The data suggests that whilst Dobcroft will have some pressure in coming years, Both Ecclesall and Totley will have greater pressure. The data suggests to me that 30 places in SW Sheffield may well not be enough. The council should look at the long term concerns in Ecclesall and Totley. Would 2 interventions, one in each catchment, not offer a better solution to the planning area problem than merely solving the 3rd biggest catchment problem in Dobcroft?

I am happy to talk with councillors about the data if helpful. I am open and honest about the analysis and support collaborative working. In that spirit, I wish to raise now the questions I will ask under FOI should a decision be taken to expand Dobcroft Infant School and no others from 2016 to ensure SCC will be able to provide answers it is comfortable with.

Question: Did The School Re-organisation Team present the forecasting work done by Dobcroft Infant School Governing Body, published on SCC's website, to the Cabinet in order to inform their decision making?

If No: Why did the school re-organisation team not think this analysis was relevant to the decision making process, were other forecasts presented and what was the methodology for any forecast numbers that were presented?

If Yes: Upon what basis did the Cabinet think that investing in a solution which leaves 80-85% of the problem in SW Sheffield unaddressed, when intervening in other catchment areas would solve a much greater proportion of the problem, was an appropriate use of taxpayer's money?

Finally, SCC will at some point soon have 2015 application data at its disposal in order to have a better understanding of the problem prior to a 2016 decision. Based upon my data modelling work I predict that:

-Dobcroft will receive 80-90 applications from in catchment. Combined with priority applications from out of catchment, I anticipate there being 10-20 places left for other catchment children within it's intake of 120.

-I predict that a few of these will be taken by holt house catchment children.

-I predict that the remainder will be taken by Ecclesall and Totley children, very few of which chose to come here above their catchment school, the majority of which were placed here as a damage limitation job after not getting into their current catchment.

Whether that is the case or not, you have a working pilot of the impact of Dobcroft expansion based upon 2015 applications recently received., This is a great basis upon which to base your 2016 decision in terms of likely impact of the ripple effect of Dobcroft expansion into other catchment. I encourage you to use it, and am happy to provide my analytical skills at no cost to help you do so.

As parents to two children at Dobcroft Infant School, we are very concerned about the proposed expansion to both Dobcroft infant and Dobcroft Junior Schools, and we wish to formally object to the councils proposals.

The biggest concerns we share are:

1. **Data supplied in the FAQ's document does not signify the need for an increase in the school size.**

On the contrary it supports the fact that not all schools are using their full capacity. What is the rationale for not utilizing this spare capacity when increasing the size of the Dobcroft schools will require significant capital funding? As council taxpayers this does not demonstrate the effective management and use of limited council resources.

2. **Just Too Big for Little Children.**

Dobcroft is already a large primary school, one of the largest in the city. The school management, teachers and governors have done an excellent job in ensuring that the school doesn't overwhelm its pupils. Increasing size will heap unnecessary pressure on the existing children and the teachers - who already have an excessive workload.

3. **Insufficient / Inadequate Shared Space**

The current use of shared space is already at a critical point with lunchtimes, PE, library and ICT activities crowded and challenging to provide. The temporary proposals already indicate the loss of shared space and the reduction of library and ICT facilities (at least in the short term). This will restrict the curriculum offer which

Dobcroft have built an outstanding reputation on. Is it the wish of the council to make it more challenging for the school to achieve outstanding OFSTEAD reports?

4. Overcrowding

There are already c.270 children on a small infant site. the addition of 30 children in September 2015 will be challenging. An additional 90 children over 3 years overcrowded. This represents a 25% increase in the size of a school which is already underfunded.

5. Reduced Space Available for Play

Inevitably an increase in numbers of children and a fixed site size will mean more children per square meter. Cramming so many children into such a small space is both unacceptable and will present health and safety and behavior challenges.

6. Disruption and Safety Risks

It is clear that the council's decision to increase the size of the school in September without any consultation is already placing the school under unnecessary pressure. If the council continue to overstretch staff it is inevitable that there will be disruption to the children's education and, as noted above, present unnecessary safety risks. Why should the current pupils have to live through an expansion of the school via a building programme and internal disruption? Disruption will manifest itself in a number of ways;

- for the children. Our Foundation Stage children will experience this at least three times as:
 - the building work to create the new library & ICT area takes place
 - the building work to create new classrooms for the additional children in 2016 and 2017 takes place in the Infants School
 - the building work takes place to the Junior School to accommodate the additional numbers, starting the first year our Foundation Stage children join the Junior School. (If the Junior School building work is phased in year by year then our Children will experience this every single year they are at Junior School!)
7. **Road Safety Danger and Traffic Congestion with a significant increase in road congestion and parking challenges**

Given that the data indicates that the catchment of the school does not support the need of additional places on this scale means that children outside of catchment will be allocated places at Dobcroft. Inevitably this will mean an increase in traffic around the school site (which is already unacceptable). This presents a clear and present danger to the young children attending the school. The council need to look more closely at ensuring ALL school places are allocated before considering school expansion.

8. Merging of library/ICT resource room to accommodate extra class in September 2015.

To merge two valuable resources into one area will have a profound impact on pupils accessing these valuable resources. There will be potentially fewer computers and books, and more children!

9. Staggered lunchtimes.

The Dobcroft Junior School statement objecting to the councils proposal clearly indicates that the staggering of lunchtimes will cause both educational and operational problems in the school. This disruption is unacceptable.

We trust that you take these concerns in a constructive manner but also understand that we oppose these changes in the strongest possible terms. The schools do tremendously well on limited resources and we implore the council to examine the alternative options outlined in this letter and by others. There must be a more financially viable and less educationally disruptive way around the issues outlined by the City Council.

Can you please explain why you still have replied to both my emails? The first was sent on the 20/1/15 and the second was sent 8/2/15!

With such a short 'Consultation' period I am increasingly frustrated that I have not received any feedback from you, thus, giving me no time to respond before the 11/2/15.

At the very least can you please acknowledge that you have received both my emails!

I am writing to express my concerns over the recently announced expansion to the reception year group of dobcroft infant school for 2015/2016 admissions.

My daughter is due to start school in September and we spent a lot of time looking into possible schools. We chose to move into the area to ensure that we were in the Dobcroft/Silverdale catchment area. I emailed the council a couple of times to check catchment areas, and school intake numbers, and at no time was this increase in numbers mentioned. We only moved at the end of December, so there was plenty of opportunity to inform us of this increase, but we find out the week before the application deadline. We did not even receive a letter - I found out via other parents, which I think is disgraceful. It's as if we don't even have the right to know about decisions that affect my daughters education. The application packs that initially came out didn't mention a 120 child intake either. You must have been aware of this sooner and I feel it was wrong to keep this information from prospective parents. We are now left with no choice but to attend an overcrowded Dobcroft school as all other schools are over capacity.

I do not fully understand why the increase is to be made to Dobcroft, when the facilities are not there to support the extra children. From the research I have done, it would appear that

there are less than 90 children this year in the Dobcroft catchment area, so why are Dobcroft having to create the extra class?

As a local resident, I am concerned for the increase in traffic that an additional 30-40 children outside of catchment area would bring. The traffic is already dangerously high. What provisions have you put in place to deal with this?

I appreciate that Holt House, Ecclesall, Dore and Topley are also over subscribed, however, how do you know that this will ease the situation? People in Dore, Topley, and Ecclesall will still put their catchment schools as first choice. I know parents who live in Woodseats and Abbey Lane catchment areas who will now be putting Dobcroft school as their first choice. They live nearer than people in Dore, Topley and Ecclesall (for example, on Archer Road), yet are not in an over subscribed catchment area. How is this helping people in Dore/Topley/Ecclesall, and what will you be doing to stop this happening?

I have read a document from Dobcroft school explaining why they couldn't admit any extra pupils last year. It states that the classrooms are below the standard of 67m. Also that there are not enough toilets for the children based on requirements. When I spoke to the school, they were planning to lose the library, but no mention was made of extra toilets. What is the plan to address this?

In the same document, the cloakrooms are described as 'Very small and squashed' and being 'Intimidating and noisy for the children'. This is with 60 children to a cloakroom. There were no plans for building any new cloakrooms, and I was wondering what you will be doing to address this as I am very concerned for my daughter.

What provisions are in place for when the school loses their library?

The school is overcrowded and by increasing the size it is putting the children's welfare at risk, while losing outside space and not addressing the actual problem. I feel very let down that this has come to light just after moving house, and am incredibly disappointed by the council and the way the matter is being dealt with.

I have several times asked about plans to change catchment areas and have been assured that this is not the case, although it is now an agenda on the council meeting in March, so yet again I feel as though I have been lied to.

I would appreciate a response on the points I have raised.

I note your reply, but don't feel it answers any of my concerns.

I find it hard to believe that we are being asked to comment on a consultation without the information required to do so. I have been looking for more information, but have become more alarmed the more I look into this. I recently read the governors response to the consultation, from Dobcroft junior school and it made for very poor reading. The issues around inclusion were particularly frightening, with children being unable to take part in residential and performances. It is also a concern that the required 3 hours per week of PE will not be achievable. Why is no one concerned about the impact on the children and their health? This is a really important issue.

Your plans for Dobcroft schools has already influenced my decision to amend my school application for 2015. I have been to several groups over the last few weeks, and met up with people from all of the nearby catchment areas. The people I spoke to from Ecclesall catchment were as appalled with your plans for Dobcroft as we are. It made them even more

determined to not send their children there. The people I spoke to were keeping their options as Ecclesall, greystones and hunters bar. Those who had considered Dobcroft had changed their minds when they found out more about the plans.

The people I spoke to from Dore and totley were equally concerned about the plans for Dobcroft and has kept their choices of Dore, Totley and Totley All Saints. The only people who had changed their choice positively towards Dobcroft were from Woodseats and holt house catchments. I know this is only a very small section, but was wondering when we get to find out the statistics surrounding applications this year? It definitely needs to be considered before any long term decisions can be made. The changes you are making to the school are consequently making it unappealing to the very catchment areas you are trying to attract and I struggle to see how this will solve the alleged problem.

Other concerns which I do not feel have been addressed are detailed below.

How are the health and safety issues being addressed? The stock answer of "30 extra children isn't that much" doesn't apply when you are talking about a building designed as a 2 form entry and is full to bursting.

What provision is being put in place for 2015? It's happening in just over 6 months time the stock answer of "we are working with the school" is insufficient.

The school has twice the national average of Plus Stage SEN children, how are their needs going to be met with a huge loss of intervention space in 2015? This will be catastrophic for these children if it's not addressed.

Why no consultation for 2015? There is no emergency in Dobcrofts catchment. I feel the answer I received at the consultation meeting of "legally we don't have to" is disgraceful and depressant explain anything.

Crisis catchments such as Ecclesall and Totley will not be able to access the extra places at Dobcroft, these will be filled with children from closer schools such as Holt House, as they have admissions criteria priority. How is the SCC addressing the immediate crisis in Ecclesall and Totley?

Can we have a copy of the feasibility report?

Why Dobcroft and not Greenhill? It's central, has gross site capacity and is a good school.

Can we see the space per pupil figures for the schools in a two mile radius? We need this information for informed consultation.

Why is the consultation so short? We still do not have all the information? Surely to consult you need information.

Why 2.1 million? Who decided the budget? Will it cover all the expansion needed in buildings already not fit for purpose? How was it calculated?

If the proposal goes through, how will it be ready for the 2016 intake?

I am emailing to share my concerns about the proposed expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior School. I am a parent of a foundation stage pupil and am also expecting a new baby imminently so will be a parent at the school for many years to come.

I was shocked to learn of the planned extra class for 2015 for which there was no consultation. There are currently no clear plans of how this will be taken forward. A room that is currently the library and also DASH will be used as a classroom. Where will the library then be? Where will DASH be?

My next concern is around the shared spaces in school and how they can accommodate an extra 30 children. The school hall is already small for the number of children at the school and doubles as the dining room. How will the school manage to accommodate these extra children at lunchtime without rushing children through their lunches. The hall is used for P.E. classes and if another event occurs then children lose out on their P.E. classes, for example for the consultation with council on extra school places, school photos etc. Currently, the school hall is needed for 18 hours of P.E., 2 hours per class, plus dinner time, this will need to increase to 20 hours plus dinner time. Increases will need to be accommodated library time and IT time for the extra class too. In this digital age children should be having more access to computers etc not less.

The concerns detailed above follow for the expansion to an extra class in each year but would be exemplified.

Another big concern with the full expansion is the safety of pupils on site if it increases to 840 children. This is a large number of children for the site. While, Lydgate Infants and Juniors are of a similar size to the expanded schools would be they are on separate sites. For a 4 year old starting at a school site with so many pupils will be a daunting experience. Any expansion will result in a loss of outdoor space which with more children more not less will be needed.

How will building work be managed to avoid disruption to the current children and residents? To ensure that at all times the site is safe for such young children?

Another important problem is the traffic issue around the school. This is exacerbated by the school been on a cul-de-sac, having limited access points and been so near to St Wilfrids and Mylnhurst schools. Expanding the school intake from 90 to 120 will increase the catchment area increasing the number of parents driving children to school and needing to park.

Thank-you for taking the time to read my concerns.

I object to the proposal to expand Dobcroft Infant & Junior schools for the following reasons;

- Lack of information provided - for example budget information gives no idea of the scope of work proposed and therefore whether it would provide a level of accommodation that the school, parents and local community are satisfied with as opposed to providing a bare minimum provision that does not provide a long term solution for the site. As all the existing "temporary" classrooms highlight this has happened before.

- Lack of time for the consultation. Notwithstanding the way the current 2015 expansion is being progressed with no consultation, the 2016 consultation process has been badly planned with little time given to the school to allow the consultation to be properly planned and managed, resulting in some misinformation in the community and distrust from all parties of how the Council is undertaking this process.

- The school already has one of the larger intakes in the area and the school and staff work hard to ensure this is not intimidating for the children, increasing this further will have a significant impact on the "feel" of the school and how children feel about it. Other schools could increase and still be below the Dobcroft intake level.

- Traffic. Whilst many school sites suffer from parking and traffic issues, the location of Dobcroft in close proximity to St Wilfreds and Mylnhurst means the roads around the site suffer significantly at peak times. Whilst some additional traffic controls could help the existing situation, the proposed increase in pupil numbers would lead to a level of traffic and parking issues in the area that would be unsafe and cause significant issues for parents, the local community and the school alike that would not be solved by some simple traffic calming measures.

- Where would any additional parking resulting from the increased capacity be provided, the only potential areas are external play areas for the school and it seems counter productive to reduce this further.

- There is a lack of space on the site, and further building footprint will only exacerbate the issue on this site, whether a permanent issue or temporary during construction this will have a bearing on the education of the existing pupils.

- Location, whilst it may be central to the south west area, information provided suggests that the issue is worse in Totley and Ecclesall and the proposal does not truly explain the

reasons why Dobcroft has been chosen other than a "feeling" that by being central it will solve all the problems.

- Given the structure of the existing hall and kitchen significant investment will be needed to provide accommodation suitable for the school to deliver the curriculum for which they have gained such a good reputation. There is no information provided as to whether this will be addressed in any proposal.

- No consideration seems to have been given to other activities on the site, such as After school clubs, DASH etc which are already oversubscribed at some times and for which there seems to be no plan to properly address this issue.

- Further information is needed on how budget decisions have been made about this site to establish what sort of provision is proposed, before any decision over viability can be taken and this broad information should be shared.

I am writing with regard to the proposed increase from 3 classes per year to 4 classes per year at Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools.

As a parent to one child currently in Year 3 (juniors) and one in Year 1 (infants) and also as a local resident, I would like to express my concerns over the impact the proposals will have over the education of my children, their well being and the impact on the local area.

It seems to me that Dobcroft is an easy choice for the Council because they are strong schools which still carry "outstanding" classifications from Ofsted so it prevents putting further pressure on other local schools which do not fare so well. However, with 3 classes per year group, Dobcroft already has one of the largest year groups in Sheffield, let alone the South West region. Topley school only has one class per year and recently appeared at the top of the Primary School league tables. This cannot be a coincidence and my fear is that the quality of education provided at Dobcroft will slip as the Schools struggle to cope with the sheer volume of children coming through.

My other concerns are as follows:

1) The issue with increased school places required from September 2015 intake, according to statistics, is not an issue within Dobcrofts' catchment area. In fact the issue lies within Topley and Ecclesall Infant Schools' areas. In addition, I understand that Ecclesall Infant School welcome an increase from a 2 class to 3 class intake.

2) By adding an additional Reception Class in September 2015, which I understand is "a done deal" with no consultation, you will be taking a much needed and wanted resource, as this additional class will be placed in the current Library. It also means additional children are crammed into a school which is already not 'fit for purpose'. We already have 1 classroom where children need to walk through another classroom to obtain access to the rest of the school. By placing this additional class in the Library this will create the same problem. Why is it acceptable to disrupt other classes?

3) Dobcroft Infant & Juniors Schools have a high proportion of SEN children. By adding additional children numbers to the school I fail to see how the excellent level of teaching for these children and infact all children can be maintained?

- 4) There are currently insufficient toilet facilities at the Infant School to cope with an additional class in 2015 let alone any more. Already there are 2 classrooms that are in portacabins which need to cross outside to access the toilets. Is this really acceptable?
- 5) There is not enough spare land at either school to facilitate further buildings. The Infant School playground is already small and cannot be made any smaller without infringing on the safety and enjoyment of the children. If the plan is to build on the playing fields at the Junior School then this sends out a particularly negative message the Council places on health, fitness and sport in Schools and will meet fierce opposition from parents across both Schools.
- 6) Following the introduction of free school meals, the Infant School already struggles to get the children through at lunchtime and in fact lunchtime already lasts 1hr 20 mins so already cuts into the daily teaching time. If the proposals are to stagger lunchtime, this will mean some children going long periods of time without a meal which will, without question, affect their concentration in lessons. In fact no child should be expected to eat their lunch after 1.00pm as many will have had their breakfast before 7.30am and can not last until 1.00pm before eating their lunch.
- 7) The school hall will not be able to hold all children at once if there is an increase in numbers, especially for assembly time. What about community spirit - bringing all the children together?
- 8) Increasing the annual intake and presumably the catchment area will result in more parents dropping off by car as they will have to travel further to get to the schools. As both schools are adjacent with 2 other schools very close by, it is already a bottle neck in the local vicinity and there is a significantly increased risk to the children of bringing extra traffic to the area at drop off/pick up time. Has anyone from the Council been to the school at drop off / pick up to see the problems we already have?
- 9) I understand Ecclesall C of E School and Clifford Infant School are both canvassing to obtain the extra intake and obtain the extra funding. Other schools in the South West of Sheffield have class sizes of under 30 such as Hallam and Nethergreen so there are other options for the Council.
- 10) Last year, 8 children in catchment did not get a place at Dobcroft. This was unprecedented. Is that enough to warrant an increase of 210 children across both schools? In addition, I would be interested to know how many children outside catchment obtained a place in the school last year?
- 11) Finally, I don't want my children or anybody else's children to attend a 'super-sized' infants school. It will be more like a Secondary school and far too large for them to feel safe and noticed. I understand this point is an emotional statement, but we are talking about children, where many will just have turned 4 years old!

Please consider these points when making the final decision about where the increase will be and if they are absolutely necessary at all.

I am writing to you regarding the proposed expansion to Dobcroft Infants School and the proposed extra class for the 2015 intake.

I am totally against the expansion of this school and am astonished that this proposal has been made to solve an issue which has been looming over the council for some time.

Dobcroft is at this time working to its full capacity, with an intake of 90 children each year. To increase this to 120 either as a permanent or temporary measure is wholly unacceptable, both from the point of view of a parent and from the children's perspective.

The school does not have the basic facilities to cater for this expansion and to go ahead with it will just be detrimental to the educational needs of the children, as well as being unable to cater for the basic provisions required to function as a working school such as toilets, cloakrooms and outdoor space.

The fact that the proposed extra class will be located in the library is unbelievable, in the year 2015 how is it not a basic right of a child to have access to a school library, at a time when public libraries are being closed across the city. As well as the issue regarding enough floor space area per child within the school, so as to not breach health and safety guidelines, of which the Sheffield City Council should surely be adhering. How can an overcrowded, over-stretched learning environment be good for any child in this day and age.

It is with great disregard to the parents of Dobcroft school children that this expansion has been decided upon without consultation. It is obvious that Dobcroft school runs on the good will of the majority of parents and teachers, giving up spare time and days off to fund-raise for basic school equipment including the refurbishment of the playground and toilets. Therefore it would only be common courtesy to consult parents on such drastic decisions which have been made. How can this measure be called temporary when the extra 30 children will proceed through Dobcroft infants school for the next three years and then onto Dobcroft Junior school and so on. There is nothing temporary about this decision to expand the 2015 intake.

I find it bizarre that this decision has been made when it appears that the areas where expansion is needed is in the Ecclesall infants school area. The representatives of this school have requested expansion due to their required places, yet the council has deemed it fit to ignore this and make a decision to expand Dobcroft where children within the catchment are catered for. Surely this is just a ridiculous solution to the problem at hand. How does this improve children's lives and educational needs and ease the anxiety surrounding applications for school places.

How is Dobcroft School expected to maintain its standard of education with an influx of 30 children which it can not provide for. How is it fair that siblings of children at Ecclesall infants school maybe forced into another school because of rash poor decisions made by the city council.

It may appear that my opinion is somewhat negative, I appreciate that with the right funding, a new school building, additional staff and with no expense spared, this would be a wonderful idea. However none of the aforementioned will be forthcoming. As I previously stated Dobcroft survives on good will, and the desire of parents and teachers to do the best that they can for their children; the pupils of Dobcroft. It is obvious that the city council do not have the same emotion or passion about this school or the pupils, otherwise they would not be making the sweeping decisions that will effect all, in such a negative way.

I would be interested to know why faith schools such as St Wilfrids are allowed exclusion in this debate? There are other schools such as Clifford and ecclesall which are wanting to expand, therefore I do not see why you are struggling so much to seek out alternative ideas as you highlight below.

Problem solved, unless the grand plan is to shut nether edge school which seems to be becoming more and more apparent causing me great concern as outlined below!!

Problems are made worse by the fact Dobcroft has taken on too many SEN children which take priority over catchment. Whilst I understand there is a need to integrate these children into society is this really the best way of supporting SEN children, how are they cared for and at what cost to non SEN children?

Dobcroft already has classes without TA's as they are so underfunded how are we supposed to give every child including SEN the care and attention they need? Equally I would like to know how many of the current SEN children in the school are from catchment?

It is simply not about children missing out as you state you are looking to relocate children from poor performing schools into my catchment school which being frank unless they are exclusively totley/ecclesall infants you will bring the area, school and house prices down I don't care how SCC try to flower it up! No parent in catchment will thank you for that!

You would not like it if you were in our situation. I would be interested if you have children which school they went to and possibly go to and same for the team making this decision.

How are the health and safety issues being addressed? The stock answer of "30 extra children isn't that much" doesn't apply when you are talking about a building designed as a 2 form entry and is full to bursting.

What provision is being put in place for 2015? It's happening in just over 6 months time the stock answer of "we are working with the school" is insufficient.

As outlined above. The school has twice the national average of Plus Stage SEN children, how are their needs going to be met with a huge loss of intervention space in 2015? This will be catastrophic for these children if it's not addressed.

Why no consultation for 2015? There is no emergency in Dobcrofts catchment.

Crisis catchments such as Ecclesall and Totley will not be able to access the extra places at Dobcroft, these will be filled with children from closer schools such as Holt House, as they have admissions criteria priority. How is the SCC addressing the immediate crisis in Ecclesall and Totley?

Can we have a copy of the feasibility report?

Why Dobcroft and not Greenhill? It's central, has gross site capacity and is a good school.

Can we see the space per pupil figures for the schools in a two mile radius? We need this information for informed consultation.

Why is the consultation so short? We still do not have all the information? Surely to consult you need information.

Why 2.1 million? Who decided the budget? Will it cover all the expansion needed in buildings already not fit for purpose? How was it calculated?

If the proposal goes through, how will it be ready for the 2016 intake?

If the proposal does not go through what will become of the 30 displaced 2015 children?

Instead of being vague please reply with specifics

I have grave concerns reference for increased traffic if we are looking at wider local areas for catchment of Dobcroft school and increasing capacity. I live next to the Zebra crossing which can be a hazard to get out of at the best of times - Zebra crossing/ Dobcroft Road/ Junction of Silverdale Road. Irresponsible parking increased use of crossing by the school and dog walkers is high risk as it is without the potential to increase. Despite road calming measures cars continue to speed out of the junction or up and down Dobcroft Road. School coaches if they have an away day also park close to the junction of silverdale /dobcroft Road.

My other concern is space within the school increasing capacity will remove indoor space and outdoor space Time and space for all children is imperative for their learning and health and we are removing more and more open space from their young lives where they are safe and secure

You are not only increasing school places but also teachers and support staff however this funding could be lost in the future and subsequently increase class time. Good schools are good because they have space to play and more time for each other to learn social skills 30 pupils is a lot for this age group

I am writing to protest against the proposed 'temporary' expansion of Dobcroft Infant School, as well as the permanent creation of a 4th class, which would in my view, turn Dobcroft into a so-called 'super-school'. Please consider this email a formal complaint over the way the council is handling the situation. My son is due to start there this year, and I am gravely concerned about the impact this change will have on his education and that of his classmates. The school clearly does not have room for this extra class, and the long term effect will be to drive standards down.

I cannot believe that you have failed to even consider consulting parents on the changes to this year's intake. I understand that you have no legal obligation to do so, but how about your moral obligation to the children and parents in question?

I have read the documentation you have put out, and consider the following questions to be still outstanding:

How are the health and safety issues being addressed? The stock answer of "30 extra children isn't that much" doesn't apply when you are talking about a building designed as a 2 form entry and is full to bursting.

What provision is being put in place for 2015? It's happening in just over 6 months' time the stock answer of "we are working with the school" is insufficient.

The school has twice the national average of Plus Stage SEN children, how are their needs going to be met with a huge loss of intervention space in 2015? This will be catastrophic for these children if it's not addressed.

Why no consultation for 2015? There is no emergency in Dobcroft's catchment.

Crisis catchments such as Ecclesall and Topley will not be able to access the extra places at Dobcroft, these will be filled with children from closer schools such as Holt House, as they

have admissions criteria priority. How is the SCC addressing the immediate crisis in Ecclesall and Totley?

Where is the feasibility report?

How do you respond to the issues raised by the junior school governors?

Why Dobcroft and not Greenhill? It's central, has gross site capacity and is a good school.

Can we see the space per pupil figures for the schools in a two mile radius? We need this information for informed consultation.

Why is the consultation so short? We still do not have all the information? Surely to consult you need information.

Why 2.1 million? Who decided the budget? Will it cover all the expansion needed in buildings already not fit for purpose? How was it calculated?

If the proposal goes through, how will it be ready for the 2016 intake?

If the proposal does not go through, will the 30 extra 2015 children remain at Dobcroft? If not, what will become of them?

I look forward to your speedy response.

I am a local resident (millhouses lane) and very concerned about the proposed expansion of Dobcroft school. I wish to formally object to this proposal as I am worried about the increased volume of traffic along an already very busy road-particularly at school times.

I understand there are other local schools who are keen to increase their size and number of pupils. This needs to be explored in more detail before pursuing the Dobcroft expansion further.

I am writing regarding the emergency expansion plans for Dobcroft school in Sept 2015 and the consultation for permanent expansion plans in Sept 2016. I am vehemently opposed to both. Having been to a Governors/Headteachers meeting at Dobcroft infant school yesterday evening, I am astonished by the level of incompetence shown by the council. Consequently, I have decided to take legal action regarding the 'emergency' intake scheduled for Sept 2015. I have a lawyers appointment scheduled for early next week with the aim of sending a 'letter before claim' late next week. I would like to formally request some information before this meeting. I have also contacted the Health and Safety Executive for advice on the provision of basic facilities at the school. My wife has spoken to several MP's, all of whom agree that this course of action is ludicrous. A media campaign has been started and protests are planned outside the school shortly. Leaflet drops to all local residents have started along with parents going 'door to door' to encourage local residents to object to the plans. An online petition has been started and has gathered significant support. Another petition to expand Ecclesall is also running with significant support for this option.

Can you provide me with the name of the person/people that inspected Dobcroft and suggested that an extra 30 children in September was acceptable. I would also like to know how much time was spent at the school and would like to see the feasibility plans for the 2015 intake. I would also like the name of the person/people that signed off on the 2015 decision.

I would like to see the feasibility study for adding 30 new pupils in September. There are not enough basic provisions at the school for the children that are currently there. The toilet facilities are inadequate already. Can you provide the plans on how the toilet facilities are to be upgraded for the extra children? Mobile toilets are not acceptable for children this young and the current toilets are inadequate and in a poor state of repair.

The hall space is too small for 90 children. Can you provide the plan for how to accommodate 120 children for assembly and indeed the plans for lunch time? There are already children opting for 'cold school dinners' as the queue for 'hot dinners' is too long. How is this being addressed?

The library is both an essential learning space and is used for after school clubs and a space for those with extra needs. I have heard that this may be moved to a busy thoroughfare. Do you think this is appropriate? Also, this busy thoroughfare is currently the ICT suite. What is the plan for relocation of the ICT suite? I find it hard to believe that anybody with an interest in education would accept that cramming an ICT suite and library into a busy thoroughfare that connects the school assembly hall and classrooms is an appropriate solution.

Can you provide the council plans and assurances for road safety around Dobcroft for both the 2015 plan and the 2016 consultation? The roads around Dobcroft are incredibly busy at present. With out of catchment children joining the school, the number of cars will increase. What has been done to inform local residents of the proposed plans?

Can you provide the feasibility studies for other schools close by and provide the reasons for not selecting them for the extra class in September 2015? The schools that need extra places are Toley and Ecclesall. Ecclesall are actively campaigning for extra space and buildings. Governors, the Headteacher, and local residents are all supportive. Why is this not a better option? Why is it acceptable to shoehorn 30 extra children into an already overcrowded school when other very good schools are actively encouraging expansion. Why is such a short sighted solution even being considered?

The plan for the extra 30 children in September is not acceptable. All population/catchment data has been available for a long time. None of this information has changed. Can you explain why an 'emergency' intake is necessary when the council has had the data for so long? Basic Health and Safety needs of children as young as 4 are being completely ignored. Impact on the quality of education is being ignored. Road safety issues are being ignored. Overcrowding issues are being ignored. Parents/governors/headteachers (of both Dobcroft and Ecclesall) are being ignored. Your local MP candidate for the area (with whom a group of parents has met) is being ignored. The Deputy Prime Minister is being ignored.

I urge you to reconsider adding 30 extra children in September. Use common sense. Do not use a site that is unsuitable for expansion. Do not follow a plan that attracts widespread condemnation. Listen to those that actively want to expand are are campaigning to do so.

I expect all information to be provided in a prompt manner - I know it must be available as to add 30 children to such an overcrowded school in September, planning must be well under way.

Please can you confirm receipt of this email at your earliest convenience. Thank You.

I just wanted to take a moment to email you to firstly say thank you for the consultation and secondly to commend you on your proposed solution to our over-breeding in this area. I am guilty as charged (4 kids) but also feel that they each deserve to go to their catchment

school with their friends and that an extra class at this wonderful centre of our community is the only logical solution. This will benefit us all.

I am uniquely placed to object to the expansion of Dobcroft School as I live directly at the top of the culdesac right next door to school.

I draw your attention to the Dobcroft Governors report which has been uploaded to your website under 'Dobcroft Consultation FAQs' under appendix 1. I wholeheartedly agree with their comprehensive list of objections and am in full support of their accurate assessment of the issues.

Substantial ongoing building works to upgrade the schools providing an additional 9 extra classrooms plus expansion of DASH on an enclosed site in a culdesac location would be noisy, detrimental to the environment and greatly inconvenient. Myself and the house opposite would be greatly affected. It seems that class room numbers will be doubled which is an extraordinarily outrageous idea and will be at the detriment to the school and the neighbouring area in terms of overcrowding and traffic related issues.

If DASH is not able to accomodate the increased pupil numbers we will literally have building work 8 Metres from our boundary and face the threat of being even more overlooked if the building is expanded.

Many people have quoted traffic as an objection to the expansion. Let me enlighten you as to the reality of what that actually entails living next door to the school at present.

Dobcroft already see the top of Pingle Road as their own personal driveway with coaches parking blocking access. More pupils will mean more coaches and more traffic due to extra staff and extra parents out of catchment dropping off.

The reality- NOW- not even after a proposed expansion is that we get parking across our drive which means we can be late for work. We are blocked in and not able to exit our drive at certain times ie, drop off, pick up, and during all of the evening events of both schools. When Discos or parents evenings occur- cars are double parked and all of them drive up the culdesac and are reversing / manouvering in tightly enclosed spaces. It won't be long before a child is knocked down- as happened within the last couple of years twice on Millhouses lane.

There is gridlock- particularly at the Whirlowdale Crescent/Millhouses Lane junction. I avoid at all costs that route out and Button Hill due to Milnhurst and the Catholic school on Millhouses Lane traffic in addition to Dobcroft traffic.

I also avoid Pingle Road - the bottom 2 sections due to cars being parked on both sides making it so tight to negotiate. The only way out is to hope to dash to the right towards Dobcroft road as this seems marginally wider. It is terrifying in case a child steps out as you are so busy avoiding aggressive car drivers and negotiating to avoid gridlock that all of your concentration is on that.

I must be home on my driveway for 3.10 pm or due to traffic I have to abandon my car well away from my house and walk the rest of the way.

For the times mentioned there would be no possibility of Emergency Services access which is truly a terrifying state of affairs.

Where was the forward planning in projected student numbers back when Abbeydale Grange was sold off I expect for a vast profit. The land could have been used to build a new school on a main access route and a central location there. Tesco have a huge plot of land for sale on Abbeydale Road- why are you not considering that for siting a new school?

At Dobcroft there is insufficient parking for current staff- expansion would push more and more staff on to double parking on the road. Thus adding to the existing problems of access.

I have read the ridiculous concept of the potential loss of Dobcroft playing field either to build on or the heinous idea of tarmacking over the waterlogged field so as to just accommodate the huge increase from roughly 370 children to 840 children. This would be an environmentally damaging idea- the waterlogging would pass then down the hill directly affecting my property and Pingle Road as well.

What I most object to and have spoken with Sylvia Dunkley the Lib. Dem. candidate and 2 members of the council up at the Dobcroft consultation- is that all of this seems a **done deal**. Not even the local residents had any idea that you didn't need to consult to already confirm addition of a class per year onto the infant school. The report written by the council is so woolly in points recommending Dobcroft as a site that it came up with very little over the concept of it being a "Central site". There doesn't seem to be a feasible reason why it shouldn't be Topley, Ecclesall, Clifford, or some of the other schools mentioned in your report.

I favour the swapping of the Ecclesall Infant and Junior sites in order to facilitate expansion of school numbers. In addition- why is Topley not being looked at closer as it is on an open access road with space around it? Why is the Catholic school on Millhouses lane not being looked at- why is it right that they should operate an exclusionist religious policy and avoid expansion??

To turn the 2 Dobcroft schools into huge schools as is proposed in this preposterous report is clearly ridiculous in relation to the enclosed culdesac site and the existing gridlock. Really what are you thinking??

I write to state my objections to the proposed expansion of Dobcroft infant and Junior School to a 4 class (120) intake.

Whilst not putting into doubt the fabulous job all the staff do to make Dobcroft an outstanding school, I feel that moving to a 120 intake each year will place extraordinary pressure on the physical space in addition to the ability to foster a whole school nurturing ethos.

A prime concern arises from being a mother of a child with Special Education Needs. My child requires significant extra support, break out areas within school for meetings with external agencies e.g. Autism team visits, Educational Psychologist, Speech and Language etc. She also requires space outside of the classroom to recover from periods of anxiety and learning spaces without the sensory overload that the classroom gives her. These spaces will be squeezed, minimal or lost completely with the proposals.

Dobcroft is known as an inclusive environment for children with SEN and in fact has

a significantly higher than the national average of children at school action plus (info from document from appeals process that argued why no further children above 90 could be accommodated in Dobcroft Foundation as at September 2014). I have no doubt that by increasing the number to 120 intake (when it is known that the current number in Dobcroft catchment itself is insufficient to fill this number of spaces) will lead to an influx of parents with children with SEN applying from outside of catchment. This will increase pressure on an already failing system to apportion appropriate funding to schools in affluent areas with high levels of SEN. It will also mean that more breakout areas not less are required.

These proposals will impact detrimentally on both my children but primarily the one with SEN.

I feel it is an ill thought out decision which is driven by costs / budgets and not the priority and needs of the children in Dobcroft catchment and those children in other catchments who have a right to have their education delivered at their local school.

There are a myriad of other reasons why this proposal is inappropriate including:

- It does not solve the issue in hand. You will just get a greater influx into the Ecclesall catchment as parents will prefer their children to be in a two class intake and it will mean you have an even greater number of children you are turning down to their catchment school and offering Dobcroft as an alternative.

- The site itself may be large enough but a total redevelopment of whole school not just foundation space would be required and not adhoc extra temporary buildings / shoehorning into the current space (e.g. Proposed use of library as a classroom).

- Toilet space is inadequate (or only just adequate) now, a further 30 children are being added next year with no change to this provision. Does the ratio of toilets to children falls within the National guidelines?

- Road traffic / safety is a major issue and the vast majority of extra intake above the current 90 in future years will undoubtedly be travelling by car as Dobcroft will not be their local school.

- As parents we are unable to comment on feasibility of buildings as plans have not been provided and we have no detail as to what green space etc we are going to lose. How is it possible therefore to have meaningful consultation?

- Playground space is extremely tight now and will be a real health and safety issues / an impossibility for some children like mine with SEN to be able to cope with. Currently there is a nurture club run at lunchtime for children like mine who struggle in the playground. This is held in the library space which will no longer be available - where are these things going to be accommodated in the future?

- The hall space will be wholly inadequate to accommodate:

- whole school activity

- P.E. sessions for all classes twice a week in winter

- lunchtimes with 360 children between the ages 4 and 7 having to be pushed through a cramped, loud, intimidating space within an hour (virtually all of whom are now accessing hot school dinners following the recent changes).

Fundamentally I disagree with an intake of 120 at Primary entry. The level of opposition to these plans is extreme and I urge the council to reconsider / more extensively consult on these matters with parents from all catchments involved.

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed expansion at Dobcroft infant school for 2015/16 and the potential for this to be made a permanent expansion.

The 2015 expansion appears to be poorly thought out in terms of providing adequate space for the extra children. The communal areas are already struggling to accommodate the existing numbers of children and this becomes particularly apparent to me at drop off and pick up times. How will events such as school plays, discos, assemblies take place with an extra 30 children in the mix? If it is not possible for whole year groups to get together at any one time this will inevitably change the atmosphere of the school and will also take away valuable experiences for the children attending.

I also think it is important to consider where the extra places are most needed. Having seen the numbers it seems to make more sense to do expansion work at Ecclesall Infants school or in Trolley? Considering the disruption that will be caused at Dobcroft schools (carrying through the junior school regardless of whether the expansion is temporary or permanent given that the extra 30 pupils will continue through the schools) it is crucial that the expansion is at least providing places where they are most needed?

On a more personal note, Dobcroft Infants school is already large for a primary school. My daughter started in September 2014 and even with an intake of 90 children I feel it has been difficult for her to get used to the sheer volume of people, particularly at drop off and pick up times when there are children and parents trying to find space in small cloakrooms, toilet areas etc. As mentioned previously, important events such as school plays, discos, assemblies etc may become unfeasible with such large numbers of pupils and this will be a big loss to the children and take away the sense of community that Dobcroft school currently has.

I hope you will consider the concerns of the parents carefully. I, like most other parents, do accept that a solution needs to be found, but the concerns raised do have serious implications and need to be looked at before any expansion goes ahead.

As a local resident and parent of a child at Dobcroft School I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed expansion to this school.

Whilst I appreciate the desire by parents to get their children into a good school in their local area, I feel there are a number of reasons why the proposed expansion to Dobcroft Infant and Junior School should not go ahead.

- Firstly as a resident on Dobcroft Road I do not feel that the road network around the school can take extra traffic. Cars are already parked along Dobcroft Road as far up as Cortworth Road and Whirlowdale Crescent, Millhouses Road and Pingle Road are heavily congested. An extra 210 children (many I imagine from outside the current catchment area so more likely to travel in cars to and from school) will cause a significant increase in traffic in this area and subsequently an increased risk to those children that do travel to and from school on foot.
- There are a number of schools in close proximity to each other in this area – Dobcroft Infant and Junior School, Saint Wilfreds RC Primary School and Mylnhurst Catholic Preparatory School and Nursery. The volume of traffic created by three schools and a nursery so close to each other is already dangerously high.
- The alleyway connecting Dobcroft Road and Millhouses Road to Dobcroft Schools is narrow and overgrown. At drop off and pick up times this alleyway is already overcrowded and it is difficult to overtake should a child run in front. An extra 210 children at Dobcroft Schools would increase the number of adults and children using this alleyway putting parents, school children and siblings at risk of being hurt.
- I understand most, if not all of the extra 30 children offered places at Dobcroft School in September 2015, will be coming from outside

Dobcroft's current catchment area. Should extra places not be created at schools closer to these children's homes? There are schools that have only one class (Totley Primary) or two classes (Ecclesall Infants) per year group so why can they not expand? It is these areas that are reported as being over prescribed for 2015/2016. Dobcroft School is already one of the largest schools in Sheffield with three classes per year group. It is intimidating enough for a four year old child going to a school of this size without making it even bigger.

- There are schools in the south of the city (Hallam Primary and Nether Green Infants) that have foundation stage classes of less than 30 children. If there is a shortage of school places in the area can these schools not increase their pupil numbers to bring them in line with other schools that have 30 children (or more) in many classes.

- Dobcroft infant school was originally built for two classes per year group but has in the past been increased to three. Two of the extra classrooms were created by porta-cabins at the back of the school hall. There are no toilets for these two classrooms (and no extra toilets being provided for the extra 30 children starting in September 2015). Was this considered before the latest increase in pupil numbers? Even if extra toilets are built with future expansion to the school the playground can not be extended. To add more children to a space that was originally designed for half that number, will result in more play time related problems and injuries. Children will not have enough space to run around and play safely.
- Where will the new classrooms be built? On the playgrounds and sport field? The Infant School playground, as I have mentioned, is already too small for the number of children at the school and the thought of losing green sports field space to allow extra buildings is diabolical. Does the council view the importance of physical activity so low that they are willing to reduce the school's already limited, outdoor space?
- The availability of the school hall for PE and the ICT suite is already stretched to capacity meaning each class can only use them for a limited time each week. Is this going to be reduced even further with the addition of an extra class in September 2015? One letter I have received says the council will pay to build a new combined library and ICT area before September 2015 but where is this new building going to go?
- Dobcroft Infant School currently allows one hour twenty minutes for serving lunch. This is already longer than most schools that allow one hour. How will lunch times be managed with extra children if a bigger hall and kitchen is not built? I have heard that a three sitting, staggered lunch time may be considered which would mean some children eating their lunch either very early or very late in the school day. A hungry, young child is not conducive to effective learning and if children are

playing whilst others are in class the noise created will be highly disruptive.

- Whilst the information provided says that every effort will be made to avoid any impact on current pupils, severe disruption to our children's early school life and learning will be inevitable with the extensive building works that are required to extend these two schools.

I think it is disgusting that a fourth foundation stage class has been created for September 2015 without consultation. I disagree that an extra class can be accommodated "without significant difficulty" and "without adversely impacting everyday school life". The lack of toilets alone poses an enormous health and safety risk and the potential loss of library facilities to allow for the extra classroom is disgraceful. ~~Please can you send me a copy of the feasibility study that was performed supporting this temporary increase in pupil numbers?~~

I urge the council and school organisation team to reconsider their options before making a permanent increase in pupil numbers at Dobcroft School. I can not believe that there is not another appropriate, financially viable and most important, safe solution.

I eagerly await your response.

We are writing to object to the planned increase in class numbers at Dobcroft Infant and Junior schools. We have 2 children at Dobcroft Infants School and a third who will start in Sept 2016. We object for the following reasons:

1 – the outdoor play space is already very limited and crowded given the number of children already at the school. They are not allowed to play football or other ball games very often due to lack of space. We do not see how more children can be packed into this small space without it being to the detriment of them all.

2 – The playground supervisors find it difficult to observe and supervise the children during play times already, and this would be even more difficult if the playground becomes more crowded.

3 – the school hall, ICT suite, library and the other communal facilities are over-stretched as it is – the school finds it difficult to get all the children through the hall for lunch, and we cannot see how they can prepare and serve dinner adequately for even more children.

4 – DASH (the before and after school club) uses the library for their club, and are unsure where they will be relocated to – or even if they will be allowed to continue functioning. A lot of the children (including mine) are used to going to DASH and it would be unsettling for them – and difficult for us as working parents – if this facility was not allowed to continue. We believe the council find it is 'not their responsibility' to cater for out of school hours care. This attitude is uncaring and demonstrates that all they are interested in is fulfilling their legal responsibilities without genuinely looking out for the best interests of our children.

Given that other schools such as Clifford and Ecclesall would like to expand, we can only think that the council is looking for the easiest and cheapest way forward for them, rather than the one that is best for the children of Sheffield in the longer term.

Dear Mr. Melrose,

Dobrocht Infant & Dobrocht Junior School -
Consultation on extra places

My wife and I have resided at this address for some 32 years and having read your letter of 16 February 2015 regarding the above concerns we greatly regret the proposed significant increase in the number of pupils of which many will not be from our catchment area. Our rear garden backs up to the School grounds separated by our 6 foot high brick wall. On our side of the wall we have a patio area where we could sit, relax and enjoy drinks but in 1999 this all changed when mobile classrooms were erected. Up to this point there had been a steady increase in pupils at the school and in the main only average noise and disturbance for us and the surrounding property owners as obviously the children were well controlled. The school had a very good reputation and success rate supported by the immediate locality.

Enclosed for your interest are copies of letters which our neighbours at No. 122, the Harpess, and ourselves signed complaining at the siting of mobile classrooms. These units were for use by the after-school activities club (D.A.S.H.). We were now faced not only with normal school hours but children playing in the grounds awaiting to be collected by parents. Everything seemed to coincide at this time, we began to have periods of piercing screaming and noisy children playing in what the school and D.A.S.H. ^{said} were 'no go' areas. One mobile appears to be used for music lessons and sometimes for long periods there was monotonous beating of a drum with no variation in volume or rhythm - most stressful. We would have thought that supervision and control of the children during and after school hours to be paramount. It did appear to us that the Head and Staff were

at full stretch to maintain standards.

You are now proposing to dramatically increase the numbers of pupils at the school in the next 3 years from within and outside our catchment area. It is our belief that usage and the development to such extent will be most detrimental and offensive to the surrounding property owners, we have a right to be considered with such a huge change.

The school would not appear to have sufficient land for major extension and for the pupils to enjoy not only adequate ^{schooling} but space for recreation also, so much for the national concern about obesity in our children.

Whilst there are plans to supply more teachers, according to the media (School Inspectors etc.) quality is lacking which could affect the present standards. Parking spaces for new staff will also be necessary. Our opinion is that the proposals will lead to overcrowding, lack of control and falling standards to the detriment of pupils and those in charge, only recently the Minister for Education and the Prime Minister have been critical of the teaching profession.

We have noticed a decline in the quality of this area, once one of Sheffield's most respectable and sought after locality. Objectives should be to enhance areas and facilities not worsen them and your proposals appear to be of negative reaction. We also wonder why the Abbeydale Road school was pulled down.

At school times, both mornings and afternoons, Dobcroft Road, Whitdale Crescent, Silverdale Road and immediate areas are already a nightmare. Cars are having to park well away from the school entrances, on grass verges and blocking property driveways. With vehicles parked all up Dobcroft Road and on verges getting in or out of ones driveway is fraught with danger, vision is obstructed totally. One stream of traffic in the middle of the road is possible and the frustration for drivers is evident. Vehicles other than school traffic is a problem including local buses which are hindered and there are other school buses going up and down picking up or dropping off more senior pupils. Pupils from other schools also walk to school. We have noted parents of junior school allowing their children to use scooters and older children kicking foot buses. Some even using skate boards on pavements and the road.

At the Whitrodale junction with Dobcroft I have often pulled up to allow parents and children cross the road. Outside our house are road calming humps which serve little purpose only elderly drivers slow down and then their gaze is fixed on the humps rather than the road and pedestrians. As things stand introducing more children from wherever will create mayhem. Dobcroft Road is already a disgrace with potholes, bumps, uneven surfaces and pavements are no better uneven, rise and falls, and for those people with disabilities or pensioners, difficult to walk upon.

It is hoped proposals will be declined and planning permission not needed but if application is made then serious consideration should be given to any building development in view of the water shed which runs from the school towards Dobcroft properties. Any obstruction to the flow could well affect buildings if the flow changes course. Next aware of one property having serious problems, admittedly some time ago.

I hope our comments and views will be taken on board and that we will be kept well informed of developments

Yours Sincerely

Re: Potential extra pupils at Dobcroft School

Dear Schools Organisation Team,

I live on Derriman Drive, the houses of which back onto Dobcroft School. When I drive to work in the morning, parents' cars are double parked at the bottom of Silverdale Road where it enters Dobcroft Road to access the school. They are also parked round both corners and into the end of Derriman Drive. This is not only illegal but also extremely dangerous to children and other road users. However, no-one ever gets a parking ticket, to my knowledge and nothing has been done to address this problem.

When I pull out into Silverdale Road, I do so blind and taking my life in my hands. I have also, on occasion, been subjected to abuse from parents when trying to access my own road in the afternoon.

Increasing pupil numbers would only exacerbate an already bad problem to an unacceptable degree.

Yours faithfully,

Dear Sirs,

Re Extra Places for Dobcroft Junior School

My wife and I (both in our eighties) object strongly to your plans to increase primary school places for Dobcroft Infant School, with all the inevitable horrendous increase in motor cars twice daily.

As you will already be aware, the residents of Millhouses Lane, many of whom are elderly, are already subjected to extremely difficult traffic situations at school starting and finishing times, which makes it often almost impossible sometimes to drive into or out of our own home drives safely.

The inevitable increase in traffic will also carry a significant, and probably hazardous increase in inhalation of the toxic fumes emitted by the car exhausts. As already pointed out, many of the residents of the Lane are elderly and could well have pre-existing lung problems, and the increased levels of toxic fumes from the increase in traffic flow may well constitute a serious health risk.

In the light of these serious considerations I hope that the intention of increasing school places in Millhouses will be dropped

Yours sincerely,

Petitions

The following section contains copies of two petitions compiled by parents from Dobcroft Infant & Junior Schools and Clifford CR Infant School.

Please note: Comments in this section have not been anonymised as they have been submitted to us having already been posted on www.change.org in a public forum.

Petition

Help stop Sheffield City Council from squeezing extra classes of pupils into the already overcrowded
Dobcroft Infant & Junior Schools

Name	City	State	Zip Code	Country
Dobcroft Parents Against Expansion				United Kingdom
Sarah Jones	Sheffield	England	S11 9rs	United Kingdom
Jodie Thake	Sheffield	England	S119LP	United Kingdom
David Morley	Sheffield	England	s7 2qs	United Kingdom
Nikki Crookes		England	S7 2LD	United Kingdom
Emma Thackeray	Sheffield	England	S7 2LX	United Kingdom
Vicky darker	Sheffield	England	s11 9nn	United Kingdom
Tony Norman	Sheffield	England	S11 9JN	United Kingdom
Sarah Dale	Sheffield	England	S7 2LL	United Kingdom
ioan jones	Sheffield	England	s11 9rs	United Kingdom
Katie Haigh	Sheffield	England	S7 2LS	United Kingdom
Shalini's Watkinson	Sheffield	England	S119JL	United Kingdom
tammy simmons	Brinsworth	England	s60 5ne	United Kingdom
Helen Higgins		England	S7 2LP	United Kingdom
Nadine Cain	Sheffield	England	S11 9JN	United Kingdom
Sarah Wilson	Sheffield	England	S11 9HD	United Kingdom
John Dale	Sheffield	England	S7 2LL	United Kingdom
Lisa wragg	Sheffield	England	s17 3qr	United Kingdom
Jenny Gallacher	Dronfield	England	S18 8PA	United Kingdom
Nicola Medd	Sheffield	England	S7 2LT	United Kingdom
chris rothery	Edinburgh	Scotland	EH76RX	United Kingdom
Liliana Thomas	Sheffield	England	S11 9PN	United Kingdom
Xavier Thomas	Sheffield	England	S11 9PN	United Kingdom
Suzanne Wheatley	Sheffield	England	S11 9PN	United Kingdom
Sam Thomas	Sheffield	England	S11 9PN	United Kingdom
Loretta Chantry-Groves	Sheffield	England	S11 9RA	United Kingdom
Kathryn Forrester	Sheffield	England	s11 9hq	United Kingdom
Hannah Edwards	Sheffield	England	S119RA	United Kingdom
Jane Bendrey	Sheffield	England	S 11 9 HH	United Kingdom
Abi stevens	Sheffield	England	s11 9rs	United Kingdom
Louise Kent	Sheffield	England	S11 9he	United Kingdom
Suzanne Wilde	Sheffield	England	S7 2LT	United Kingdom
Ben Higgins	Sheffield	England	S7 2LP	United Kingdom
Andy Wilson	Sheffield	England	S7 2gj	United Kingdom
Paul Darker	Sheffield	England	S11 9NN	United Kingdom
Brenda Jones	Thorner	England	LS14 3JD	United Kingdom
Nita White	Sheffield	England	S7 2DQ	United Kingdom
jonathan platts	Sheffield	England	s11 9nb	United Kingdom
Caitlin Waters	Sheffield	England	S7 2LY	United Kingdom
shraddha verma	Sheffield	England	s72le	United Kingdom
Amy Clark	Sheffield	England	S11 9he	United Kingdom
lindsey briggs		England	s41 8qq	United Kingdom
Laura Hayes	Bakewell	England	De45 1fZ	United Kingdom

Jessica Sasse	Icklesham	England	Tn364bx	United Kingdom
Simon McCabe	Sheffield	England	S11 9NJ	United Kingdom
Rachel Briggs	Sheffield	England	S7 2LW	United Kingdom
Clare Samuelson	Sheffield	England	S72LW	United Kingdom
Jenny Sheehan	Sheffield	England	S17 3NA	United Kingdom
Candice Wang	Sheffield	England	S11 9jg	United Kingdom
Robert Samuelson	Sheffield	England	S72LW	United Kingdom
Maria Clayton	Herne Hill	England	SE24 0BQ	United Kingdom
Michelle McCabe	Edinburgh	Scotland	EH12 8RG	United Kingdom
Sarah King	Sheffield	England	S7 2LB	United Kingdom
Chengji Lin		England	s11 9he	United Kingdom
Karen Courtney	Sheffield	England	S7 2HE	United Kingdom
Sara Evans	Sheffield	England	s17 3gh	United Kingdom
sue simpson	Sheffield	England	s8 7be	United Kingdom
Mark Stewart	Aberdeen	Scotland	AB124LY	United Kingdom
Mark Watkinson	Sheffield	England	S11 9JL	United Kingdom
Justine Head	Sheffield	England	S7 2lt	United Kingdom
Sam Jain	Wakefield		WF1	United Kingdom
Luis Vilo	Neuquen		8300	Argentina
Anna coupland	Sheffield	England	s7 2nh	United Kingdom
Rafiat Lagundoye	Sheffield	England	s11 9JL	United Kingdom
Satish Saxena	Sheffield	England	S11 9BR	United Kingdom
Caroline Vaughan	Sheffield	England	S7 2ls	United Kingdom
Ruth Clayton	Sheffield	England	S7 2HB	United Kingdom
Enid Hirst	Sheffield	England	S7 2HF	United Kingdom
Jane Carson			7630-489	Portugal
Amanda Knapton		England	IP14 6BZ	United Kingdom
Laura Di Bona	Sheffield	England	s7 2ls	United Kingdom
Anna Cantrell	Sheffield	England	S11 9JN	United Kingdom
Elizabeth Borland	Sheffield	England	S11 9LH	United Kingdom
Simone Matthews	Gänserndorf			Austria
Caroline Quincey	Sheffield	England	S72LU	United Kingdom
sally stubbs	Sheffield	England	s119nr	United Kingdom
Dominic Hayes	Bakewell	England	DE451FZ	United Kingdom
Peter Thompson	Sheffield	England	s11 9HA	United Kingdom
Amy Bouchier	Sheffield	England	S11 9HG	United Kingdom
Ben Stone	Sheffield	England	S11 9HE	United Kingdom
Vicki Peacock	Sheffield	England	S7 2na	United Kingdom
Julia Leatherland	sheffield	England	S7 2HB	United Kingdom
Lucy Atherton	Sheffield	England	S7 2LY	United Kingdom
Jane Huws	Sheffield	England	S11 9HY	United Kingdom
Angela Larkin	Sheffield	England	S11 9HR	United Kingdom
Dominic Britt	Sheffield	England	s7 2LY	United Kingdom
Christopher Medd	Sheffield	England	S7 2LT	United Kingdom
Charlotte Wardle	Sheffield	England	S11 9HS	United Kingdom
ben ablett	Sheffield	England	S7 2LE	United Kingdom
steve barker	Sheffield	England	s11 9nj	United Kingdom
Deborah Mullens	Sheffield	England	S11 9hj	United Kingdom
Gail Cox	Sheffield	England	S7 2ND	United Kingdom

Catherine Leaf		England	S119HA	United Kingdom
Nicola Leach	Sheffield	England	S7 2LJ	United Kingdom
Matt Hanberry	Sheffield			United States
michael joyce	Sheffield	England	s118xs	United Kingdom
Helen Winter	Sheffield	England	S11 9NP	United Kingdom
Katie Oliver	Sheffield	England	S7 2IZ	United Kingdom
Stephanie Glover	Sheffield	England	S117TX	United Kingdom
Sarah Hakes	Sheffield	England	S11 9RQ	United Kingdom
Gavin Blagden	Seaham	England	SR7 0JQ	United Kingdom
Ann Brewster	Sheffield	England	S7 2 LL	United Kingdom
Patsy Kelly	Warrington	England	WA5 9SJ	United Kingdom
Dylan Hughes	Sheffield	England	s11 9PR	United Kingdom
Anne Wright	Sheffield	England	S7 2LX	United Kingdom
Robert Middleton	Sheffield	England	S11 9NT	United Kingdom
Sophie Mellor	Sheffield	England	S11 9NR	United Kingdom
Kathryn Fagg		England	S10 4gg	United Kingdom
Gail Wright	Sheffield	England	S7 2GA	United Kingdom
Jason Stubbs	Sheffield	England	S11 9NR	United Kingdom
Sarah Disney	Sheffield	England	s11 9nj	United Kingdom
Debra warren	Sheffield	England	s11 9ny	United Kingdom
Ann Wheatley	Sheffield	England	S10 3TQ	United Kingdom
Sarah Durrant	Sheffield	England	S11 9HN	United Kingdom
Jean Hayes	Sheffield	England	S8 0EQ	United Kingdom
Helen Mark	Sheffield	England	S11 7JB	United Kingdom
Donna Harrison	Sheffield	England	S72gy	United Kingdom
Jade Rose	Sheffield	England	S72HE	United Kingdom
Laura Jeffery	Sheffield	England	S11 9jl	United Kingdom
Richard Woodward	Sheffield	England	S119lp	United Kingdom
Zoe Hollings	Sheffield	England	S72he	United Kingdom
Bethany Marney	Sheffield	England	S11 9JB	United Kingdom
Laurien Smith	Sheffield	England	S72ga	United Kingdom
Neil warren	Sheffield	England	s11 9ny	United Kingdom
Ann Cockram	Sheffield	England	S10 5rz	United Kingdom
Louise Hilton-Tapp	Sheffield	England	S11 9HR	United Kingdom
Laura Whitworth	Sheffield	England	S11 9nr	United Kingdom
Mark Howe	Sheffield	England	S7 2ly	United Kingdom
Rhonwen McCormack	Manchester	England	M19 3NR	United Kingdom
Sally marshall	Sheffield	England	s7 2nd	United Kingdom
Craig Burton	Sheffield	England	S11 9rn	United Kingdom
Deborah Niven	Sheffield	England	S11 9NT	United Kingdom
Richard Marshall	Sheffield	England	s7 2nd	United Kingdom
Carl Taylor	Sheffield	England	S7 2LJ	United Kingdom
Allen Broomhead	Sheffield	England	S7 2ND	United Kingdom
Gillian murphy	Sheffield	England	s11 9ng	United Kingdom
Sam Royle		England	S7 2HB	United Kingdom
Mark Royle	Sheffield			United States
josee shaw	Sheffield	England	S8 0fa	United Kingdom
Rachel Wright	Sheffield	England	S7 2gz	United Kingdom
kirstie ekwubiri	Halfway	England	s20 8gj	United Kingdom

Frances Ryall	Sheffield	England	S7 2HB	United Kingdom
Dylan Hughed	Sheffield	England	S11 9PR	United Kingdom
Eamonn Cox	Sheffield	England	S7 2ND	United Kingdom
Nathan Smith	Everton	England	Dn10 5bl	United Kingdom
Jorja gill	Sheffield	England	s11 7ax	United Kingdom
Barbara Stuchfield	Sheffield	England	S11 9HP	United Kingdom
Susan O'Shea	Sheffield	England	S11 9JE	United Kingdom
Julie garner	Killamarsh	England	S21 1jr	United Kingdom
Ewan stuchfield	Sheffield	England	s11 9RE	United Kingdom
Kevin Rowntree	Sheffield	England	S7 2LU	United Kingdom
Sarah Holmes	Sheffield	England	S11 9NT	United Kingdom
adam sumner	Sheffield	England	s11 9la	United Kingdom
ruth sumner	Sheffield	England	s11 9la	United Kingdom
Hannah Barker	Sheffield	England	S119NJ	United Kingdom
Gasan Chetty	Sheffield	England	S11 9PW	United Kingdom
Philip mellor	Sheffield	England	S119NR	United Kingdom
Paul Niven	Sheffield	England	S119NT	United Kingdom
Fenetta Snow	Sheffield	England	S7 2NB	United Kingdom
Jan Hughes	Mosborough	England	S20 5PE	United Kingdom
Alison Chetty	Sheffield	England	S11 9PW	United Kingdom
Claire Ashmore	Sheffield	England	S11 9NA	United Kingdom
Benjamin Ashmore	Sheffield	England	S11 9NA	United Kingdom
Sam Lin	谢菲尔德	England	S7 2LL	United Kingdom
Graham Smith	谢菲尔德	England	S7 2LL	United Kingdom
Judith Jones	Sheffield	England	S11 7GD	United Kingdom
Janine Hilton	Sheffield	England	S129la	United Kingdom
Julie saunby	Sheffield	England	s72na	United Kingdom
Jacquelyn Goddard	Sheffield	England	S11 7GE	United Kingdom
Gill Peacock	Dronfield	England	S18 8QZ	United Kingdom
Kate Eskholme	Derbyshire	England	s431ql	United Kingdom
Louise Engledow	sheffield	England	s7 2LH	United Kingdom
Alexandra Delamere- Bintcliffe	Huddersfield	England	HD80GT	United Kingdom
David Evans	Sheffield	England	S72he	United Kingdom
Shona Davison	Sheffield	England	S11 9QR	United Kingdom
Ken Hepplestone	Sheffield	England	S11 9nn	United Kingdom
Rachel Evans	Sheffield	England	S119sf	United Kingdom
Rosalind McTiernan	Kirkburton	England	HD8 0NP	United Kingdom
Jill rackham	Sheffield	England	S11 7LB	United Kingdom
Dianne Ward	Inkersall	England	S43 3GG	United Kingdom
Jane Avgousti	Sheffield	England	S119HN	United Kingdom
Kerry Davison	Sheffield	England	S11 9LP	United Kingdom
Christopher Campbell	Sheffield	England	S11 9NR	United Kingdom
Andrew Leigh	Sheffield	England	S21 1HF	United Kingdom
Jon Howe	Leeds	England	Ls124un	United Kingdom
Fiona wellington	Sheffield	England	s72ly	United Kingdom
Patti Kluczewski	Sheffield	England	S11 9hh	United Kingdom
Quentin Jendrzewski	Sheffield	England	S11 7EJ	United Kingdom
faye cockram	Sheffield	England	s10 5rz	United Kingdom

Lynda Leigh	Killamarsh	England	S21 1HF	United Kingdom
Enid MacNeill	Sheffield	England	S7 2LA	United Kingdom
anne avgousti	Sheffield	England	s11 9ae	United Kingdom
Andrew Gibson	Sheffield	England	S6 4RD	United Kingdom
Catherine Kelland	Sheffield	England	S11 9RH	United Kingdom
Christopher Kelland	Bristol	England	BS16 4QS	United Kingdom
Sarah Vernon	Sheffield	England	S11 9sp	United Kingdom
amanda russell	sheffield	England	s11 7pe	United Kingdom
sylvia goring	North Shields	England	ne304le	United Kingdom
Jo white	Sheffield	England	s7 2gp	United Kingdom
Paul Wright	Sheffield	England	S7 2GA	United Kingdom
Sharon McKeown	Richmond	England	TW10 6AD	United Kingdom
Nik Seth	Sheffield	England	S11 8RY	United Kingdom
Louise Jones	Sheffield	England	S11 9FT	United Kingdom
Alison McCloy	Ilkley	England	LS29 9QP	United Kingdom
nicholas kelland	Sheffield	England	S11 9SD	United Kingdom
Chris Hart			6725	Australia
Emma Green	Sheffield	England	S80GY	United Kingdom
colin chapman	Sheffield	England	s119jn	United Kingdom
melissa windle	Sheffield	England	S11 7PJ	United Kingdom
Elizabeth Priest	sheffield	England	s11 7pb	United Kingdom
Katie Dyke	Sheffield	England	S11 9FW	United Kingdom
Michelle Pedlow	Leiden			Netherlands
Sharon Prasanto	Sheffield	England	S7 2lr	United Kingdom
Clare Cryan	Sheffield	England	S11 9HF	United Kingdom
Joe Wilde	Onchan			Isle of Man
Tracy Favell	Dronfield Newcastle upon Tyne	England	s18 1uw	United Kingdom
Caroline Tompkins	Tyne	England	NE3 4XD	United Kingdom
Sally Sequerra	Sheffield	England	S7 2ND	United Kingdom
Julie Alexander-Hudson	Sheffield	England	s7 2qt	United Kingdom
Hilary Foster	Sheffield	England	S7 2GL	United Kingdom
JO Roe	Sheffield		Eckington	United Kingdom
M Bower	Sheffield	England	S11 9LJ	United Kingdom
Eileen Bendrey	Bristol	England	BS16 2RT	United Kingdom
Sam Sequerra	Sheffield	England	S7 2ND	United Kingdom
Nicky King	Sheffield	England	S7 2NB	United Kingdom
Neetu Jain	Shadwell	England	LS17 8JZ	United Kingdom
Anna Kirkman	Sheffield	England	S7 2HB	United Kingdom
Nicola Platt	Sheffield	England	S11 9NE	United Kingdom
Jennifer Carling-Wright	Sheffield	England	S7 2QS	United Kingdom
Kate Bradley	Sheffield	England	S7 2lu	United Kingdom
Suzanne Moore	Sheffield	England	S11 8UA	United Kingdom
Jo Egan	Sheffield	England	S7 2QP	United Kingdom
Stephen Hall	Sheffield	England	S7 2LJ	United Kingdom
Michelle allen	Sheffield	England	s11 9rq	United Kingdom
Frieda Wingfield	Sheffield	England	S7 2LL	United Kingdom
vanessa hunt	Sheffield	England	s7 2gj	United Kingdom
Sue Waterall	Sheffield	England	s7 2lq	United Kingdom

Gail Thompson	Sheffield	England	S11 9 RS	United Kingdom
Jake Coupland	Sheffield	England	S7 2NH	United Kingdom
Philip Birkinshaw	Sheffield	England	S7 2LT	United Kingdom
Francesca Birkinshaw	Sheffield	England	S7 2LT	United Kingdom
ade kentzer	Sheffield	England	S11 9LA	United Kingdom
Alexandra McNeil	Airdrie	England	S40	United Kingdom
Matthew Davison	Sheffield	England	S11 9lp	United Kingdom
Andy Roe	Eckington	England	S21 4HY	United Kingdom
Alistair Haigh	Sheffield	England	S7 2LS	United Kingdom
Heather Bulfin	Belfast	Ireland	BT10 0FY	United Kingdom
Simon holmshaw	Dronfield	England	S182ep	United Kingdom
Jamie Reay	London	England	N4 3RA	United Kingdom
Gareth Ropke	Sheffield	England	s11 9HA	United Kingdom
Melanie Hemsall	Sheffield	England	S11 9he	United Kingdom
Sarah Stone	Sheffield	England	S11 9HE	United Kingdom
John Swain	Sheffield	England	S11 9lp	United Kingdom
Alexander McCabe	Paisley	Scotland	PA2 7SE	United Kingdom
Rachael martin	Sheffield	England	s11 9JN	United Kingdom
Joanna barnes	Saint Helier			Jersey
Will Rodbard	Beaconsfield	England	HP9 2LD	United Kingdom
iain mayhew	Sheffield	England	s72lw	United Kingdom
sarah mayhew	Sheffield	England	s7 2lw	United Kingdom
Alison Hunt	Sheffield	England	S7 2GG	United Kingdom
Rachael Jones	Sheffield	England	S11 9LF	United Kingdom
Anthony Disney	Sheffield	England	s11 9nj	United Kingdom
Helen stanley	Sheffield	England	s11 9rb	United Kingdom
Shehzad Yousaf	Sheffield	England	S11 9HP	United Kingdom
Kathryn Yousaf	Sheffield	England	S11 9HP	United Kingdom
Gemma Drydale	Sheffield	England	S72lj	United Kingdom
Helen Everatt	Sheffield	England	s7 2lx	United Kingdom
Kathryn Pickford	Sheffield		Ecclesall	United Kingdom
Victoria Blackburn	Sheffield	England	s7 2gj	United Kingdom
Lindsay Field	Sheffield	England	s7 2lz	United Kingdom
Heather Johnson	Sheffield	England	S72gj	United Kingdom
Ed X	谢菲尔德	England	S7 2LL	United Kingdom
Steven Jackson	Sheffield	England	S7 2LL	United Kingdom
John Petty	Sheffield	England	S7 2LL	United Kingdom
Sam Lin	Sheffield	England	S7 2LL	United Kingdom
Linda McLoughlin	Sheffield	England	S7 2LL	United Kingdom
Ed McLoughlin	Sheffield	England	S7 2LL	United Kingdom
Steve Maccarthy	Sheffield	England	S7 2LL	United Kingdom
Mike Pattore	Sheffield	England	S7 2LL	United Kingdom
John Ibbetson	Sheffield	England	S7 2LL	United Kingdom
Lisa Sayles	Sheffield	England	S7 2LT	United Kingdom
M Suwais	Sheffield	England	S7 2LT	United Kingdom
D Lowe	Sheffield		S7	United Kingdom
G Egan	Sheffield		S7	United Kingdom
D Collings	Sheffield		S7	United Kingdom

G Tindall	Sheffield		S7	United Kingdom
J Tindall	Sheffield		S7	United Kingdom
Debra Deyhue	Sheffield		S7	United Kingdom
Chris Wilson	Sheffield		S7	United Kingdom
Jacob Fraser	Sheffield		S7	United Kingdom
Simon Parry	Sheffield		S7	United Kingdom
B Fildes	Sheffield	England	S7 2HB	United Kingdom
J Thomas	Sheffield	England	S7 2HB	United Kingdom
Chris Fildes	Sheffield	England	S7 2HB	United Kingdom
Ali Fildes	Sheffield	England	S7 2HB	United Kingdom
Mike Kidder	Sheffield	England	S7 2LS	United Kingdom
P Richardson	Sheffield		S7	United Kingdom
P Christopher	Sheffield		S7	United Kingdom
jill valentine	Sheffield		S7	United Kingdom
Mollie Valentine	Sheffield		S7	United Kingdom
M Walker	Sheffield		S7	United Kingdom
P Walker	Sheffield		S7	United Kingdom
GAYNOR PYRAH	Bradford	England	BD21PX	United Kingdom
karen lambert	Sheffield	England	s7 2nb	United Kingdom
Mike Hughes	Binton	England	Cv379tn	United Kingdom
James Blackburn	Sheffield	England	S7 2GJ	United Kingdom
Louisa giblin	Sheffield	England	s72ll	United Kingdom
Susan Hornsby	Barlow	England	S187sh	United Kingdom
Tana Briggs	Gildersome	England	LS27 7bw	United Kingdom
AVRIL BANKS	SHEFFIELD	England	S12 2GH	United Kingdom
Gillian Hughes	Hixon	England	ST18 0NR	United Kingdom
Hilary Briggs	Sheffield	England	S119HE	United Kingdom
Keven Briggs	c/o Sheffield	England	S11 9HE	United Kingdom
Amy Ryall	Sheffield	England	S8 9ED	United Kingdom
Helen Ryall	Sheffield	England	S7 1RX	United Kingdom
Jim bainbridge	Todwick	England	s26 1jx	United Kingdom
Natalie Coward	Sheffield	England	S7 2by	United Kingdom
Rita Norman	Pudsey	England	LS28 8JB	United Kingdom
Yan Geng	谢菲尔德	England	S7 2LL	United Kingdom
jonnathan jeffery	Sheffield	England	s11 9jl	United Kingdom
Jeff Waters	Sheffield	England	S7 2LY	United Kingdom
Tom Ryall	Sheffield	England	S7 1RX	United Kingdom
Rachel Berry	Belfast	Ireland	BT9 5HL	United Kingdom
Claire Roberts	Banbury	England	OX16 9TL	United Kingdom
JAMES Kavanagh	Glasgow	Scotland	G52 2ps	United Kingdom
Andrea Tomlinson	Warmsworth	England	dn4 9lb	United Kingdom
Caroline Millman	Sheffield	England	S7 2gy	United Kingdom
Andrew Millman	Sheffield	England	S7 2GY	United Kingdom
Alyson Siddall	Sheffield	England	S7 2HE	United Kingdom
Carolynne Farmer	Sheffield	England	S11 9HF	United Kingdom
Helen chapman	Leeds	England	ls17 8xp	United Kingdom
Kajal Odedra	london	England	e5 0ln	United Kingdom
Matt Saunders	Bournheath	England	b61 9jh	United Kingdom

Cheryl Cartwright	Alvechurch	England	B48 7ly	United Kingdom
Laura Ioffhouse	Outwell	England	pe14 8rg	United Kingdom
simon Carson	Bromsgrove	England	b60 2pw	United Kingdom
Chris Young	Northampton	England	NN2 8UU	United Kingdom
Sarah blackham	Longstanton	England	cb24 3Gw	United Kingdom
ken walker	Nottingham	England	NG3 5NJ	United Kingdom
James blackham	Longstanton	England	cb24 3gw	United Kingdom
Tim Cartwright	Alvechurch	England	B487ly	United Kingdom
Rosie Dodgson	Sheffield	England	S10 1qn	United Kingdom
Caroline Wright	Sheffield	England	S7 2QN	United Kingdom
Andrew McGrath	Sheffield	England	S72lz	United Kingdom
Elizabeth Charnley	Birmingham	England	B388DB	United Kingdom
Alison Hughes	Birmingham	England	B388EG	United Kingdom
Elleanor Kavanagh	Glasgow	Scotland	G52 2PS	United Kingdom
Ania Ares	Sheffield	England	S7 2GA	United Kingdom
Penelope Clow			7630-430	Portugal
Kevin Rhodes	Sheffield	England	S12 3JR	United Kingdom
Amanda Childs	Sheffield	England	S10 5fb	United Kingdom
Ruth winter	Sheffield	England	s7 2lp	United Kingdom
Ricardo Ares	Sheffield	England	S7 2GA	United Kingdom
Tracy brown	Sheffield	England	s7 2gd	United Kingdom
Zahir Shah	Peshawar			Pakistan
Lorraine Monk	Eckington	England	S21 4BU	United Kingdom
Elizabeth carter	Wincanton	England	ba9 8lz	United Kingdom
Nicholas Jones	Sheffield	England	S11 9LF	United Kingdom
Victoria li	Sheffield	England	s11	United Kingdom

Dobcroft Petition Comments

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Nikki Crookes	United Kingdom	2015-01-23	My children will have passed through Dobcroft when these changes occur, however, as a resident of Milthouses and a parent of children who have benefited from Dobcroft core values I can see without any doubt that the proposed changes will be of considerable detriment to the community and children's education and safety. We have more than sufficient places for children in catchment without expansion.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Sarah Dale	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	<p>The biggest concerns that many of us share are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <p>1. Just Too Big for Little Children Dobcroft already has the largest annual intake of children in the area. The teachers already have to work very hard to stop this feeling intimidating to children.</p> <p>The addition of an extra 60 children by the time our Foundation Stage children reach Year 2 will make the school feel much bigger and more overwhelming to new and existing children alike. Just imagine what a school size of 360 pupils will feel like to a 4-year-old.</p> <p>2. Insufficient / Inadequate Shared Space There will be increasing and considerable pressure on already tried shared areas. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The ICT Suite – because of existing demand for these facilities the children are only able to have a short period of time allocated to ICT each week. More children in school will squeeze this available time even further – far from ideal in the digital age. (The facility may be relocated under the redesign plans, but that won't compensate for increased demand) o Twice weekly PE sessions may be threatened if the already complex logistics of the Hall can't accommodate the additional classes, especially in winter. o Areas like the Hall, Library, play facilities and toilets will suffer significantly greater wear and tear as the number of children increases. </p> <p>3. Overcrowding Lunchtimes will be even more busy and rushed. If the school is forced to move to three sittings to accommodate the extra numbers then some children will either be forced to eat very early or very late.</p> <p>After-School Clubs, DASH and activities such as School Disco's, School Plays and Sports Days will become overcrowded and potentially a logistical nightmare for those organising and supporting.</p> <p>4. Reduced Space Available for Play New classrooms cannot be added without removing outdoor space. With more children attending, more outdoor space would be appropriate rather than less. Children need enough space to let off steam after periods of intensive classroom learning. Let's not forget that the curriculum is becoming more demanding year on year.</p> <p>5. Disruption and Safety Risks Any building work needed will undoubtedly bring with it disruption and safety implications for the children. Our Foundation Stage children will experience this at least three times as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the building work to create the new library & ICT area takes place. b. the building work to create new classrooms for the additional children in 2016 and 2017 takes place in the Infant's School. c. the building work takes place in the Junior School to accommodate the additional numbers, starting the first year our Foundation Stage children join the Junior School. (if the Junior School building work is phased in year by year then our Children will experience this every single year they are at Junior School) </p> <p>6. Road Safety Danger and Traffic Congestion The vast majority of new children will be from outside our catchment area. This means there will be a significant increase in road congestion and parking challenges in the surrounding roads at drop off and pick-up times. By 2020, when our foundation children are in their first year of Juniors, this will mean the potential for an additional 180 parking spaces being sought (and fought over) in the area. We've all witnessed some of the "parking" and "right of way" wars that take place every morning along Whitlowdale Crescent and Pingle Road – do we really want that to escalate into further chaos?</p> <p>More importantly, the dangerous implications for the road safety of the children are very concerning. Parents usually start to let their children develop their independence in the last couple of years at Junior School by allowing them to cross the roads to school alone and making at least part of their journey without adult supervision. How comfortable would you be with that knowing there could be an additional 180 cars in the area in a morning? And if we rein-in the children's development at that stage over safety concerns, how prepared, independent and confident will the children be when it comes to attending Senior School?</p> <p>Sent from my iPad</p>

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Katie Haigh	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	My children have been very happy at Dobcroft, but it is already one of the largest infant & junior schools in this area & to increase this to 120 per year is too much. The children are already being taught in mobile classrooms that I was taught in 30 years ago that were temporary then! There is already limited outdoor space particularly at the infant school, at the junior school 2 classes are already taught in the dinner concourse...the list goes on
Nadine Cain	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	I am against any increase in pupil numbers at Dobcroft. The school is not big enough for the children already attending. The site is not big enough to expand the school without impacting on the limited outside play space. I find it totally unacceptable to forfeit the library in order to accommodate the extra class for 2015. The library is a valuable resource not only for its primary function but it is used extensively as an extra learning space for small group teaching, special needs children and quiet space for one to one reading/teaching. It is already difficult to find quiet space in the school and the quality of education will undoubtedly suffer for many of the children.
Sarah Wilson	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	Dobcroft is already overcrowded. Please don't make it any bigger! Two other schools can offer much more viable alternatives
Lisa wragg	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	you have over crowded dore primary & that's a year to year lurch finger in the dark disaster for our current y2s & y1s. Sort it out lea!
Jenny Gallacher	Dronfield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	I'm signing because Pingle Road, etc are already a nightmare with cars at dropping off & pick up time & more children would just make the problem worse. It's amazing that there hasn't been a bad accident yet & there's no way an ambulance or fire engine would be able to get through.
nicola medd	stoke on trent, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	I think there are better alternatives out there that the council should consider. I think the Dobcroft schools will become too big to continue to provide the excellent individualised care they do now.
Loretta Chantry-Groves	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	Dobcroft is already intimidatingly large & overcrowded for young children. My own child & many of her friends are still finding this overwhelming at times. The nearby smaller Ecclesall infants have actually requested these extra places.
Kathryn Forrester	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	I am signing because I do not agree that there is space to accept more pupils into dobcroft schools. My daughter is currently in foundation class and already finds it stressful at dinner time with the current number of children in the dining hall. I am also currently not happy that children in the two current mobile out building classrooms have to go outside on their own to walk to the main building to find a toilet - extra pupils from Sept will put further strain on the toilet provisions - adding to stress levels for these little 4 and 5 year olds. Any loss of outdoor space for extra buildings will make outdoor play more cramped and therefore increase stress and risk of accidents.
Brenda Jones	Thornier, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	My grandson attends Dobcroft Infants and having dropped him off and picked him up I am aware of the problems that increasing pupil numbers would cause. I am a retired teacher and have been in a similar situation which is very stressful for pupils and staff.
Nita White	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	my granddaughter attends Dobcroft and it does not have facility to expand. Council should agree the requests for expansion of both Ecclesall and Clifford schools
Amy Clark	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	The need isn't at this school keep local children in local schools
Simon McCabe	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	Dobcroft is not a viable site for this expansion. It is already too cramped and valuable learning space will be lost. Others actively want expansion at their schools - listen to what people want.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Rachel Briggs	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	Other local schools want to expand and have the ability too when Dobcroft does not.
Clare Samuelson	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	our children like Dobcroft school but one of the drawbacks to this otherwise excellent school is the lack of play space. They are overcrowded in the playground and find it difficult to run around. Also with so many children there they can often feel a bit lost amongst the crowd. How can they be adequately supervised, and have enough space to play and run, if even more children are squashed in there?
Jenny Sheehan	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	Infant school is already overcrowded. I am a concerned grandparent and ex teacher. This is not the right future for this school.
Michelle McCabe	Edinburgh, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	this is my nephews' school
Sarah King	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	I agree entirely with all the points made
Anna coupland	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-25	The school is already in need of larger teaching spaces for its existing pupils, the school needs funding to be rebuilt properly.
Rafiat Lagundoye	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-25	I am a parent at the infant and junior school. They are already over crowded with limited outdoor space. Additional places would only make things worse.
Caroline Vaughan	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-25	The school is not big enough for an extra class intake when there are already two mobile classrooms. Also living near the school - the roads around the school can not cope with any more traffic.
Enid Hirst	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-25	This proposed expansion is going to add to the already dangerous traffic issues on roads local to Dobcroft, St. Wilfred's and Mylnhurst schools. At school starting times there is already chaos on our roads which have become dangerous for pedestrians, motorists and children who takes chances crossing the gridlocked roads. We are virtually trapped in our houses until the school traffic has been and gone - twice a day. Parents park across drives and there are frequent conflicts over the remaining parking spaces and the unsuspecting drivers who happen to want to get through the "one way" gap on their way to work or to deliver goods. It has got much worse since the start of this new school year - something has to be done to stop this already dangerous situation. This is becoming really dangerous and further expansion of Dobcroft must not be allowed. When a serious accident happens our councillors may well be held responsible if they allow more traffic to endanger lives on a daily basis. I have taken photographs of the traffic chaos and will continue to do so.
Jane Carson	Portugal	2015-01-25	This will affect my grandsons and it's not right
Elizabeth Borland	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-25	My daughter is starting school Sep and I do not want her in an over crowded school. I also live on Dobcroft Road and would be effected by the extra traffic.
Dominic Hayes	Bakewell, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	The right solution is to give parents what they want, ie no expansion at Dobcroft, it's not fair to the children that are there at the min. Other schools want the expansion and have the space. Dobcroft's head should be working for her own schools parents not her personal ambition and C.V. (That goes for the governors aswell)
Peter Thompson	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	Local children should attend their local school and not have children ferried in cars from other areas causing chaos to the roads

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Lucy Atherton	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	This school has not got the room to expand without new buildings. I don't feel it's fair to any child's learning to be compromised by the lack of space this project will bring. How long do you think it will take to feed 360 children hot school meals? How will 12 classes do 2 hours of indoor PE over the winter months, can local roads accommodate an additional 210 cars from children coming from other catchments (once all additional classes are filled into the junior school). These are just a few of the issues and lets not forget the 30 whole days the council have given school parents in consultation. Is this really a consultation or is this what 'is' going to happen?
Jane Huws	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	Dobcroft infants is already at full capacity. An additional class would take up all extra space which is currently used for space for upset (SEN) children, visits by Speech Therapist, Reading Volunteers. Adding to pupil numbers would seriously affect the quality of education at this school.
Angela Larkin	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	I fundamentally disagree with an intake of 120 at primary level.
Dominic Britt	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	I know how limited this school is for space already and have 2 daughters attending currently - this will also affect the junior school when new pupils progress from infants.
Christopher Medd	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	I fear that the expansion will damage the school's ability to provide an outstanding education to our children through the loss of non-classroom space and playgrounds. The long term plan to educate 840 children between the two schools will exceed the resources of the site, and have a significant knock on effect to local residents in terms of traffic and road use. It would seem that the choice to expand Dobcroft has been made for reasons of short term economics and expediency, rather than pursuing the expansion of other much smaller local schools who would like to grow.
Deborah Mullens	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	I don't agree with the proposed expansion for all the reasons given.
Helen Winter	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	Dobcroft infant and junior sites are already overcrowded, with use of temporary classrooms, limited cloakroom facilities and the need for staggered lunch times. I strongly feel that both the educational and wider needs of pupils will be compromised by the addition of extra classes to this school. It would be extremely sad if current facilities such as forest school, playing field, playground or library were to be lost.
Kate Oliver	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	I am the aunt of a pupil and prospective pupil and a local resident. The increase would have both an impact on my nieces education and a huge impact on traffic. There is already chaos on the local streets around morning drop-off and afternoon pick up.
Sarah Hakes	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	The increased class size number is not required in the current Dobcroft catchment for the next 4 years. There are already 5 temporary classrooms with shared amenities meaning toilet and shared learning areas are already over crowded. If the places are not needed in catchment the new children will be travelling from out of catchment, will need to drive and further add to the dangerously congested roads around the site entrances.
Ann Brewster	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	I live within 100 yards of the school and have vehicles blocking our road every day during the school term. They are not only at school opening and closing times but all day now presumably because there are not enough parking places within the school grounds for staff parking. We have lorry drivers knocking on our door regularly when they are unable to get through the parked cars.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Heathet Hughes	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	this proposal is poorly thought through and does not address the real needs of the area (eg where the extra children are in Sharrow and Greystones) and will seriously affect these schools. They should already be a through primary and a 4- form per year primary is rare because they don't work for the children or staff. Please, please think again. Build a new primary school on the Bannerdale site, that would be more forward thinking or expand Hoff house, that's closer to the need and is only 2 classes.
Anne Wright	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	As well as the reasons already given which I agree with, as an original pupil when the school very first opened it was disappointing enough to see how squashed in everything was my daughter was recently a pupil so to see further overcrowding is such a shame
Gail Wright	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	A 120 pupil entry is far too many for an infant school. There are clearly also significant health and safety implications of increasing student numbers.
Jason Stubbs	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	I'm signing because this whole scheme appears to have been thrown together with very little thought to how this will effect the current students within their learning environment, available space to play, toilet facilities, parking, knock on effect with the junior school, lack of knowledge available at the "consultation meeting" as well as conflicting information. Instead of Sheffield City Council coming up with yet another make do and mend quick fix solution why not do things properly and create a learning environment that will not "just do" but actually inspire and encourage the children to want to work and achieve the very best that they can. I worry that this will be poorly thought out, poorly executed and directly impact what is currently an exceptionally good school with great staff.
Ann Wheatley	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	This proposal has not been thought through and apparently there as been no consultation with either local residents or parents of pupils. This is not the way to get support and I very much hope it is thrown out.
Debra warren	Sheffield, ENG	2015-01-26	Dobcroft' school is has too many children in the school grounds already, the children are too young to be in a school with 120 intake, the traffic is already an issue every morning. There are many many more issues being raised.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Jean Hayes	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	<p>To expand the Pupil Admission Number at Dobcroft Infant School to 126 from September 2015 is certainly not in the best interests of young children.</p> <p>As a City once at the forefront of exemplary practice in Early Years Education, Sheffield now seemingly lacks the crucial consultation and genuine debate between Officers looking to place on numbers alone and Officers who need to be more proactive as Advocates for ensuring appropriate quality learning and teaching environments.</p> <p>How can such a disparity arise where the School is already successful in many areas? It is utilising space to a maximum in providing a very good education, achieving good results and working well with Parents / Carers and the School Community. By going ahead with the proposed additional numbers it will lead to overcrowding, and question the viability of continued success in all the crucial areas mentioned, as well as putting pressure on relationships with families and the wider School Community.</p> <p>Some existing spaces that are conducive to learning experiences would be subject to re-modelling, taking them away from use for existing children. Much more consideration should be given to how overwhelming such large numbers are to the very young and to what degree a lack of appropriate space has a negative impact. It is certainly not about how many chairs and tables can be squeezed in!</p> <p>I am signing this petition as a Grandparent concerned about the impact of this ill-though through decision and also as an Advocate for Quality in Early Years. As a retired Sheffield Nursery School Headteacher, my view is that all children need to be facilitated as lifelong learners through an appropriate learning environment as integral to their Curriculum. Adequate space to explore and learn through structured play, whilst developing increased confidence, is key to maximising educational attainment. How then is such overcrowding seen be conducive to current children attending or the new cohort?</p> <p>Overcrowding creates potential "obstacles" to a happy and thriving learning environment that may also impact on children with additional and specific needs, in terms of the loss of any quieter areas and overwhelming numbers of children sharing very limited space. A space in which to support children working with other Professionals is always an important factor.</p> <p>Officers recommending this action towards resolving a crisis in places should be urged to re-think the issues around Quality for all children and not purely on 'Affordability'? Birth rate figures and trends have been available in time for better planning options to be consulted upon and discussed with the rigour deserved. So, why the late urgency to create these places with no consultation? The Council's own figures suggest that other local Schools have a greater capacity to expand in order to offer places to children in their catchment. There is significant support for this option which explores better long term solutions, without the overcrowding that Dobcroft would endure.</p> <p>Object to the Council having a right to implement these changes in 2015 without consultation or due care about the impact on children. Sign the petition. Children only have one chance of experiencing a quality School environment to support their learning. An increase in number in a building with very limited space indoors and outdoors is not the solution for any of the Council's objectives. Whilst the City Council has legal obligations to provide places in a complex framework and the powers to implement decisions, informed debate and better communication is crucial. Being able to impose changes to practice doesn't necessarily mean that it is the most appropriate route to ensure maintaining and continuously striving to improve on the quality of education. Offering children the best learning environment possible, is surely the most important goal.</p>
Helen Mark	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	<p>Quality indoor and Outdoor learning spaces will suffer thus creating a direct impact on the learning experiences, well-being and feeling of belonging for the children.</p>

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Neil warren	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	the school is already overcrowded in temporary buildings and very little help from the Sheffield council. Maybe there's not enough unemployed parents on benefits to get the investment needed!!!!
Ann Cockram	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	The welfare education of children at this school are all being jepodised. The site is not big enough to accommodate extra children, it is a crowded school already
Mark Howe	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	I think the proposal to increase the intake of the school will cause problems unless the plan involves making the school (building and physical environment) much bigger
Deborah Niven	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	my children are at Dobcroft Infants and Dobcroft Juniors and the proposal will have a detrimental effect on resources
allen broomhead	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	I'm a local resident. This is being forced upon us without consultation or need. The effect on our street will be horrendous.
Sam Foyle	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	This move will have a detrimental effect on my son and other pupils at Dobcroft. These proposals have not been thought through and the extra class is not needed.
kirstie ekwubin	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	My friends children attend there
Frances Ryall	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	I think that adding the extra classes will be detrimental to the school.
Eamonn Cox	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	I object on the grounds there has been no demonstrated requirement for additional catchment capacity. The environmental and health and safety impact of the additional traffic in an already very busy Residential area. The unsustainability of transporting children across catchment areas without real need. The impact on these children of unnecessary travel on school days, and the impact on the existing children at the school on reduced resources and space.
Nathan Smith	Everton, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	To assist the plight of parents with children at the school
Jorja Gi	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	dobcroft is already at maximum capacity, adding more classrooms will take away the quality of the school! Just build a new junior school and expand a different infant school
Barbara Stuchfield	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	My children attende this schooland it was overcrowded then. My Grandddaughter now attends, it can't possibly take any more children
Ewan Stuchfield	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	It's already a joke, we already have to further fund our children's education with wildly over priced educational visits from outsourced 'professionals' and school trips. Imagine how much more will be demanded from us if there is another class to fund
Sarah Holmes	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	Concerned that this school will feel intimidating for young children with further expansion especially at playtime. Indoor and outdoor space already feels limited and more children attending school will limit space further and create safety issues especially at playtime. Traffic/parking really dangerous near school and this will increase significantly (in the long term) causing further safety implications to children walking/crossing roads.
ruth sumner	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	Listed on my letter of objection sent to sheffield city council

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Gasan Chetty	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	The school is landlocked with no option to expand outwards. Utilising any space within the property already strains a system which is under pressure and just about meeting safety standards. It seems extremely illogical and beggars belief, that a council could choose to ignore 2 other schools within a mile radius of Dobcroft who actually have the potential to expand? I have a strong objection to placing my child at the added risk of attending a school which is now under pressure and struggling with funding. It's about time that a sensible person/s at the council wakes up and sees the wood from the trees. Better still, spend a day at the school and see how well all -teachers and pupils, have adapted to a school which works to such high standards under adverse conditions.
Paul Niven	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	The school is already big enough with the teachers being extremely stretched.
Fenetta Snow	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	The building is not suitable for expansion.
Sam Lin	• 菲 • 林, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	the these schools are already full of children. 90 pupils per year group. I can not believe the council are still wanting to add more places.
Gary Smith	Detroit, MI	2015-01-28	car parking at school times is horrible. those parents blocked our gate.
Shona Davison	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	Dobcroft is already a large school. If it becomes larger it will be way beyond an acceptable size for a primary school.
Jill rackham	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	I believe expanding Ecclesall Infants and making Clifford a through Primary would be a better solution.
Christopher Campbell	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	From reading the literature to hand I do not believe that Dobcroft infant can cope with the amount of children it is proposing, having been a parent at the school for over a year.
Quentin Jendrzewski	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	I have a baby who in a few years will need to be educated.
laye cockram	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	This is a not the correct way to resolve the issue .the council need to look at the other schools with more space and provision.
anne avgosti	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	my grandchildren go to this school.
sylvia going	north shields, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	as a grandparent who regularly collects or drops off children I feel there would be insufficient room for the extra classes without adversely effecting the current children.
Jo White	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	my children go to this school
Paul Wright	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	This proposal will deliver school places in areas where there is limited need at the expense of schools that are desperate to expand. The council's own figures indicate the infant school already has 24 more pupils than the site's capacity so I fully understand the proposal to introduce 90 more!
Nik Seth	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	As a former parent and governor, I oppose the idea as the key people to suffer will be the children. Both schools are massively overcrowded and have too little space already. Adding 30% to the school populations would destroy the schools and the childrens' space to grow.
Dean Jones	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	There are other options to create the extra spaces needed in Ecclesall Infants. I would not be happy for my child to go to school where they have been squashed into an already crowded school and I can fully understand why neighbours would not want more cars being brought into the area every day.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
colin chapman	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	too many children in one class reduces one to one attention too many distractions
MELISSA WINDLE	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	We moved house to make sure our two boys could be placed in Ecclesall Infants school. My husband, his sister and all my eldest sons cousins have been or ho to Ecclesall. we would be extremely disappointed if we had to place them anywhere else. I do not drive, and we would struggle taking the boys anywhere else.
Sharon Prasanto	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	The school is already struggling to fit all it's pupils into the current school and building new classrooms is only going to take away the schools already small playground area. There are lots of small village schools that only have one class per year so it seems unfair to add an extra class to a school that already has 3 classes per year. Even though my son will be leaving the school before the changes are due to happen I believe this is totally unacceptable. This will only put more pressure on dobcroft school teaching staff and the quality of teaching and the children's education will suffer.
Caroline Tompkins	Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	it affects my friends children
Sally Sequerra	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	This needs more thought & consultation and shouldn't be rushed through. Also worried about extra cars in an already busy area with 2 schools. Dangerous driving / parking witnessed every day as close resident. Where are extra children going to be housed - no room & push to increase outdoor learning / physical fitness not reduce it. How will overcrowding & stretched resources increase learning capability.
Hilary Foster	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	Putting an extra 90 kids in infants, an extra 120 in juniors when there isn't room while two others schools actively want to expand. and there's good evidence to support the forecast that Ecclesall is where a larger need will be. is just illogical and perverse. Please listen, SCC!
JO Roe	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	It affects my family
Jo Egan	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	the school building is already overcrowded and has a number of mobiles operating as classrooms. An extension would take away from outdoor play areas. In addition, the parking around school is horrendous and more cars would make it dangerous. The school is dated and needs to be rebuilt, not have additional classes added on.
Michelle allen	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-31	traffic problems, school not big enough, lack of outdoor space
Frieda Wingfield	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-31	I'm fed up with cars blocking my drive at school times
Jake Coupland	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-31	As an ex-student I believe the school to be cramped enough and increasing student numbers would only make this worse.
Phil Birkinshaw	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-01	Council's own Q and A document proves it is unnecessary. Too much traffic congestion already.
ade kentzer	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-01	The traffic congestion is bad enough as it is without increasing it by another third thereby increasing the risk of accidents. The school grounds in my opinion are not big enough to support the extra capacity.
Matthew Davison	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-01	The school is already at capacity and additional children would further deplete existing resources
Andy Roe	Eckington, United Kingdom	2015-02-02	This change will be detrimental to the education of my niece and nephew

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Alistair Hagh	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-02	<p>The school already has the largest annual intake of pupils in the South West of Sheffield, out of 11 schools only Dobcroft and Hunters Bar already are committed to an annual intake of 90 pupils. Increasing the school pupil intake by one third will reduce the amount of outdoor play space (which is already limited) and push beyond the limits the school's shared facilities (e.g. hall, library, ICT suite, etc.)</p> <p>Virtually all the additional spaces will be taken by children from outside the catchment area, and therefore all will be travelling to school by car - thus ensuring the existing traffic problems will be made substantially worse.</p> <p>The proposal to expand Dobcroft infants demonstrates a complete laziness of thought on behalf of the Sheffield Council education department, and it is a proposal which takes no account as to what is in the best interests of children and parents.</p>
Sarah Turner	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-03	<p>I do not agree with the proposal for the following reasons-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - intake of 120 is just too big for small children - overcrowding at the school - impact on already stretched shared services/ resources - reduced area to play because of the need to build to accommodate additional places - health and safety risks and road safety issues. <p>These points will be expanded on in a formal objection to the council.</p>
Alexander McCabe	Paisley, United Kingdom	2015-02-03	<p>My Grandson goes to this school. It is not suitable for this expansion. Please explore other more viable options.</p>
Shehzad Yousaf	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-05	<p>Dobcroft school already serves more children than originally planned for, with the pupils having to make use of limited (and not always appropriate) indoor spaces; this is in addition to the mobiles that are already on site. Furthermore, there is an impact to families in the local community with additional traffic and footfall, which will only grow if the additional places are approved. Finally, please consider the expansion of other schools which can absorb the increase, unlike Dobcroft.</p>
Gemma Drydale	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-06	<p>I live on the street where the school is based and am very concerned about traffic levels, already cars block most access roads at school drop off/ collect time. Also have children who will be attending this school and concerned about the quality of their education if shoehorned in and insufficient facilities.</p>
Ed X	•菲•德, United Kingdom	2015-02-07	<p>ther are already enough chaos at this area, getting more children and parents into Dobcroft is a mistake.</p>
GAYNOR PYRAH	Bradford, United Kingdom	2015-02-08	<p>I WISH THE SCHOOL TO KEEP NUMBERS AS THEY ARE. EXPANSION MAKES MORE PROBLEMS THAN IT SOLVES.</p>
Mike Hughes	binton, United Kingdom	2015-02-09	<p>Overcrowding in schools is bad for education.</p>
Gillian Hughes	Hixon, United Kingdom	2015-02-09	<p>My Great Nephew attends this school. I am a retired Primary School Teacher. In my experience overcrowded schools have a damning effect on children's education. The present good reputation of this school is at stake.</p>
Amy Ryall	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-09	<p>Removing Library facilities and outdoor space in schools is not the way to provide a rounded and quality education.</p>
Rita Norman	Pudsey, United Kingdom	2015-02-10	<p>Unacceptable. Our children deserve better.</p>

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Yan Geng	• 莊 • 德, United Kingdom	2015-02-10	the neighbourhood has madness parking fights going on in the morning and afternoon, if the council bring more people into this area, you will are putting children's life at risk, why don't you expand at Ecclesall Infant, Clifford.
Mait Saunders	Bourneheath, United Kingdom	2015-02-11	I think it's disgusting what is being proposed.
Sarah blackham	Longstanton, United Kingdom	2015-02-11	because I have relatives who attend the school currently
Caroline Wight	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-11	My child starts this school in September and the issues outlined on the petition are of great concern to me.
Andrew McGrath	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-11	Im worried about traffic and the dangers this poses to children, plus the obvious space issues (i.e. where are the children going to eat??!!?)
Eleanor Kavanagh	Glasgow, United Kingdom	2015-02-11	Classes are already overcrowded more pupils will make the teachers job a lot harder.
ania ares	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need: current data suggests there is no need within existing catchment for additional spaces and the pressure is in other schools - funding- it is not clear what the proposals are and whether they will address historic under funding - traffic, increase of 210 children from out of catchment will have significant impact on local roads. SCC have not provided any Traffic Impact Assessment info - potential negative impact on children's education - current site area is approx 23,000m² if the school was to increase to 840 pupils the gross site area for that amount of pupils according to BB103 should be 27,000m². Increase would result in overcrowding and go against current government guidance for school development
Penny Clow	Portugal	2015-02-11	The schools current values need to be kept
Kevin Rhodes	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-11	As usual with all government run organisations, any feasibility study and consultation period are inadequate token gestures. Instead of ignoring users concerns they should listen and take on board all the relevant issues that users have and are raising, such as inadequate provisions of toilet / cloakroom and dining facilities. Removal of indoor / outdoor spaces. Little regard or understanding of traffic implications. All these issues will effect the ability to merely maintain quality education, let alone improve it. Sadly most politicians have an inability or lack of will to listen to the people who initially gave them their posts.
Ricardo Ares	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-11	I believe there are better alternatives that could deliver the extra spaces in other Sheffield schools
Zahir Shah	Peshawar, Pakistan	2015-02-12	I'm signing it because it will have bad impact on learning environment of students. Please do not increase number of students
Elizabeth carter	Wincanton, United Kingdom	2015-02-12	my grandchildren go to school in Sheffield
Nicholas Jones	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-12	My children will suffer as a result of squeezing all the extra children into both schools. I am concerned about their education, their health and safety and the impact it will have on their early school life and physical education if extra buildings squeeze out (already relatively small) playing areas. Bringing more traffic into the area which already has 3 schools in very close proximity increases the likelihood of accidents.

Clifford Petition

Below is the text of a an online petition that has been running for the past three weeks during the consultation period. Whilst I know you are aware of this petition, I wanted to send all current comments and 378 signatures to you tonight so that everyone who has signed and commented will be counted (change.org sends updates but this is likely to be the final number before close of consultation). Please do read the comments. There are a wide variety of concerns and these need to be addressed.

Yours,

Judith Jones

Create new primary school places that are accessible to the areas of highest need by expanding Ecclesall Infant School by one form and expanding Clifford Infant School into a through primary.

Sheffield City Council are consulting on plans to expand Dobcroft by one class in every year group. There are currently over sixty children in South West Sheffield who will not get a place in their catchment school and could be sent to schools far from home. Dobcroft is already offering places to children not in catchment and is in the wrong place to help with this. Even if Dobcroft expands by one form there are still not enough primary school places for the number of children in the area. Children will be sent to schools that are nowhere near where they live, and parents will have to ensure they are there every day on time or they will get fined. Sheffield City Council has a history of solving the problem of primary school places by forcing schools to build on their playgrounds and convert all their vital non-classroom workspaces into classrooms. Sheffield City Council needs to act now by expanding Clifford and Ecclesall Infants to provide more primary school places. There is room for both schools to expand without losing non-classroom work spaces and with minimal disruption to current pupils. These plans have the support of both headteachers. If you have an interest in providing quality primary education in Sharrow, Nether Edge, Ecclesall, Lowfield and Greystones we ask you to sign the petition below, adding your own comments. For more information, read on.

There are many children in Sheffield who are unable to get a school place in their catchment school. However, the disparity between places on offer and children in catchment varies. The figures given by a member of the Sheffield City Council admission team in November 2014 were:

Ecclesall Infant School: 60 places available, 84 children in catchment, disparity of 24

Greystones Primary School: 90 places available (following recent expansion), 104 in catchment, disparity of 14

Sharrow Primary School: 60 places available, 102 in catchment, disparity of 42

Lowfield Primary School: 60 places available, 77 in catchment, disparity of 17

Holt House Infant School: 60 places available, 94 in catchment, disparity of 34

Nether Edge Primary School: 60 places available, 89 in catchment, disparity of 29

Hunter's Bar: 90 places available, 74 in catchment, 16 additional non-catchment places

Dobcroft: 90 places available, 76 in catchment, 14 additional non-catchment places

In 2015, Sheffield City Council plan to increase Dobcroft school by one class. The letter sent to parents claims:

“In response to an increasing pupil population in the South West of the City the Authority is making an extra class (30 places) available at Dobcroft Infant School for the Reception (Foundation 2) intake in September 2015. As this year group moves through the school, an

extra class will also be made available at Dobcroft Junior School for the 2018 Year 3 intake. The council is formally consulting on making this increase a permanent change for all future intakes from September 2016 onwards and information on this proposal is being made available locally during January.”

This petition is to say to Sheffield City Council that even if the permanent expansion of Dobcroft goes ahead it will not be enough to alleviate the problem of children being sent to schools that are not near to where they live. In fact, in areas with the highest number of children not able to go to their catchment school, it will make little or no difference. Therefore, it makes financial and practical sense to expand Clifford Infant School into a through primary and increase Ecclesall Infant School by one form.

Dobcroft already has pupils attending that do not live in the catchment area. The school has not got an easily available expansion site. Having seen what has happened in a number of other schools (including Greystones) it is likely that any expansion of Dobcroft will involve either the loss of non-classroom work spaces or building on the playground. This reduces the quality of education for all children. Furthermore, concerns about parking around Dobcroft have already been raised locally.

In contrast, Clifford Infant School does not have a catchment area. It is currently a single form infant school taking children from all over the city. There are also children of many different religions and of no faith attending. There is space to expand Clifford Infant School without having to build on a playground or reduce libraries or other spaces. The former council-owned Sheffield Inclusion Centre building opposite Clifford Infant School is currently empty, as is the large plot of land adjacent to the school. The headteacher and chair of governors have both given their support to this move, and many parents also agree this would be beneficial for their children as it means the transition between infant and junior school is smoother.

Informal talks have taken place that have included the Ecclesall Infant executive headteacher. It is understood that if Clifford increases to a through primary, Ecclesall Infant School will also expand to become three form entry. Ecclesall Infant School is currently oversubscribed, with 24 children in catchment for whom there is no space. Furthermore, Ecclesall Infant School has a large amount of outside space available to it. Any expansion would still leave pupils with a sizeable playground and is likely not to reduce their vital non-classroom workspaces. Ecclesall Junior school could then take all Ecclesall Infant children when they reach Y3, as they would no longer be accepting a class from the expanded Clifford Primary.

Sheffield City Council has an opportunity here to plan for future admissions sensibly. The expansion of Dobcroft, whilst creating additional school places, will not help pupils in the areas where they are least likely to get a catchment place. Expanding Clifford and Ecclesall is a fairer choice as there is no catchment at Clifford and Ecclesall is over-subscribed.

The children going into reception at Clifford in 2015 could be the first entering the through primary. This allows three years for any necessary building work to be completed and for vacancies to be advertised and filled. The disruption to education of children at Clifford will be far less than that of any other school where increasing capacity requires in-school or playground building work.

Increasing Ecclesall Infant School by one class is a viable proposition, and recognised as such by the executive headteacher. There will still be ample outside space for children and all children will still be able to complete the smooth transition to Ecclesall Junior School.

Please add your own comments when signing this petition - it is important that the council realises the vast number of different reasons why expanding Clifford to a through primary and expanding Ecclesall Infants by one form is the right decision. Thank you.

Name	City	State	Zip Code	Country	Signed On
Judith Jones	Sheffield			England	United Kingdom 18/01/2015
Emma Hardy	Sheffield			England	S11 7LG United Kingdom 18/01/2015
fiona greensit	Sheffield			England	S11 7rb United Kingdom 18/01/2015
Jen Hardy	Sheffield			England	S10 2DZ United Kingdom 18/01/2015
Matthew Hardy	Sheffield			England	S10 2DZ United Kingdom 18/01/2015
Naomi Denno	Sheffield			England	S11 9fb United Kingdom 18/01/2015
Kathryn Fagg	Sheffield			England	S10 4GG United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Martin Rescorle	Sheffield			England	S11 7LN United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Carly Cotton	Sheffield			England	S7 1SG United Kingdom 19/01/2015
KAte Storey	Sheffield			England	S11 19br United Kingdom 19/01/2015
April baird	Sheffield			England	S8 7ph United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Rachel Burton	Sheffield			England	S11 9RN United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Julie Cotton	Sheffield				S6 5S United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Amy Foden	Wigan	England	WN5 7DH		United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Louise Banks	Sheffield			England	S7 1RY United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Louise Platts	Sheffield			England	S7 1nw United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Cherry Mair	Sheffield			England	S11 7qa United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Nicole Brown	Sheffield			England	S7 1SD United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Corinne O'Neill	Sheffield			England	S18 1wf United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Matt Jones	Sheffield			England	S11 9FE United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Joanne Friend	Sheffield			England	S11 7RA United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Margaret Beck	Mitford	England	Ne6 1 3qa		United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Laura Gascoyne	Sheffield			England	S11 7gn United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Zoe Dickinson	Sheffield			England	S11 7RN United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Nic Price	Sheffield			England	S11 7RD United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Sarah Jones	Sheffield			England	S11 9rs United Kingdom 19/01/2015
lisa cook	Sheffield			England	S11 9hu United Kingdom 19/01/2015
ioan Jones	Sheffield			England	S11 9rs United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Katie McCabe	Sheffield			England	S11 9NJ United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Alexander McCabe	Paisley	Scotland			Pa2 7SE United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Jean Hayes	Sheffield			England	S8 0EQ United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Robbie Burton	Sheffield			England	S11 9rn United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Hannah Peck	Sheffield			England	S11 8YD United Kingdom 19/01/2015

katharine crabbe	Sheffield	EnglandS7 1NP	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
karen barker	Sheffield	Englands11 8ay	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
janette foden	Allerton	EnglandBD159lf	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Emma Andrews	Sheffield	EnglandS2 2SF	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Nicola Thompson	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9LF	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
stephen brown	Sheffield	Englands7 1sd	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Nadine Cain	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9JN	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Mandy Williams	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7LN	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Caroline spooner	Sheffield	Englands117jh	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Craig Burton	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9rn	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
robin smith	Sheffield	Englands7 2gq	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Sarah Patterson	Sheffield	EnglandS117LU	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Laurien Smith	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2GQ	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
stephen peck	Sheffield	Englands11 8yd	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Jodie Thake	Sheffield	EnglandS119LP	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Annwen Stone	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7BH	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Helen Bettesworth	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7gu	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Caroline millman	Sheffield	Englands7 2gy	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Dominic Hayes	Bakewell	EnglandDE45 1 FZ	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Lucy Kettleborough	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2HE	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Sophie bradey	Sheffield	Englands117lq	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Demelza Lee	Sheffield	EnglandS7 1HN	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Andrew Millman	Sheffield	EnglandS72GY	United Kingdom 19/01/2015
Rachel Wright	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2GZ	United Kingdom 20/01/2015
Valerie Hobbs	Sheffield	EnglandS118yh	United Kingdom 20/01/2015
Helen Pennington	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9FD	United Kingdom 20/01/2015
Elizabeth Bennetts	London	EnglandEN4 9NX	United Kingdom 20/01/2015
Florence Ij Ugbelase	Sheffield	EnglandS11 8FW	United Kingdom 20/01/2015
Sarah Goodhart	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9fd	United Kingdom 20/01/2015
Caitlin Waters	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2LY	United Kingdom 20/01/2015
Liz Dracas	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9dg	United Kingdom 20/01/2015
Marguerite White	London	EnglandRM94AT	United Kingdom 20/01/2015
Jade Woods	Bridlington	Englandyo15 2ds	United Kingdom 20/01/2015
Alan Batley	sowerby bridge	Englandhx6 3an	United Kingdom 20/01/2015

april varlik	London England	NW1 6XE	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Catherine Liley	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9RB	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Helen Winter	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9NP	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Laura Jeffery	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9JL	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
rob liley	Sheffield	Englands11 9rb	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Julie Saunby	Sheffield	EnglandS72na	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Kerry Pearson	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9hr	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Janine Hilton	Sheffield	EnglandS119la	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Helen Kayani	Sheffield	Englands119aq	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
sharon vickers	london	Englandn15 6rp	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
David Morley	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2QS	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Polly Morley	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2qs	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Rachel Thornton	Sheffield	EnglandS6 4QS	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
elizabeth hooper	Sheffield	Englands11 9hp	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Lynda Hewson	Loxley	Englands6 6te	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Rosemary Hart	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7LL	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Alexandra Harrison	Sheffield	EnglandS10 4LB	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
julie endacott	Sheffield	Englands72lt	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Hannah Elliott	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9HN	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Rachael Hughes	Sheffield	EnglandS8 2lz	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Michael Elliott	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9HN	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
lisa Hollingworth	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9RD	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Matthew Winter	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9NP	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Amanda Strine	SHEFFIELD	EnglandS11 9SQ	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
jean Wood	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9JL	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Chris Saunby	Sheffield	EnglandS72NA	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Candice wang	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9jg	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Rebecca Synan	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9QZ	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Brenda Thompson	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9HA	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Charlotte Bloor	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7ju	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Karen Green	Sheffield	Englands8 8qq	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Elaine Holme	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2LT	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Simon McCabe	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9NJ	United Kingdom	20/01/2015
Steve Barker	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9NJ	United Kingdom	20/01/2015

Emma Pandhal	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9HN	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
iain mayhew	Sheffield	Englands7 2lw	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Vicki peacock	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2na	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Julia Leatherland	sheffield	EnglandS7 2HB	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
sarah mayhew	Sheffield	Englands7 2lw	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Vicky darker	Sheffield	Englands11 9nn	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Irene Smith	St Andrews	Scotland ky16 8hl	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
William James	"Cockermouth, Cumbria"	EnglandCA13 0BS	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Angela Larkin	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9HR	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Morven lowe	Sheffield	Englands11 7rl	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Stephanie Glover	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7TX	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Sally-Ann Rogerson	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2HB	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Max romero cameron	Guildford	Englandgu4 7jp	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Damion Royce	London	EnglandW1A 1AA	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Deborah Woodhouse	Sheffield	EnglandS11. 9lj	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Jessica Ross	Sheffield	EnglandS7 1NN	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Jade Rose	Sheffield	EnglandS72HE	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Maria Widdowson	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7PD	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Rachel Gaffey	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2LL	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Elizabeth Brough	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7JN	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Tony Norman	Sheffield	EnglandS119JN	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Paul Darker	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9NN	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
julie eades	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7LA	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Sarah King	Sheffield	EnglandS72lb	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Iain Goodhart	Sheffield	EnglandS119fd	United Kingdom 21/01/2015
Sarah Clarke	Sheffield	EnglandS117pa	United Kingdom 22/01/2015
Michael Dale	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7by	United Kingdom 22/01/2015
Laurence Mosley	Sheffield	Englands118yn	United Kingdom 22/01/2015
Alexandra Knowles	Sheffield	EnglandS118WA	United Kingdom 22/01/2015
Jonathan Bradley	Sheffield	EnglandS11 8SB	United Kingdom 22/01/2015
Mihaela Roxana Cremeciug Pelin	Sheffield	EnglandS7 1LN	United Kingdom 22/01/2015
Michael Joyce	Sheffield	EnglandS118xs	United Kingdom 22/01/2015
Chris Fry	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9BG	United Kingdom 22/01/2015
Helen Hudson	Sheffield	EnglandS8 0HR	United Kingdom 22/01/2015

Emma Bohan	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7AB	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Evette Hudson	Sheffield	EnglandS8 9dn	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Julie Mosley	Sheffield	EnglandS118yn	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
antje pieper	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7Jy	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Jackie Fry	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9BG	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Angela Fry	Dronfield	EnglandS18 8QR	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Andy Fehler	Sheffield	EnglandS10 1WJ	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Nicola Bailey	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9BG	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Paula Husband	Sheffield	Englands10 1PD	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Rashmi Gadataranavar	Sheffield	EnglandS7 1NW	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
rachel charles	Sheffield	Englands118wb	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
david gumbrell	North Cornelly	Wales cf334df	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
jacqueline ross	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2BR	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Harbans Khella	Sheffield	EnglandS7 1rx	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Joy French	Sheffield	Englands22sf	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Christopher Medd	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2LT	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
christian hill	sheffield	Englands11 9az	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Nicola Medd	Sheffield	S7 2T	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Greg Price	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9ft	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Shalini Watkinson	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9JL	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Emma Farrell	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2NA	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Frank Reardon	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7LT	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Helen Reardon	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7LT	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Bethany Marney	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9JB	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Laura Whitworth	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9nr	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Laura Khella	Sheffield	EnglandS7 1RX	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Helen Higgins	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2lp	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Ruth Meiring	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7ax	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Sally Hunter	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7PE	United Kingdom	22/01/2015
Louise Thompson	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9rn	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
judith morris	Sheffield	Englands17 4pw	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
Louise Engledow	sheffield	Englands7 2LH	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
Patrick Kent	Sheffield		United States	23/01/2015
Edward Pennington	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9FD	United Kingdom	23/01/2015

Suzanne Wilde	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2LT	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
Nikki Leach	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2lj	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
Emma Garrow	Sheffield	EnglandS11 8XH	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
June Harris		EnglandHA5 4SJ	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
Gail Cox	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2ND	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
louise fear	Sheffield	Englands11 9jg	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
Ewan King	Sheffield	Alabama s7 2nb	United States	23/01/2015
Robert Wilson	Sheffield	EnglandS119HD	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
Heathet Hughes	Sheffield	Englands11 9pr	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
Dylan Hughed	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9PR	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
Nicky King	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2NB	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
Amy Clark	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9he	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
Hannah Edwards	Sheffield	EnglandS119ra	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
Amanda Russell	Sheffield	Englands11 7pe	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
ania ares	Sheffield	Englands7 2ga	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
Doreen McLaren	Sheffield	EnglandS2 3 ux	United Kingdom	23/01/2015
Sam Thomas	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9PN	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
Suzanne Wheatley	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9PN	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
Xavier Thomas	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9PN	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
Liliana Thomas	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9PN	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
Kevin Rowntree	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2LU	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
Ben Higgins	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2LP	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
Melvyn White		EnglandS7 2DQ	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
Nita White	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2DQ	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
shraddha verma	Sheffield	Englands72le	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
Alison Pittaway	Worcester	EnglandWr9 7bt	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
Louise Jones	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9ft	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
sarah watson	Farsley	EnglandIs28 5hg	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
Nikola Matulewicz Evans	Chesterfield	EnglandS42 7da	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
Charlotte Richardson	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9FU	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
debbie zappa	plymouth	Englandpl1 5qa	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
Clare Samuelson	Sheffield	EnglandS72LW	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
stephen hoadley	Hastings	Englandtn37 7th	United Kingdom	24/01/2015
stuart cox	deal kent	EnglandCT14 7SE	United Kingdom	24/01/2015

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Amanda curtis Sheffield EnglandS11 9lp United Kingdom 25/01/2015

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Zoe Hollings Sheffield EnglandS72he United Kingdom 25/01/2015

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Lucy Hogarth Sheffield EnglandS11 9RS United Kingdom 25/01/2015

Nancy Hortonl Sheffield EnglandS11 9HY United Kingdom 25/01/2015

catherine Landon Combe Down EnglandBA2 5DJ United Kingdom 25/01/2015

Caroline Vaughan Sheffield EnglandS7 2ls United Kingdom 25/01/2015

Sarah Dale Sheffield EnglandS7 2LL United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Jonathan Goring Sheffield EnglandS17 3QR United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Gemma Harrison Sheffield EnglandS11 7LT United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Emma Thackeray Sheffield EnglandS 7 2LX United Kingdom 26/01/2015

David Green Sheffield EnglandS8 8QQ United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Sally marshall Sheffield EnglandS7 2nd United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Shuko CONQ Sheffield EnglandS11 7GD United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Fabrice CONQ Sheffield EnglandS11 7GD United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Anne Hollows Sheffield EnglandS7 2GZ United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Shelley Mulholland Sheffield EnglandS10 2QN United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Richard Rogers Derby EnglandDE73 6RE United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Steven HEARNE Doncaster EnglandDN11 9JL United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Alexander Valliant Salford EnglandM3 5JB United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Cate Turner Christchurch EnglandBH23 1ES United Kingdom 26/01/2015

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Tom Rubens London EnglandN4 2HN United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Martin Stephens coventry Englandcv34bw United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Nicola Thompson Nee-Hyde Sheffield EnglandS11 9LF United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Heather Walker Skipton EnglandBD235BY United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Victoria li Sheffield Englands11 United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Eamonn Cox Sheffield EnglandS7 2ND United Kingdom 26/01/2015

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Andy Wilson Sheffield EnglandS7 2gj United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Gareth Jones EnglandS11 9AQ United Kingdom 26/01/2015

lucy edwards Sheffield EnglandS6 5bj United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Rebecca Askgam Sheffield EnglandS11 7ps United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Amanda Drewett Sheffield EnglandS11 7LL United Kingdom 26/01/2015

██████████ Sheffield EnglandS11 ██████ United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Sam Dexter Barnsley EnglandS712AT United Kingdom 26/01/2015

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Ann Wheatley Sheffield EnglandS10 3TQ United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Sarah Disney Sheffield Englands11 9nj United Kingdom 26/01/2015

Jessie Worley Sheffield EnglandS7 2LJ United Kingdom 27/01/2015

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Samuel McLean Glasgow Scotland G52 2DY United Kingdom 27/01/2015

Sarah O'Connor Sheffield Englands11 7PB United Kingdom 27/01/2015

Joseph Hendry Musselburgh Scotland EH216RR United Kingdom 27/01/2015

Maureen Mayers Limsfield EnglandRH8 0 DT United Kingdom 27/01/2015

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Carl Taylor Sheffield EnglandS7 2LJ United Kingdom 27/01/2015

Elizabeth Priest sheffield Englands11 7pb United Kingdom 27/01/2015

Michael Hunt Sheffield EnglandS7 2GG United Kingdom 27/01/2015

Alison heath	Sheffield	Englands11 7rr	United Kingdom 27/01/2015
Sam Royle	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2HB	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Philip mellor	Sheffield	EnglandS119NR	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Dobcroft Parents Against Expansion	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9NJ	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Sam Lin 谢菲尔德	EnglandS7 2LL	United Kingdom	28/01/2015
Praveen Thyarappa	Sheffield	EnglandS7 1NW	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
David Evans	Sheffield	EnglandS72he	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Dean Jones	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9FT	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Jenny Ryder	Sheffield	EnglandS6 3JH	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Kara Wildsmith	Rotherham	EnglandS65 3DY	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
sharon Higgs	Sheffield	EnglandS35 2WQ	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Kay Jeffrey	Sheffield	EnglandS11 8YH	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Karen Beddall	Sheffield	EnglandS17 3NJ	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Louise Chenery	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9sq	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
claire slade	Sheffield	EnglandS35 4ds	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Helen Bowden	Dorridge	Englandb938nu	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Rebecca Rutherford	Hook Norton	EnglandOx155lg	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Angie Wright	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7 rh	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Fran Kerr	Dukinfield	EnglandSK16 5AN	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Kathryn Taylor	Sheffield	EnglandS17 3DH	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Amanda russell	Sheffield	Englands11 7pe	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
jane oakley	Sheffield	Englands88jg	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Katie Haigh	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2LS	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Jukes Mackle	Bournemouth	EnglandBh65jh	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
sky cowell	Newcastle upon Tyne	Englandne5 3pa	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Janine scott	Sheffield	Englands17 4hb	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
lauren theaker	Sheffield	EnglandS2 3bj	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Adrian Shipley	Sheffield	EnglandS17 4FH	United Kingdom 28/01/2015
Ruth winter	Sheffield	Englands7 2lp	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Gaynor Wilson	Sheffield	Englands11 9ea	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Laura Watts	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2DF	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Katie Vernon	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7 RN	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
lynne Prince	Sheffield	Englands119sp	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Sarah Vernon	Sheffield	Englands11 9sp	United Kingdom 29/01/2015

Alan Pedlar	Bollington	EnglandSK10 5NE	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Jo Bonnett	Sheffield	EnglandS119rh	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Emma Fry	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9SE	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Dawn Blackwell	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7lb	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Adam Blackwell	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7LB	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Emma thomson	Sheffield	EnglandS117jq	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
pauline pedlar	macclesfield	EnglandSK10 9NE	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Julie Robinson	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2GT	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Linda Windle	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7Ph	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Jan williams	Sheffield	EnglandS8 8DY	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
toby vernon	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9sp	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Nicola Bussey	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7PJ	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
MELISSA WINDLE	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7PJ	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Daniel Priest	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7PB	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Abi Vedder	Sheffield	EnglandS8 9EB	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Samantha cockayne	Sheffield	EnglandS117le	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Sarah watson	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7le	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Cath Wheen	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7JZ	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Laura Williams	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2DT	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Tracy bush	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9bb	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
matthew bush	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9bb	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Jo Warnock	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9SN	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Christopher Kelland	Bristol	EnglandBs15 3sf	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Catherine Pollitt	Littleborough	EnglandOL15 9JE	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Edward Weathmell	Mirfield	EnglandWF14 9Tf	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Raymond Guthrie	Reading	EnglandRG4 5DT	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Suzanne Darby	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7RB	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Andrew New	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9pu	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Faye Wood	Sheffield	EnglandS8 9eb	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Sharon McKeown	Richmond	EnglandTW10 6AD	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Laura Kerr	Sheffield	EnglandS7 1RJ	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Lisa Ollerenshaw	Burton Joyce	EnglandNG14 5DX	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Alison McCloy	Ilkley	EnglandLS29 9QP	United Kingdom 29/01/2015
Rachel Cadman	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7LH	United Kingdom 29/01/2015

Kirsty Price	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9FT	United Kingdom	30/01/2015
Chris Hart		6725	Australia	30/01/2015
Michelle Pedlow	Leiden		Netherlands	30/01/2015
Caroline Tompkins	Newcastle upon Tyne	EnglandNE3 4XD	United Kingdom	30/01/2015
Barbara Bush	Sheffield	EnglandS11 8UT	United Kingdom	30/01/2015
Jane Robinson	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7	United Kingdom	30/01/2015
Julie Brown	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7AQ	United Kingdom	30/01/2015
Tina Peacock	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7ra	United Kingdom	30/01/2015
Victoria Boyne	Sheffield	EnglandS11	United Kingdom	31/01/2015
Zoe Bell	Sheffield	EnglandS11 8YA	United Kingdom	31/01/2015
Jemma Taylor	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7lq	United Kingdom	31/01/2015
Alexandra McNeil	Airdrie	EnglandS40	United Kingdom	01/02/2015
Heather Bulfin	Belfast	Northern Ireland BT10 0FY	United Kingdom	02/02/2015
Ben Hudd	Sheffield	Southgrove Road	United Kingdom	02/02/2015
Jamie Reay	London	EnglandN4 3RA	United Kingdom	02/02/2015
Amber Sheridan	Sheffield	EnglandS17 3QP	United Kingdom	03/02/2015
Jane avgousti	Sheffield	EnglandS119HN	United Kingdom	03/02/2015
Sarah Bradley	Sheffield	EnglandS11 8SB	United Kingdom	04/02/2015
David Prosser	Whitley Bay	EnglandNE26 2EG	United Kingdom	04/02/2015
Clare Hall	London	EnglandSW19 8JT	United Kingdom	04/02/2015
Emma Drury	Sheffield	EnglandS11 8XL	United Kingdom	05/02/2015
Debra warren	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9ny	United Kingdom	05/02/2015
Dominic Britt	Sheffield	EnglandS7 2ly	United Kingdom	05/02/2015
Helen stanley	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9rb	United Kingdom	05/02/2015
Helen McDonough	Sheffield	EnglandS72lf	United Kingdom	05/02/2015
Thelma Britt	Christchurch	8013	New Zealand	05/02/2015
Kathryn Yousaf	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9HP	United Kingdom	05/02/2015
John Goepel	Sheffield	EnglandS10 5FB	United Kingdom	06/02/2015
Louise Kent	Sheffield	EnglandS11 9he	United Kingdom	09/02/2015
Claire Turnbull	Sheffield	EnglandS11 7LJ	United Kingdom	09/02/2015
Helen Kay	Sheffield	EnglandS8 8qp	United Kingdom	09/02/2015
Ceri Robertson	Sheffield	EnglandS118DB	United Kingdom	09/02/2015
Richard Coldwell	Sheffield	EnglandS119pw	United Kingdom	09/02/2015
claire roberts	Banbury	EnglandOX16 9TL	United Kingdom	10/02/2015

Lyuba Alboul	Sheffield	England	S8 9HW	United Kingdom	10/02/2015
turan zorlu	London	England	n1 6 rb	United Kingdom	10/02/2015
Maria Preston	Dalkeith	Scotland	EH22 2RB	United Kingdom	10/02/2015
Anthony Leary	Ash Vale	England	GU12 5SN	United Kingdom	10/02/2015

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
liona greenall	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-18	I currently have a child at Clifford (y1), Ecclesall juniors (y6),High Storns(y7) and a child due to start Clifford in September 2016 I am seriously considered about the lack of school places in local areas and completely support Clifford suggestions of expanding to a straight through infant/junior school Not only do I think the School is outstanding(my eldest two children both attended Clifford) it would alleviate some of the problem in the local it would offer continuity for our children which because of the Clifford standards can only be positive for our children.
Jen Hardy	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-18	Our children merit the right to be educated in the same school as their siblings and to continue their education in Clifford as a through school - we need more school places than just at Dobcroft infants, and we need a longer term view. Thank you for listening.
Matthew Hardy	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-18	Primary school places are needed where the deficit locally is greatest. In addition to Dobcroft we believe that additional places at Ecclesall Infants and a Clifford through school will give our children the local education opportunities they deserve. Thank you.
Carly Cotton	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	This is an obvious resolution to the current problem and has my full support.
Louise Platts	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	Clifford could be a through primary as the site is available opposite.
Nicole Brown	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	I am concerned for members of the local community who are desperate for their children to attend their local, catchment school.
Corinne O'Neill	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	sheffield council need to be advised by people in education, to make sensible decisions
Joanne Friend	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	The same thing happened when my son started Ecclesall infants back in 2008 - not enough places. This is just going to keep happening and so the issue needs to be addressed as soon as possible.
Margaret Beck	Mitford, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	This situation is mirrored in many areas of the country. The organisers of this petition have my full support and admiration for their concern with not only their own children but others children
Nic Price	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	The anxiety I experienced about whether my son would go to his local school was completely unnecessary. It should be truly exceptional to not take pupils from catchment. That some will not get places because of lack of planning is just nonsense.
lisa cook	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	My son already goes to this school and hopefully my daughter will in the future. We live in the catchment area and so it is our local school. However, I am concerned about the proposed increase in number of classrooms. Compared to ecclesall school the children have very little outdoor space as it is... surely if they are over subscribed it would make more sense to add the classrooms there?

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Katie McCabe	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	Using Dobcroft school as a temporary or permanent fix to the shortage of primary school places in the South West of the City is wholly inappropriate. It illustrates a knee jerk reaction from Sheffield City Council to a problem that they have been aware of for years. Birth rates don't rise sharply overnight illustrating an incompetent level of planning and preparation. Dobcroft school already operates over its capacity. I have a son in Y1 & a son who will hopefully be in the 2016 cohort. Taking away current learning areas and 'shoe-horning' another 30 children into the school by Sept 2015 with a potential for 90 children by 2017 is an absolute disgrace! Have the council actually thought where these children are going to go and how educational achievement can be maintained? Surely there is a statutory obligation to provide basic needs like enough toilets for the children and assess the health & safety implications of the 2015/2016 plans. Furthermore, if Ecclesall / Clifford Infant school feel that the expansion would be best placed there why let the Council impose such unrealistic changes on Dobcroft school.
Alexander McCabe	Paisey, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	I am a concerned grandparent. One grandson goes to Dobcroft at present and the other goes soon. The proposal to add an extra class at Dobcroft on a temporary basis is ludicrous.
Jean Hayes	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	An ill thought through fast track by the Council to attempt to resolve such a crisis in school places in Sheffield thoroughly deserves criticism at many levels. All children deserve the highest quality education to be delivered in their local area in buildings with space and resources to ensure teaching and learning is effective. How possibly can overcrowding at Dobcroft be of educational value to existing children or the proposed additional cohort? Clearly there are children in closer proximity to Clifford and Ecclesall who would also be better served by expanding these schools. The LA are moving forward with no regard to due consideration of the concerns of Parents, Carers and local Communities. If feasibility studies are required to ensure longer term quality of provision, increased road traffic issues and appropriate learning space indoors and outdoors, how then is this possible to totally disregard in plans for 2015? It is unacceptable that Elected Members have failed to scrutinise these plans and allowed them to be presented as a "done deal"! To those members the message is that All our children deserve better!
katharine crabbe	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	Clifford Infant school provides the ideal environment for children in their early years of learning both in learning and environment. The school has the capability of expanding without compromising on outdoor space. It would also mean that children would not have long distances to travel as they would be offered a place in their local area. This would avoid added stress to both children and parents of added travel time, congestion on roads etc. (many children at clifford have the opportunity to walk or cycle to school) May activities at the school encourages the children to be aware and be part of their local community too. By making children travel further afield to go to school, you are distancing them from participating and being aware of their local community, congesting roads as they will not have the opportunity to walk or cycle to school, making the school day even longer for the child.
janette loden	Allerton, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	This has an effect on my grand children's education and future.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Laurien Smith	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	I disagree with the proposed expansion of Dobcroft. The Infants is an already busy school with 270 children in a small building with a very small playground space. Increasing the number of children in each group to 120 will put stressful pressures upon young children, forcing them to attend school in cramped conditions, which is far from ideal in these important first years of education. The local area will certainly not be able to cope with the increased traffic demands the expansion will put upon the immediate surroundings. As this petition points out, there are other schools which are better placed and have the space to accommodate more children. Why ask Dobcroft to take on more children when they are already undersubscribed and can offer 14 children a place who are out of catchment?
Jodie Thake	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	I'm a parent of children at Dobcroft Infant School, and increasing our intake permanently is unfeasible.
Annwen Stone	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	I want children to receive quality education in their local area.
Dominic Hayes	Bakewell, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	I think the council is expanding the wrong school against the wishes of many parents and local residents. The present solution from the council serves the existing students poorly and the students in need of places who according to the council's figures mainly live in other school catchments equally inadequately. It looks like a very unsophisticated attempt at social engineering by a council primarily concerned with left wing ideology rather than children's actual welfare. I would certainly challenge the decision legally on the basis of failure in duty of care for my own child's education if they attended Dobcroft school. There are clear options which present benefits to all and savings to the tax payer, as such that last point will lead me to try and involve the taxpayer watchdog bodies and the Communities and Education Secretaries of State.
Sophie bradey	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	My daughter is due to join school 2016.
Demelza Lee	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-19	Expansion of Clifford Infant School into a through Primary is the best option for the local community, families, but most importantly the children who deserve a continuous stable education where they can attend the local school. The site is ideal without compromising existing space and is the best long-term solution for families in the area. The Council are not looking at the bigger picture and despite having considerable foresight with birth statistics they have let our children down by failing to plan accordingly.
Valerie Hobbs	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	Children should be able to attend a school in their own community
Helen Pennington	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	This proposal makes sense in every respect. Space is available and parental support for making Clifford a through primary school is strong.
Florence ij Ugbelase	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	The priorities in this proposal by the Local Authorities though quite genuine appear to be misplaced. What should be done? Create the spaces where expansion is realistic and appropriate and most importantly, where access poses the least challenge to families. With this in mind I believe that expanding both Clifford Infant School and Ecclesall Infants to provide more primary school places is a more sensible thing to do.
Sarah Goodhart	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	I strongly support the idea to expand Ecclesall infants and expand Clifford school into a junior phase.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Liz Dracas	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	Children need to be educated near. To where they live to build local friendships and parents do not deserve the worry of whether their children can get into a local school.
Catherine Liley	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	I am a parent at Dobcroft where expansion is being forced on us with no room. Please allow expansion at these schools who are asking for it.
Helen Winter	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	I am extremely concerned that the proposed expansion of Dobcroft Infant (and then Junior) school will have a huge negative impact on my children currently attending Dobcroft in terms of disruption and loss of non academic and playground space. These features are vital if a school is aiming to offer a pleasant and well rounded educational experience. The school sites are already very crowded, with temporary classrooms in the school grounds- there simply isn't room for any more classroom, toilet and coat hanging facilities etc etc.
rob liley	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	I agree entirely with the eloquent argument in the main text.
Jule Saunby	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	I feel there isn't the room in the school therefore affecting health and safety of the children. It will cause more problems with parking which again will put children's safety at high risk!! It's already a problem it should be for children in catch!!
elizabeth hooper	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	Worry about the number of cars by Dobcroft already with 3 schools close by. The loss of outside teaching space & playing areas.
Lynda Hewson	Loxley, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	I don't want my grandchildren to be denied a place at their local school, also the buildings around Clifford would be great for a feeder school.
Alexandra Harrison	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	This is an ongoing problem every year!!
Michael Elliott	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	Expansion at Dobcroft is totally inappropriate - a 4 class intake is excessive for an infant/junior school and is impractical both in terms of infrastructure and fostering an inclusive whole school environment (i.e. Whole year class plays, assemblies, etc...). There are other schools better placed for expansion.
liss Hollingworth	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	I am a parent of a pupil in Y1 at Dobcroft school. I feel very concerned about the school size increasing, with loss of vital outdoor space, especially when a viable alternative is available by expanding Ecclesall and Clifford, and thus creating spaces for pupils in catchment. Expanding Dobcroft is not necessary in light it was still able to accept pupils out of catchment.
Amanda Strine	SHEFFIELD, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	Expanding Clifford is a fantastic idea. Children should be able to attend school in their catchment area where their community is.
jean Wood	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	It makes no sense to NOT increase the size of the schools who want to increase their numbers and IMPOSE an increase on a school that has good reasons not to increase its numbers. WHY??

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Chris Saunby	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	<p>The council were well aware that the over-crowding situation was upon us, yet have sprung this decision to give us an extra class in 2015 from nowhere, and given no outlet to oppose the decision.</p> <p>We already have 2 of our 9 classes in temporary accommodation in a cramped area at the back of the school. Adding an extra class in September, and subsequently 90 extra children in the school in 3 years' time would be unmanageable on the current site.</p> <p>Those children will be feeding through to the junior school, who in turn already have classes in temporary accommodation. Where would the extra classes go? Would the junior school lose their playing field? If they go double storey that would mean a huge amount of disruption to the current cohort, and consequently have a huge affect on their learning and well-being.</p> <p>The toilet facilities are currently being updated, but are still insufficient for the current number of children. Adding an extra 30 to the cloakroom area would make it cramped and unsafe.</p> <p>The school already have to stagger lunch times to enable all children to be seated to have their lunch. An extra 90 children in 3 years' time would be unmanageable. The hall itself is already cramped for school plays and festival celebrations, would that mean children would have to miss out on the enriched curriculum they currently enjoy, and for which the school is championed?</p> <p>A huge amount of extra traffic will be accessing the school should this proposal be accepted. The alley into school is already tight for space, more traffic down it will be unsafe. Parking is already difficult for parents, and upsets local residents as it is.</p> <p>Looking at the figures the council have provided, it actually doesn't suggest the school will be any more oversubscribed than the surrounding schools, so why chose us to accommodate the extra pupils?</p> <p>Siblings of those children out of catchment accepted in 2015 will be filtering through the school in subsequent years, which could effectively mean children currently in catchment could be left without a place.</p>
Rebecca Syman	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	<p>My daughter will be starting school in September 2016 and I obviously want her to be able to go to school locally.</p>
Brenda Thompson	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	<p>I'm signing this because primary school age children should attend their local school not travelling yo other parts of the city.</p>
Simon McCabe	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	<p>Dobcroft is not suitable for this expansion. There are already too many children on site and to add more would be a mistake. The roads surrounding Dobcroft are already too busy and to add more traffic is dangerous. The plans to expand Ecclesall Infant School are supported by parents and teachers alike. A much more suitable development.</p>
Steve Barker	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-20	<p>An ill thought through and unworkable proposal. If one school wants the development and another doesn't and both are as good as equidistant to the area of need it is silly not to listen to the voices of those that want the extra classes i.e. Ecclesall.</p>

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Vicki Peacock	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-21	In addition to the relevant arguments laid out in this petition, I have serious concerns about the impact of any expansions to Dobcroft on both schools increasing number of SEN pupils. Expanding both schools will inevitably mean using areas which are at present available as much needed break out spaces for children with additional needs. Both schools currently pride themselves as being inclusive. Vulnerable children will not be catered for if all areas are overcrowded and there is nowhere left for them to retreat to. The schools already have limited areas available for small group work, reading support, etc. SEN needs must be considered within this whole procedure as well. Otherwise the council will be creating another problem of mainstream school no longer being appropriate for these children.
Julia Leatherland	sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-21	I don't believe that using valuable non-classroom space at Dobcroft to teach another 30 children is a good solution either short or long-term and does not reduce the need for additional school places in the areas most over subscribed. The non-teaching spaces at Dobcroft are vital for children who need to be withdrawn from their classroom for whatever reason during the school day and it would prejudice the education of all children to reduce the availability of such space making the successful inclusion of children with additional needs (of whom there are many) more difficult if not impossible to achieve.
Angela Larkin	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-21	I am signing because I am in disagreement with making primary school intakes 120 per year. It changes the experience of school for 4 year olds. When there are options to expand other local schools that only have intakes of 30 or 60 these should be considered as preferable.
Jessica Rosa	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-21	I'm concerned about school places in these areas as I have 3 children and live in netheredge.
Elizabeth Brough	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-21	My Son is due to start school in Greystones in Sep 17 intake
Tony Norman	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-21	Expanding Dobcroft is not the best or the right option and I am very concerned at the impact it will have on all the children there. Not just my own. There is also talk of losing the library to create a classroom. How do the Authority expect reading standards to be raised if they remove this facility.
julie eades	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-21	we need 24 extra places at ecclesall infants - that is we need another class
Sarah King	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-21	I am starting a separate but complementary petition for dobcroft parents together with five others - could we speak to get your advice. Pls email me. Best wishes sarah
Sarah Clarke	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-22	I think it makes sense. Clifford school is in a much more central location for the over subscribed schools.
Laurence Mosley	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-22	I don't think this is the best option for children or parents in the area. I also think the consultation document is very poor. Greystones is expanding and academically is poor performing. Clifford is very good, better than all other local primaries.
Jon Bradley	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-22	The current plans don't seem to offer the best solution for children (like mine) around S11
Mihaela Roxana Cremeiciug Pelin	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-22	I am signing this petition because I understand the need of expanding Ecclesall Infant School and Clifford Infant School.
michael joyce	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-22	Clifford is a wonderful school with excellent staff. Not to expand upon this would be negligent.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Chris Fry	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-22	I believe that the proposition in the current consultation is too narrow, the data is poor, there is a lack of any impact assessment and too short a timescale to allow for a meaningful and lawful consultation process in any event. The Clifford/Ecclesall option should be given an opportunity to be explored more fully.
Emma Bohan	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-22	I live in the area and know we need more school places.
antje pieper	sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-22	The figures do not add up... Ecclesall infant school has enormous space and capacity to expand!
Jackie Fry	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-22	I care about creating new primary school places for our children
Angela Fry	Dronfield, United Kingdom	2015-01-22	My Grand children deserve to have the same standard of education that my children had in Ecclesall. This will become highly unlikely if the council refuse to provide the right environment, conducive to quality learning. A thorough review of primary education services is needed.
Christopher Medd	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-22	The Dobcroft site is already full, and further expansion of both infant and junior schools will lead to loss of playground space, and in the case of the junior school, the playing field. It makes no sense to oversupply places in one school, where expansion at Clifford and Ecclesall, although initially more expensive, will provide a better and fairer outcome in the long term.
nicola medd	stoke on trent, United Kingdom	2015-01-22	It sounds like the council are wanting to create spaces in the wrong places. We know how valuable it is being able to attend your local school and the Council's solution does not appear to be the one that will allow this to happen the most. The creation of a 4 class intake at the Dobcroft schools will have a profound effect on the school's atmosphere and ability to provide individualised support. The increased traffic will be significant in the surrounding roads especially if children are coming from out of the catchment area.
Emma Farrell	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-22	This is a sensible way to future plan for increased school numbers - it makes a LOT of sense
Sally Hunter	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	As a non-driver, if my son cannot get a place at a local school he may be sent somewhere I simply cannot get him to.
judith morris	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	We regularly take and collect our granddaughters and are concerned that the playground areas are already too small, the prefab classrooms are too small. Young children need space to run around safely adding another 90 children (over 3 years) will cause more playground accidents and add stress to children trying to cope with overcrowding.
Emma Garrow	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	I am a local parent of school age and coming up to school age children. I see this as a fair and workable suggestion which will prove effective in the long term.
June Harris	London, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	My grandson attends Clifford primary and a brilliant school
Gail Cox	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	As a resident close to Dobcroft Infant and Junior School the existing traffic and parking at drop off and pick up times is a risk to existing pupils and an inconvenience to local residents. The increase in non catchment places will exacerbate the situation.
louise fear	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	the city needs a new school in order to be proactive and not reactive
Robert Wilson	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	The expansion at Dobcroft makes no logical sense given the request by other schools to expand. The Dobcroft school site is already crowded and an extension will cause a number of problems.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Heathel Hughes	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	This is a sensible and well thought through proposal that will help ease the situation and provide additional capacity where it is needed. I support this. Also as a Dabcroft parent I urge the council to look at where capacity is needed (Dobcroft has catchment capacity) and put it where needed. Before creating year groups of 120 children in one school look at other options at Holt House/caryerknowle.
Dylan Hughed	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	I am a concerned parent
Amry Clark	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	Children shouldn't have to be traveling to schools far from their home.expand the right school for the right people not just because a school is rated well with ofsted
Hannah Edwards	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	Expansion of schools that will not cause significant disruption to current pupils and provides a more sustainable expansion in the area that has the highest surplus is surely the most sensible option.
Amanda Russell	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-23	I want my youngest child to go to her local school in our catchment area.
Beri Higgins	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	I am concerned that 120 intake is too many for a primary school. My major objection is the traffic issue that the increase to Dobcroft will cause in the local area where it is already a problem, especially when Dobcroft should not be oversubscribed (from catchment) this year. The alternative proposition seems to make more sense increasing Clifford that has no catchment area and can take any over spill and increasing Ecclesall that will be massively oversubscribed.
Melvyn White	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	My grandchildren attend the school!!
Nita White	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	Dobcroft does not have facility to expand and is already taking children from out of catchment area - however, there is adequate space for expansion at Clifford & Ecclesall schools and their requests for this should go ahead.
Louise Jones	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	We are located equidistant between 4 schools - 3 of which (including the catchment school and the school my son is at) do not have enough places for catchment children. Dobcroft already uses temporary buildings and it is not desirable for our children to be shoehorned into schools when there are other schools that could be expanded. It would surely make sense to expand Ecclesall Infants and Clifford if this is possible.
Charlotte Richardson	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	We are in catchment but may miss out due to lack of places
Chris Venables	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-24	A through school at Clifford would be beneficial to lots of local children who currently have to travel some distance to Ecclesall Juniors or Hunter's Bar. There would be sufficient time to make the alterations without much disruption and it would make good use of council property (SIC building).
Rebecca Renshaw	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-25	There is more need for Primary places at Ecclesall Junior Clifford is such a good school and the pupils need a Feeder school that has enough places my daughter will cry her eyes out she loves her friends so much
sarah lockwood	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-25	This has been an on going and growing problem for several years now. My daughter did not get into her chosen school in 2010 due to a shortfall in places. I want my son to join his sister at Ecclesall. More school places are needed in this part of the city.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Richard Woodward	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-25	Plan appears if considered and does not fulfill the need. Also what is to happen re secondary school places as a consequence?
Nancy Horton	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-25	There does not seem to have been enough thought into making places available to children at their LOCAL school. Children should be able to walk to a close by school.
Gemma Harrison	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	Our children reserve the right to go to school in their catchment area, this plan would see this happen.
Anne Hollows	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	I believe that the most effective way to create additional places would be the development of Clifford school as a through primary.
Shelley Mulholland	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	I'm signing because this seems an eminently sensible, logical and practically feasible way to respond to the increasing demand for places in this part of the city.
Eamonn Cox	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	Build where the capacity is required. It can not be reasonable from an environmental, health and safety and social wellbeing of the children to force them to travel to school by car every day, as most out of catchment will invariably do. In addition, this area is already gridlocked twice every day with illegal parking only intermittently dealt with.
Andrew Johnston	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	There is a real need to sort out the provision of school places in this area. Local kids need to go to local schools - or do we want more traffic on the roads criss-crossing the city each morning on the school run?
	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	The only way for our kids to grow into stable, kind, good citizens is when they go to good school and acquire a sense of community. There won't be any community if one school only is expanding to the detriment of others. Ecclesall and Clifford should also expand and offer places to children who want a sense of belonging. The confidence and ability to be a good person come only when there is a strong base provided by good teachers. This is impossible to achieve in a school with too many classes.
Ann Wheatley	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-26	It makes more sense than trying to cram more classes into the already overcrowded Dobcroft school site.
Carl Taylor	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	It make more sense than expanding Dobcroft!
Alison Heath	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-27	I have a child due to start reception in September 2015. I am in the catchment area for Ecclesall Infants and am concerned that I will not be able to send my child to our local school, which is within 10minutes walking distance, and will instead have to send him to another school not in our catchment area. All of which are a 10minute drive instead of a 10minute walk. My child has several friends who are at the same pre school, it will be a worry to me if he doesn't get to go to school with his peers.
Sam Foyle	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	This proposal makes sense, whereas the Dobcroft expansion does not.
Dobcroft Parents Against Expansion	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	Hi, I support the petition 100%. Please can you email me so we can share ideas! dpae2015-16outlook.com (creator of Dobcroft petition)! Look forward to hearing from you.
Sam Lin	• 菲 • 德, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	these schools only have 60 places in each year group, they need to expand to take more local children.
Dean Jones	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	The rationale for expanding Ecclesall Infant School is very clearly justified and approving this will give Sheffield City Council the growing capacity both rising birth rates and in-migration will require in coming years.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Angie Wnght	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	I want all my children to attend our local school
Fran Kerr	Dukinfield, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	It's important to try to accommodate primary pupils in catchment areas. Being local, walking to school, not having long journeys and - most importantly - being placed alongside siblings are very important for young children and their families.
Kathryn Taylor	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	We recently moved from this area to S17 and we went through the ordeal of our child not getting our local catchment school place due to over subscription. This proposal makes a lot of sense and will prevent more families going through the same rejection as we did.
amanda russell	sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	i want my child to go to her local school
Janne scott	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	schools are heavily over subscribed in south west sheffield.
Adrian Shipley	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-28	School places need to be provided for pupils who reside in the locality and not from other areas in the city
lynne Prince	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	This is been building up over a few years and needs dealing with. This shouldn't become a problem in the year of reception class application - these excessive catchment numbers are entirely predictable from health visitor records and there really needs to be more planning ahead.
Sarah Vernon	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	I desperately want my child to attend Ecclesall infants in 2015. His brother attended this school (now at Ecclesall Juniors) and we live in catchment so the thought of my child not getting a place is horrible.
Alan Pedlar	Bollington, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	I'm a Grandparent with a Granddaughter at Eccleshall infants, and a grandson who we would like to have a place there next year.
Jo Bonnett	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	I have one child at Ecclesall and another due to start ! Would be a nightmare if I have to do school drop off at two different schools. I really really want my daughter to go to school with her brother and all of her friends thanks !
Dawn Blackwell	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	I want my daughter to be able to attend her local school, Ecclesall infants and juniors, just like her brothers.
pauline pedlar	macclesfield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	my grand daughter attends Eccleshall infants and it would be really difficult for us to pick-up and drop off both her and her brother from different schools when he starts in sept.
Linda Windle	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	my children and grandchildren have attended Ecclesall Infant and Juniors for the last 38 years and would like it to continue
Jan Williams	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	my daughter lives in this area and is due to apply for an infant school place in September. She was unable to get a preschool place in her area and fears it will be the same for infant school
toby vernon	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	we live in catchment and we need to secure a place for our 2nd child
MELISSA WINDLE	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	We moved house as we wanted both our children to go to Ecclesall school. My husband, his sister and all my eldest sons cousins. I would be extremely upset if my boys could not attend.
Sarah watson	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	i live in this catchment and I want to walk my children to school, not drive!
Laura Williams	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	Due to living in the catchment area of one of the over subscribed schools.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Raymond Guthrie	Reading, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	I am signing this as a former primary specialist of 40 years experience and being aware that this is too large an arrangement for maximum effective education for the age range. R Guthrie
Faye Wood	Dronfield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	I will move to the area when my child is ready for school
Rachel Cadman	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-29	I'm signing because I have had children who have attended Ecclesall Infant school and I would have been gutted if they had not enough room as it is our catchment school and an excellent school.
Kirsty Price	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	The current plan to increase the intake of Dobcroft is not a permanent solution. It has a large number of children and feels cramped in the classrooms. There is a body of evidence to indicate younger children especially do better in smaller educational settings. As there is no specific catchment for Clifford the school reaches more children and makes sense to follow this through with a primary school. The school's child focused approach would benefit the pupils more than squeezing them into an already large school.
Caroline Tompkins	Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	it affects a friend's children
Jane Robinson	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-01-30	It would be great to see common sense prevailing. Council should put resources where there is already local support not antagonise their electorate with a poorly thought through 'solution'
Alexandra McNeil	Airdrie, United Kingdom	2015-02-01	I strongly feel that these two schools should be expanded to ensure children are able to obtain the education they are entitled to within the catchment area.
Ben Hudd	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-02	All deserve the best local choice and education possible.
Sarah Bradley	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-04	The current plan seems like a "quick fix", leading to long term cramped conditions, and negatively affect children in Sharrow and nearer to town. My youngest will also be affected by this change, and would find it difficult to follow the educational path set by her siblings. Many friends would also struggle with this change. Clifford is an excellent school and I would dearly love my children to (have) attended) right the way to secondary school.
David Prosser	Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom	2015-02-04	I'm considering moving to the Sheffield area, and this would have an impact on whether to choose Sheffield or it's surrounds.
Emma Drury	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-05	I agree wholeheartedly
Dominic Britt	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-05	Can't understand logic behind this decision and will provide more constraints on space for this school by adding 100 extra children after 3 years with no extra classrooms
Helen Stanley	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-05	An intake of 120 at Dobcroft for Sept 2015 is far too many for a quality of care and teaching to be sustained. The common areas including dining hall, playgrounds and library areas etc will be over crowded and suffer with the greater numbers.
Thelma Britt	Christchurch, New Zealand	2015-02-05	I'm signing because my grandchildren go to Dobcroft school and they deserve the right to the best education experience possible. Take advice from the school staff not your accountants
Name	Location	Date	Comment
Claire Turnbull	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-09	Expanding Ecclesall Infants and making Clifford a through primary school makes so much more sense than making Dobcroft ridiculously big and crowded. The space is there so why not use it?
Richard Coldwell	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-09	The Council do not seem to have fully considered all issues to address school placed needs in SW Sheffield
Lyuba About	Sheffield, United Kingdom	2015-02-10	I am signing because the reasons provided are valid. Children need not only classrooms but also non-classroom spaces and outside space - to play and for other activities. I also know the Clifford school.

Updated 4th February 2015

School Places at Dobcroft Infant & Junior Schools

Frequently Asked Questions



This document will be updated as required throughout the remainder of the consultation period (at www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolplaces) and is to be read as an addition to the original consultation newsletter and document.

What have the school Governing Bodies told us so far?

We are in regular dialogue with the school leaders and Governing Bodies of both schools and they have been keen to hold the Council to account during the early stages of discussions. The Dobcroft Junior Governing Body has put together a formal response to the consultation and this can be found at Appendix 1.

TRAFFIC

How can you propose this given the existing traffic issues at drop off and pick up times?

The Council is now aware of the concerns of parents and local residents about the traffic around the Dobcroft site. This has probably been the issue raised most frequently across the drop-ins and in written responses to date.

This is a common issue around many school sites where parents choose to drop their children off by car rather than walk to school. It is in fact an existing problem which many feel would be made worse by more children traveling to the site. During the consultation some parents and residents have raised ideas about how to improve the situation and make access to the school safer. These ideas should be explored fully irrespective of the outcome of the consultation.

Should the proposal for 2016 to be approved by Cabinet, the plans to expand the buildings would need to gain planning permission. This is a separate process which looks in detail at the physical impact of the proposed development including car usage, traffic flows and parking. It will assess the impact of more children being on the site and what measures could be taken to reduce the impact. On a similar expansion scheme at Hallam Primary School, additional access points and parking arrangements were put in place through engagement with local residents and families through the planning permission process. In order to take on board suggestions and listen to people's particular views about the highways impact we would look to arrange drop-ins for families and local residents prior to the formal planning permission process.

DATA & THE NEED FOR PLACES

The data provided so far is unclear. Does the data really suggest the need is in the Dobcroft catchment?

The data covering preference, population, young families moving into the area, and their impact on school demand can provide a complex picture. The work inevitably involves

building predictions of future patterns on top of this data and is therefore always open to interpretation. In addition to the description of the data given in the Consultation Document, the data and evidence lead for Dobcroft Infants Governing Body has worked on some of the data to give a separate interpretation in the hope that this will support people in responding to the consultation. The findings are appended to this document in full (appendix 2).

If the extra places are meant to target some areas of growth from outside the catchment, how can you ensure that children from those areas get the places?

There is always room in the admissions process for changes in patterns of preference and the relative locations of families from one year to the next. The recent trends show some patterns of 2nd and 3rd preferences for Dobcroft from neighbouring areas of growth, including Holt House/Carterknowle, Ecclesall, Dore and Totley, and these are the growth areas we are trying to target. Were this expansion to be approved and then patterns altered so it did not ultimately meet those areas of highest demand then the Council could consider, through further consultation, whether those neighbouring areas could be given some priority within the admissions process. This is not proposed at the current time and could only be done through a further consultation process at the earliest for the 2017/18 intake.

If the catchment area demand is not significantly higher than the current 90 places, will the additional places be taken by non-catchment children who will have to travel to school by car, therefore increasing congestion and pollution?

As shown in the data presented through this consultation, if the current pattern of young families moving into the Dobcroft catchment area continues, then the school would continue to be oversubscribed from the catchment area. However, these extra Dobcroft children would probably only take up only a portion of the additional places. The remainder would go to children from out of catchment. Up until 2014/15 when catchment children were refused a place, the intake at Dobcroft Infants, with 90 places on offer, always included a proportion of children from outside the catchment. It is not always possible, to provide a perfect match between the numbers of children and the number of places in a catchment area.

Are there proposals to amend the existing catchment areas in 2016/17?

As stated above, there are no proposed changes and catchment areas will remain unchanged for the 2016/17 academic year. If there were to be any proposed catchment area changes for future years, they would be subject to full statutory consultation procedures with schools, parents and local communities.

Why didn't you add a class last year since catchment children were refused a place at Dobcroft?

Whilst the Council had anticipated pressure on places across the southwest schools, we did not anticipate refusing 29 catchment applicants. When a system is operating with reduced

slack, small changes in preference patterns or families moving into the area can have a greater impact. In the majority of cases in the current Reception year we were ultimately able to offer a local primary school place. This does however represent a system without sufficient slack to take account of small changes and this is one reason for the proposal to add places in 2015 and beyond.

What is happening at other local schools in terms of places and expansion?

The Council has already agreed a proposal to increase places at Greystones Primary. Greystones will increase from 60 to 90 places per year and this is through a permanent addition to accommodation on the school site, including replacing what are currently temporary classroom buildings. In recent years both Abbey Lane and Hallam primary schools have increased from 60 to 90 places per year, whilst The Nether Edge and Lowfield primary schools have increased from 45 to 60 places per year.

THE EXTRA CLASS IN 2015

Why has the Council decided on an extra class in 2015 without consultation?

One extra class in 2015 means a temporary increase to the school's capacity on a relatively small scale. An extra class has been provided at a number of schools in the recent past without significant accommodation difficulty and without adversely impacting everyday school life. There is no legal requirement to consult on a change of this scale and the most important effort goes into ensuring that the extra class can be accommodated and resourced properly – this is an ongoing discussion with the school leadership and governors who are being rightly challenging to make sure the result is right for everyone.

How will the extra class in 2015 be accommodated?

The work with the school will focus on how best to create an extra classroom. If that means a scheme that requires planning permission, that process would be undertaken. At the moment the focus of work with the Infant school leadership team and governors is looking at how the existing school buildings could be used and then how we can support the school to make sure we continue to offer all elements of the curriculum appropriately and meet all basic needs. This would include meeting current guidelines on aspects such as the number of toilets (which has been a recurring theme during consultation).

BUILDINGS, DESIGN & SITES

How can you ask us to comment without details on what this would mean for the buildings and site?

This has been a particular issue in the responses so far and is addressed in some detail in the consultation document. There have been a number of concerns raised around the current operation of the schools, including toilets, playspace, and lunchtime arrangements.

The Council understands that it can be frustrating not to have a detailed building and accommodation plan to comment on as part of the consultation. Equally, were the

consultation process to take place following detailed development of plans with school leaders and governors, the amount of resource and capital spent would be a large commitment that would lead to the accusation of a 'done deal' and we would likely be asked why we had not consulted earlier. The key is for the Council to listen to the concerns raised by all parties during consultation and beyond so this can be fed into the design work. In nearly all cases, rather than exacerbating existing issues, the end result of the design process is that schools have been able to address existing accommodation issues as part of the building project to increase places.

Who has decided that it would be possible to expand both Dobcroft schools?

The early work to assess the feasibility of the physical expansion provides a basic understanding that there is space on the site to accommodate the additional building that would be required. This is undertaken by officers experienced in working on school sites. The actual development work, as described above, would be a more detailed exercise in partnership with school leaders and governors.

What would the impact be on the after school clubs?

We have heard from a number of people during the consultation about the after school provision at DASH and understand the importance of this for many families. We will be working with the school to manage any potential impact on the accommodation for the after school club, both in terms of the temporary and permanent solutions, so that it can remain fully available to parents.

How would parents be able to engage in the design process?

If the proposal were to proceed following consultation, the intention would be to engage with parents and local residents on the design and the wider impacts (i.e. traffic/highways) prior to planning permission so that people can start to answer all the detailed questions about what this would mean for the buildings and so that comments and ideas can be taken into account. This would include being able to look at the initial designs with a chance to comment and make suggestions prior to plans being submitted for planning permission.

What would the budget be for the building work?

The Council receives an annual allocation of funding to provide extra school places. For the next two years this is around £17.5m per year (to cover all types/age ranges of statutory schooling across the city). The job of the Council is to manage a programme to provide the extra places it needs within that overall budget. Every school site or building is different and therefore setting a fixed budget for each individual scheme within the programme, prior to design work taking place, would mean that some simpler schemes are overfunded and more complicated schemes are underfunded.

IMPACT ON THE SCHOOLS

How will you make sure standards at the school and the educational experience for children is maintained?

Through working with the school and further engagement with governors and parents around the design we are confident that were the proposal to proceed the facilities would be there to enable the current standards to be maintained and improve. This confidence is based on previous schemes across the city to increase or rebuild schools and a confidence in the current leadership of the schools.

How will the school cope with an increased number of children with special educational needs (SEN) in terms of provision and resources etc?

A number of responses raised the issue of children with SEN. At the last school census point the Dobcroft schools when taken together had just below the Sheffield average proportion of pupils identified as having some level of special educational needs (20.7% compared to a city average of 21.4%). We would not see any clear reason to anticipate that proportion rising as a result of this proposal. In line with admissions law, pupils with the school named on their statement (now Education and Health Care Plan) would be placed at the school as a priority. This happens now and numbers would not therefore increase as a result of an increase in overall capacity. All other children are placed in line with the normal criteria (catchment, siblings, other with distance as a tie-breaker). The schools should therefore be able to operate in broadly the same way as they do now and any accommodation needs would be considered through the design process. The per pupil funding the school receives would remain in line with national and local policies.

Won't this make the schools too big?

Respondents have talked about the proposal making the school very large and the potential downsides of this such as an impersonal feel, practical impacts on the building, or pupils feeling intimidated. Most primary schools in Sheffield are 'through' primaries, meaning they offer places from Reception up to Year 6, and many include a nursery. A standard size for a through primary school in Sheffield would be 60 pupils per year. This means 420 pupils often with a nursery that can take the overall total number of pupils over 450. Were the proposal to proceed the infants school would have capacity for 360 pupils and the junior school would have capacity for 480. There are a number of primary schools in Sheffield that are already operating successfully at a larger size than this, including Greystones, Hallam, and Westways Primary schools within the southwest. There is also Lydgate Infant and Lydgate Junior Schools that operate successfully as separate phase schools with 4 classes per year – mirroring the size that the Dobcroft schools would be were the proposal to go ahead. Whilst we understand that parents often perceive benefits in a smaller school environment, the factors that really make for a high quality education for children are not size dependent – they are leadership and management and the quality of teaching and learning provision.

How will the school manage this in terms of resources and managing day to day operation?

Ultimately how this is managed within school would be the responsibility of the school leadership. There will be extra revenue funding provided so the school can employ staff and purchase appropriate resources. Costs of setting up the classrooms will form part of the Council's capital scheme. The overall design and how this works with existing arrangements, such as dining space, are all part of the process that the Council will undertake in detail with the school and governors to make sure there is a workable solution to all these issues.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

There is support for expansion at Clifford/Ecclesall schools, why isn't the Council consulting on that instead or in addition?

Our assessment is that around 30 additional Reception places are needed in September 2015 to provide for the population growth in this area. However, this pressure is spread across a number of primary catchment areas and is not in any single school. Last year a small number of pupils were unable to access a catchment place across a number of local schools, including Dobcroft, Dore, Greystones and Ecclesall – which was a very difficult situation for those families. This makes finding an appropriate solution difficult. As well as being a waste of limited funding, providing too many could lead to schools not filling their places and having to run mixed age classes. The Council's starting point for consultation is therefore to provide a 30 place expansion at a single school. Given that Dobcroft is more centrally located within the area of pressure, it is better placed to meet the local need.

The Council is continuing to explore the physical implications of increasing places across the Ecclesall/Clifford schools should the decision be taken not to proceed with the proposal at Dobcroft, or indeed if a further addition of places is needed in the area in the future. At this stage there is no simple option to increase places across those sites and the difficulties indicate that a scheme could be disruptive and/or expensive. However, work is continuing to explore all the possibilities. The option being put forward by Clifford Infants is to create a junior phase on the Clifford Road site of Sheffield Inclusion Centre, alongside an expansion of Ecclesall Infants. The physical implications of this option are being explored further although our initial work indicates that the Clifford Road site would not provide sufficient internal or external space for a junior phase. There would also need to be a plan to rehouse the current and planned provision from Clifford Road.

THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

What is the purpose of consultation? Is the permanent proposal a 'done deal'?

The primary purpose is to listen to the views of interested parties in order to inform the Council's decision on whether or not to proceed. That decision would be taken by the Council's Cabinet, probably in March 2015, and the views received during consultation

would form the report that would go to Cabinet. No decision has been taken beyond a decision to consult on this proposal.

What would happen if the Cabinet decided to reject the proposed expansion?

Our forecast data would suggest that by not providing 30 additional places in this area it is likely that up to 30 local children would not be able to secure a local primary school place. The Council would then need to take into account whether there is an alternative way forward that is feasible, affordable, and better meets the needs across the area.

APPENDIX 1: RESPONSE FROM DOBCROFT JUNIOR GOVERNING BODY

Proposed Expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools

Dobcroft Junior School Governors' Response to the Proposal

The Governors of Dobcroft Junior School recognise their social responsibility to the need for extra places in the SW of the city. In 2014 there were children from the Dobcroft area who were unable to attend the school, and without the planned expansion this would again be the case for 2015. We support in principle that children should be able to attend their local school. However, we also have a specific responsibility for the well-being of children at Dobcroft both now and in the future.

Following the end of the consultation period on Wednesday February 11th, there will be a Cabinet Meeting which is likely to be held on 18th March 2015. This is a public meeting. If the proposal is approved at the meeting, it will then be subject to planning permission which will include consultation about, and impact on, local highways.

At this point initial designs would be drawn up and displayed in and around schools which staff, parents and local residents can comment on and input into the final design.

Although the council continues to explore alternative solutions to the lack of primary places in the SW of the city, the Governing Body of Dobcroft Junior School has raised the following concerns should the proposal proceed here:

Congestion around the school gates and surrounding neighbourhood

- If the proposal goes ahead, there will ultimately be 840 pupils attending the Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools.
- The above numbers would increase the pressure on the existing roads in the neighbourhood making parking increasingly challenging and potentially dangerous. This is already a well-documented problem for the two schools. Being on a cul-de-sac and in close proximity to both St Wilfrid's and Mylnhurst School, this would compound the issue. Furthermore, the issues around parking are not confined to the Pingle Road entrance but are also in evidence on Dobcroft Road where it meets Silverdale Road and also on Millhouses Lane.
- The proposed extension will accommodate increased demand from outside the catchment, which will guarantee that the majority of additional children are arriving in vehicles.
- The cul-de-sac situation of the school and the tight residential area is an ongoing and significant concern for all existing children and parents at the school and increasing the size of the school to cover the whole of the South West will lead to disproportionate and unsafe conditions in the surrounding neighbourhood.
- We have safety concerns: access to the school is already limited by the fact that it is on a cul-de-sac and due to the sheer numbers trying to park on the neighbouring streets at drop off and pick up times, the proposition would need to be approved by the fire brigade and parking services. Access by the emergency services would be

further hampered by increasing the numbers from 580 to 840 plus the additional staff needed and the additional traffic this would create.

- Suitable modifications would need to be made to the surrounding roads such as one way streets or drop off zones to combat the above issues.

What measures do the council intend to put in place to deal with these issues?

Can the council give us an irrefutable guarantee that the safety of children and residents would not be compromised in any way by the expansion of the schools?

Will the council commit to regularly enforcing parking regulations?

Impact on the school building and site including Health and Safety issues

- While restructuring the school building could prove positive for pupils and the funding currently put aside to improve our buildings would be welcome, none of this is guaranteed and would depend on grants available at the time and negotiation between the school and the architects.
- If expansion were to take place at Dobcroft, additional car parking places would be required for additional staff and this would have to be taken from the existing play area making the playground smaller, yet still having to accommodate additional children.
- If expansion were to take place at Dobcroft Junior School, then additional toilet facilities would be required as the existing toilets were only built to accommodate 240 children.
- Is the kitchen able to cope with the additional numbers and where would the additional children sit to eat lunch as it is already overcrowded in the dining area which doubles as 2 classrooms. If we have a staggered lunchtime, children will have to queue up in the classroom whilst children are working in there, impacting on their learning which would not be satisfactory. We anticipate that this would realistically mean having to install an additional 6 classrooms as opposed to four to ensure the dining room is separate. If replacing the current mobile classrooms were also within the plans, an additional 9 classrooms would have to be built. Does the funding support this or will compromises have to be made?
- Additional children would mean additional staff and support staff. This would affect the day to day management of school, the need for a larger admin team and the requirement of a larger staff room and admin area.
- The school is open plan which means that children need to walk through classrooms to get to other parts of the school. We already struggle with this and the proposed scale of expansion and the impact on lack of circulation space in a school which has no corridors is not feasible without a significant impact on the quality of teaching and education.
- The proposed expansion would lead to less space for the children to play, yet there will be additional children using this space. (490 instead of 370). The field has poor drainage and cannot be used between October and April.
- Our Dobcroft After School Hours (DASH) provision will no longer be able to cope with the additional numbers without itself having an extension.

- After school extra-curricular clubs also have a limited number of places and so an increase in children would make it even harder to get a place at a club.
- Should the proposal go ahead, the school would welcome newer, purpose built classrooms which were self-contained, together with additional toilets and hall space, if there were sufficient funding to support these developments.

What level of design / planning has taken place?

Will expansion cover toilets, dining, hall and sports provisions for an additional 210 pupils and staff?

Will the changes to school design take into account the increased pupil traffic and its impact on the children in an open plan school?

How do the council intend to deal with the need for extra staff parking?

Will there be increased hard areas for the children to play?

Funding implications

- Any expansion at Dobcroft would need to be fully funded by the LA as both schools have a low revenue funding. This would need to include all resources for the new classrooms.
- Although the expansion would be fully funded initially for the first year, we have concerns that in the future, should numbers drop to between 90 and 120, the per-pupil funding would not be enough to support having an extra teacher. This could result in having to support classes well in excess of 30 pupils.
- Children at Dobcroft Junior School only receive £3,394 per pupil compared to the Sheffield average of £4,000. This shortfall of £606 times 370 pupils has a massive impact on our budget. (£224,220 shortfall). If this figure is multiplied by 490 children (370 + additional 120), this shortfall is magnified (£296,940 shortfall). We do not receive much funding from Pupil Premium to soften this blow as we are in an advantaged area, **so we consider lack of funding to be a major concern to this proposal.**
- Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools both have a larger percentage of children with additional needs (22.3%) compared with both Sheffield (21.4%) and nationally (17.4%). Both schools are popular and are seeing a further increase in children with additional and complex needs due to changes in the SEN Code of Practice. This allows parents to choose a suitable school for their child without having to go through the usual admissions appeal system. Creating additional spaces at these schools will attract additional children with complex needs from across the city, who may need 1:1 or additional adult support, further impacting on both space and budget. The reduction in space on both sites will have an impact on these children and especially those with an Education and Health Care Plans. (EHCP).
- Surveys/research show that pupils with SEND cope and progress well in the smaller, nurturing environment provided by primary schools but cope less well once at the larger, impersonal environment of secondary. Smaller schools are better able to adapt their systems to respond appropriately to the needs of vulnerable pupils.

- A main concern for the Junior School would be the division of the funding. We are concerned that once the infant option has been built, there may well be insufficient funding left to expand the junior site, or that the funding may be withdrawn by future governments.

How can the council reassure Governors on these issue?

How can the council reassure Governors that SEN children at Dobcroft will not be affected by the plans?

Can the council reassure us that the SEN withdrawal areas that the school has already created will not be swallowed up by the creation of and need for additional classrooms?

Can the LA commit to providing the school with additional space, staffing and resources to ensure that the rights and needs of our vulnerable pupils are not compromised?

What assurances will be put in place that funding will be agreed for both schools and will not be reduced after this agreement?

Impact on the Curriculum- inclusion

- At the moment Dobcroft Junior School runs an annual residential in every year group. Sometimes it is a challenge to find accommodation to support taking 90 children away on a residential experience but each trip is fully inclusive. If a suitable venue for 120 children is required this will impact on residential visits and may mean that residential visits will no longer be able to take place.
- Dobcroft Junior School currently holds two productions each year. We stage plays to accommodate 90 children performing and their parents in the audience. It would be impossible to stage a play with a cast of 120, meaning that we would have to be selective.
- The Hall is not sufficient to allow 16 classes to access 3 hours of PE a week, especially when the weather does not allow children to use the outdoor yards.
- The hall is not large enough to hold whole school assemblies for 120 additional pupils and the staff.
- Planning Preparation and Assessment time for teachers would have to change. At present, staff plan together and the classes rotate around three activities during the afternoon, led by three specialist teachers. If there were four activities, these lessons would become less than half an hour in length, making them less effective for learning.

How can the council reassure Governors that residential visits will not be impacted?

How can the Council reassure Governors that mandatory PE classes and school performances will not be impacted, for example by including expansion of the school hall in building plans?

Possible Implications for schools in the neighbourhood

- If places at Dobcroft increased and were not filled by children from the catchment area, it will have a domino effect of attracting children from the Holt House and Carterknowle Schools and this in turn would allow children to make the transition from the Nether Edge School to Holt House and Carterknowle Schools, possibly leaving Nether Edge School with empty places and threatening them with possible closure.
- From the chart made available, the figures for the area look set to decrease over the next four years from 487 pupils in 2015/16 to only 400 by 2018/19.

Other considerations

- The schools would both become too large and not as personable as at present. 4 form entry (120 pupils per year) is considered by some as too big for a primary. Should the two schools become a through primary school in the future, as others have done, it will be enormous i.e 7 year groups times 120 pupils per year = 840 pupils on roll. This is the size of some secondary schools. In the initial meeting on 5th November, it was stated by members of the council that their preferred option with primary schools is to have 30 children per class and for there to be a maximum of three form entry in each school.

Alternative options

- We would prefer a solution to be found in the Ecclesall schools whereby the Infant School also became three form entry. This would mean that all children in Ecclesall Infant School (3 forms) would be able to move into Ecclesall Junior School (3 forms). The children who currently attend Clifford Infant School would need to be found a suitable junior school for transition. However, this accommodation would not be needed until 2018, allowing plenty of time to find a solution. Could the funding (£2.1 million) that is proposed in the expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools be better spent extending Ecclesall Infant school by three classes and an additional junior school be built on a suitable nearby site e.g. The Bannerdale Centre, or the old Primary Inclusion Centre which is located close to Clifford Infant School? From the chart, the main expansion appears to be in the Greystones area making Ecclesall a nearby suitable alternative if Greystones reaches capacity in the future.
- An alternative solution would be swapping Ecclesall Infant School with Ecclesall Junior School site. This would allow a three form entry at the new Ecclesall Infant site and then an expansion on the current Ecclesall Infant site to house the additional junior school children, including the children from Clifford. Again, part of this expansion would not be needed until 2018.

To support our proposal for a preferred option to take place at an alternative location, please see the chart below which was prepared by a Governor at Dobcroft Infant School, Iain Bradley, Data and Evidence Lead. He has presented a responsible estimate of catchment demand in future years, based on a blend of the best available data as follows:

- a) The number of children in the catchment area population of a particular pre-school age

- b) A weighting for the amount of inward/outward migration that one could anticipate before that group reach school age. This can be done in two ways. Growth as a percentage based on past trends, or growth in absolute terms based on past trends. Modelling both and splitting the difference seems sensible. [let's call this a population growth factor].
- c) A weighting for the proportion of children in catchment who are likely to apply to the school, to estimate the anticipated demand for a place in each catchment school. This can be based on the total number of 3 year olds and the number of those who put their catchment school down as 1st preference in each catchment in the last three years. [let's call this a 1st preference factor].

Expressed as a formula this is as follows for any future intake:

$$\frac{[\text{Children in Catchment} * \text{population growth \%age factor} * \text{1st preference factor}] + [(\text{children in catchment} + \text{recent migration absolute numbers}) * \text{1st preference factor}]}{2}$$

2

Table 1: Predicted numbers of in catchment applications in future years.

	Intake	Catchment population 1st pref forecast					4 year average places Vs 1st pref catchment apps
		2015	2016	2017	2018	4 year average	
Nether Edge	60	25	27	28	26	27	-33
Hunter's Bar	90	40	37	47	46	42	-48
Lowfield	60	28	27	27	25	27	-33
Totley	30	39	41	52	49	45	15
Ecclesall	60	84	64	86	78	78	18
Holt House & Carterknowle	60	48	42	34	34	39	-21
Dobcroft*	90	82	99	105	101	97	7
Springfield	30	22	19	20	23	21	-9
Greystones**	90	80	79	63	68	73	-17
Dore	60	61	68	62	57	62	2
Sharrow	60	36	42	40	35	38	-22

*Modelled at 90 per year, i.e. ignoring the temporary expansion in September 2015

**Current intake of 60 is returning to 90 from 2015

This evidence indicates that although there is a demand for places at the Dobcroft schools in the future, the real demand comes from the Totley and Ecclesall catchment areas. In addition, there are a number of parents in the catchment area who choose to educate their children privately, reducing the strain on Dobcroft.

In addition, the deadline for primary school applications for 2015 is 31st January. This information is key to the decision making process on the future expansion of the school and we request it is made available to all interested parties. The closing date of February 11th of the consultation does not allow for full consideration and factoring in of new information on the current cohort application across the South West.

We have considered the many issues involved and realise that many of them may appear negative. However, the possible lack of funding and its impact on the education, health and safety and well-being of the pupils, both currently on roll and in the future, has to be our prime concern and is of paramount importance. Moreover, we feel that there is a real alternative to the expansion of Dobcroft Infant and Junior Schools by pursuing the Ecclesall/Clifford or the Totley options. Although costings are as yet unknown, the addition of nine extra classrooms at Dobcroft Junior School and two/three additional classrooms at Dobcroft Infant School has to be weighed up against the costs of expansion at the alternative locations. **We are deeply concerned that the cost of expansion on this scale cannot be met by £2.1m.**

Have these alternative options been fully investigated and designs costed as, without full information, it would be prejudicial to proceed with a Dobcroft expansion?

Is there the option of applying for an extension to the consultation deadline in light of the 2015 primary school application data being available in February 2015 and an opportunity for the school to fully consider and respond to the proposals?

Is there an e-forum or web page that parents can access and communicate a shared and collective approach to the expansion?

The Governing Body of Dobcroft Junior School.

APPENDIX 2: ASSESSMENT OF DATA

FOREWORD FROM SCHOOL ORGANISATION TEAM AT SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

The following note has been put together by the data and evidence lead for Dobcroft Infants' Governing Body. It is not the view of Sheffield City Council. This work has been supported by the Council's School Organisation Team in terms of the data, existing forecast methods, and discussions of the methodology used. The conclusions are those of the author, however these broadly match the findings of the School Organisation Team - i.e that there is a need for additional primary school places in the southwest area of Sheffield and that the area of pressure is around Ecclesall, Dobcroft, Dore and Totley. The data presented around families moving into the area and the predicted impact on school applications suggests that if current trends continue then there is the potential to require a further addition of places. Again, this broadly matches the position of the School Organisation Team as presented in the consultation material to date. The change in pre-school cohorts is a significant factor as discussed in the Council documentation. The Council's position is to be even more cautious than usual with predictions that include this factor. Forecasting demand for school places is already subject to a number of changing variables such as population, preference, relative distance of families to schools, number of siblings, and incorporating a prediction of the number of families that will move into an area, though necessary around the southwest of Sheffield, adds a further level of uncertainty.

We hope that by sharing this note publicly, interested parties will have access to an alternative view of the very complex data that underpins this area of work and that this supports people to contribute to the consultation.

Iain Bradley

Data and Evidence Lead,

Dobcroft Infant School Governing Body

23-01-2015

The evidence related to expansion of places in South West Sheffield / Dobcroft Schools

Introduction

The purpose of this note is to set out my understanding of the data and evidence that has led Sheffield City Council (SCC) to reach the conclusion that increasing the number of primary places in SW Sheffield is necessary, and that expansion of Dobcroft schools appears the currently favoured solution to the issue. It is based upon:

- Data provided by SCC during discussions with them
- Nationally available school preference data from Department for Education
- A meeting with SCC to understand the broader context and approach to school capacity planning

The analysis and any interpretation is my own, not necessarily reflecting the views of Dobcroft School, its Governing Body, or SCC.

Section 1: Overview

School capacity planning is undoubtedly a complex science. At the city level it is relatively straightforward, on this scale birth rate data is an extremely strong predictor (within +/- 1%) of the number of school places needed when each year group reaches school age. The complexity comes in establishing *where* in the city the changes in capacity are needed. At this point you are not just at the mercy of the birth rate, but other issues including but not limited to:

- Migration patterns into, and within the city
- Changing preferences from parents as the quality of local schools changes over time
- Changing preferences from parents in terms of desirability / affordability of private schooling and/or faith schools (e.g. Clifford and St Wilfrid's in our area).
- Unpredictability in terms of applications such as those by Looked After Children and certain Special Educational Needs, which are prioritised above catchment children in the allocation process.

SCC must strive for a balance between predicting parent choices, and having long planning pipelines to allow smooth implementation of changes. The conundrum for a planner is that the former is most accurately done as late as possible, and the latter is best done as early as possible.

Section Two : The city wide context

The last 15 years have been pretty evenly split between 7 years of falling demand on places in Sheffield, followed by 8 years of increasing demand driven by a steadily increasing birth rate since 2002 (20% increase). Birth rates for children who are somewhere between 0 and 3 years old predict that demand is set to rise further for 2015/16, before peaking in 2016/2017 and then dropping off in 2017/18. After that, then the children to take school places haven't been born yet and you are at the mercy of long term population forecasts which are much less reliable.

Thus, SCC probably operates with a 3-4 year warning system of what is needed within the city in future. After that, things become unreliable.

In theory, the 'perfect' planning department would have an exact match in the number of places offered, and the number of children looking for places. A taxpayer would be delighted with such an efficient system, but a parent would be horrified, as people want to have choice and go to local schools rather than be trekking across the city. Because of the unpredictability below City level, SCC and others operate with a degree of surplus places, or 'slack'. As demand has increased and budgetary pressures have bitten in recent years, this has fallen from around 15 per cent in the early 2000's to around 6 per cent now. This is apparently in line with other Local Authorities.

A reduction of slack is only a problem if it increases the proportion of children who do not get into their catchment schools when they might reasonably expect to do so. For some time now, and reflected again in latest figures, 96 per cent of children in Sheffield get into their chosen or catchment school. This is bang in line with national average, suggesting Sheffield is neither exemplar nor poor at balancing the supply and demand of school places at a local level.

As school capacity management evolves as a science, you would expect SCC and others to get better at minimising slack as they develop better analytical tools and models to predict local preferences and migration patterns. However, such a marked fall in recent years (halving of the number of spare places) whilst maintaining the proportion of children who get into their preferred/catchment school should be considered a success and be welcome news to citizens as taxpayers.

The demand for extra places in recent years has not just been met by driving out surplus places in the system. To maintain meeting 96 per cent of catchment applications SCC has increased primary provision in a number of areas. Locally this includes Abbey Lane, Lowedges, Greystones and Hallam. Across the city roughly 20 primary schools have recently increased, or are soon set to increase, their intake.

Section Two: The Southwest Issues

As one focusses on smaller areas, the issues identified earlier in terms of people moving house or shifting preferences as regards local maintained and private schools become harder to predict. SCC cannot put provision in place by planning purely at city level, and cannot predict terribly accurately

at catchment level, and so to balance this out, it looks at catchments in clusters. The Southwest of Sheffield area includes Totley, Dore, Dobcroft, Ecclesall, Abbey Lane, Holt House and Greystones.

For the 2013/2014 intake, Dobcroft infants did not have any catchment children who could not be placed at the school. The only school in the area which had this problem was Totley, with 6 catchment children not securing one of the 30 places.¹

For 2014/2015 intake, The South West schools had bigger issues. A total of 29 out of 799 children did not initially gain a place in their catchment school (this finally settled at 20/799 following the reserve places & appeals processes). These 29 were split across catchments as follows:

- Dobcroft : 8
- Dore : 6
- Greystones : 8
- Totley : 7
- Ecclesall : 0
- Abbey lane: 0
- Holt House: 0

So, an increase in the problem between 2013-14 and 2014-15 can be seen in SW Sheffield – with 8 unsatisfactory outcomes for parents/guardians increasing to 29.

29/799 is roughly 4 per cent. At first glance this appears comparable with the Sheffield and national average of 96 per cent gaining a place in their preferred school. However, this is not quite true. The national picture of 4 per cent **not** gaining a place at their preferred school includes those who put down risky/odd choices in terms of applying for schools out of catchment. Thus, the 29/799 in SW Sheffield last year **who did apply for their catchment school** is indicative of an above average sized issue.

Pre-school take up within the south west of Sheffield has also grown by 8 per cent each year in the last two years. This aligns with the birth rate in suggesting there is a problem stacking up in future cohorts applying to primary schools in the area.

It is likely that it is this spike in oversubscription last year, and the pre-school data, that has convinced SCC that the 6 children in 2013/2014 at Totley was not an isolated blip, and represented the tip of a bigger through-flow problem in the area, evidenced by the 29 children not gaining a place in their catchment school at the initial application process. This has led to the decision to increase capacity by 30 places via the Dobcroft 2015 expansion, and a belief that a permanent solution is also needed. The council considers SW Sheffield to have been ‘tight’ for a while, and we’ve now tipped over to the point where if capacity is not increased, significant numbers of children will not get their catchment school when they choose ie.

Section Three: Predicting the future

¹ <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/search-result.html?queryStr=details+of+oversubscribed+schools&n=10&advanced=false>

Schools cannot expand quickly, and to be efficient and viable both SCC and schools would prefer schools to expand/contract in units of 30. SCCs job is to try and piece together the concrete evidence of recent application rounds with predictions about future demand. At a local area, this is part science and part art.

What data can we use?

SCC holds data from the NHS about the number of children of each age in each catchment. Blended with its admissions data it therefore knows:

- a) The number of 0,1,2 and 3 year olds in each catchment for any given year.
- b) The number of applications for each school, from 3 year olds in each catchment for any given year
- c) By comparing this over time, it can observe the changes in pre-school populations within catchments as parents move in to / out of particular catchments prior to their young children starting school.
- d) It also knows the number of children pre-school settings in each area. But, pre-school is a more transient issue, without 'catchments' – people frequently choose pre-schools well away from where they live and is thus not a good predictor of catchment demand for particular schools

What does the data tell us?

The number of 3 year olds in an area is quite changeable. Of the 21 catchment areas from which someone applied to Dobcroft, the average number of 3 year olds in each catchment is 78, and this varies within catchments on average each year by 10 per cent².

The NHS population data is not fully reliable for use in this context – in 2013/14 SCC received applications from 9 more Dobcroft catchment children than NHS data suggested were living in the Dobcroft catchment. This may be partly or wholly explained by the fact that NHS data is an annual snapshot around September, and so anyone moving into the area after that but before school application (January) would not be in the NHS data, but would be in catchment numbers for applying. By comparing year on year population data, you can estimate the extent to which particular year groups grow / shrink from birth up to Foundation age. The number of children in moving into SW Sheffield does increase between birth age and school age (Fig 1), and this varies a good deal by catchment area.

Figure 1. Increases in cohort populations as they move towards school age in SW Sheffield, based on an average of 2013-14 and 2014-15 intakes (annex 2)

² Calculation based on analysis of 'Forecasts of Reception 1st preferences (on time and late) from NHS population data provided by SCC (Annex One)

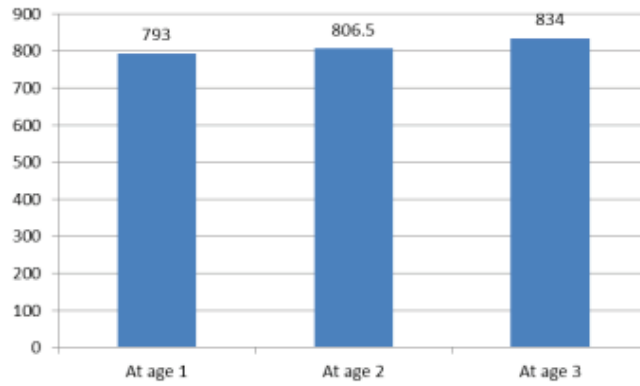
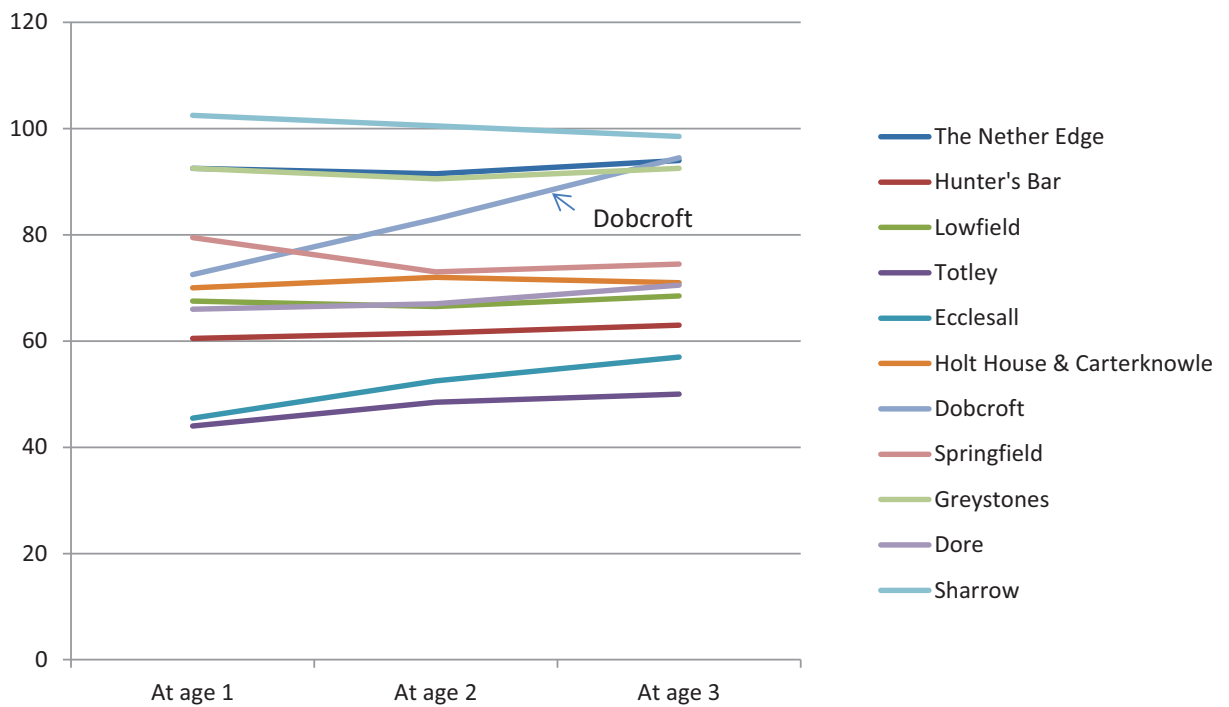


Figure 2. Increases in cohort populations as they move towards school age in SW Sheffield, based on 2013-14 and 2014-15 intakes, by school catchment area. (Annex 2)



The data suggests that:

- Inward migration to SW catchments varies a lot between catchments
- Dobcroft catchment has the highest level of inward movement of children between being born and starting school in the SW. Thus, assuming that because there are less 0 and 1 year olds in Dobcroft catchment than there are 2-3 year olds means that any pressure on places may be a temporary one, may well be missing the point.

In predicting future demand, we should not therefore apply a 'SW wide' estimate of inward migration to catchments, but instead do it at catchment level.

Section 4: Piecing this all together

Given the different inward migration patterns at catchment level, I believe it is more robust to apply forecasting at catchment level. To present a responsible estimate of catchment demand in future years, the best available data to blend together is as follows:

- d) The number of children in the catchment area population of a particular pre-school age
- e) A weighting for the amount of inward/outward migration that one could anticipate before that group reach school age. This can be done in two ways. Growth as a percentage based on past trends, or growth in absolute terms based on past trends. Modelling both and splitting the difference seems sensible. [let's call this a population growth factor].
- f) A weighting for the proportion of children in catchment who are likely to apply to the school, to estimate the anticipated demand for a place in each catchment school. This can be based on the total number of 3 year olds and the number of those who put their catchment school down as 1st preference in each catchment in the last three years. [let's call this a 1st preference factor].

Expressed as a formula this is as follows for any future intake:

$$\frac{[\text{Children in Catchment} * \text{population growth \%age factor} * \text{1st preference factor}] + [(\text{children in catchment} + \text{recent migration absolute numbers}) * \text{1st preference factor}]}{2}$$

Table 1: Predicted numbers of in catchment applications in future years.

	Intake	Catchment population 1st pref forecast					4 year average	4 year average places Vs 1st pref catchment apps
		2015	2016	2017	2018			
Nether Edge	60	25	27	28	26	27	-33	
Hunter's Bar	90	40	37	47	46	42	-48	
Lowfield	60	28	27	27	25	27	-33	
Totley	30	39	41	52	49	45	15	
Ecclesall	60	84	64	86	78	78	18	
Holt House & Carterknowle	60	48	42	34	34	39	-21	
Dobcroft*	90	82	99	105	101	97	7	
Springfield	30	22	19	20	23	21	-9	
Greystones**	90	80	79	63	68	73	-17	
Dore	60	61	68	62	57	62	2	
Sharrow	60	36	42	40	35	38	-22	

*Modelled at 90 per year, i.e. ignoring the temporary expansion in September 2015

***Current intake of 60 is returning to 90 from 2015*

There are some schools (e.g. Nether Edge, Hunter's Bar, Lowfield, Sharrow, Springfield) who are expected to receive far fewer catchment 1st preference applications than they have capacity. Analysis of School Census data from 2013-2014³ intake (latest available) SW Sheffield seems to highlight an issue here in SW Sheffield that to date has not yet been discussed. There are schools which are likely to be quite oversubscribed, and quite undersubscribed at the same time. Those schools are rated 'good' by latest ofsted reports, with the exception of Springfield which 'requires improvement'. Combining Published Admission Numbers (i.e. places/capacity) from last year, with school census data from last year shows the following:

Table 2: Take up of places in SW Sheffield last year: Schools appearing to be under-occupied

School	Published Admission Number 2013-2014	Pupils on Roll January 2014 (school census data)	Unused places
Lowfield	60	49	11
Nether Edge	60	39	21
Hunter's Bar	90	89	1
Sharrow	60	58	2
Springfield	30	26	4
Total			40

Source: DfE School Census Jan 2014.

Although not available from DfE yet, SCC's monitoring reveals that at the last census count (Oct 2014) the latest cohort had just 8 places unfilled across the SW area. Relating this back to the surplus debate discussed in section one, this is a small number.

SECTION 5: EMERGING CONCLUSIONS

- The Dobcroft 2015 expansion *appears* to be happening for a year group when the number of in catchment applications is likely to be lower for last year.
- The data suggests that for 2016 and 2017 intakes, applications from in catchment would be up . For those years, if the level of outside catchment but priority applications replicated the 12 received this year (CLA and certain SEN) then in each year 20 and 27 children respectively, living in Dobcroft catchment, would not get a place despite applying for Dobcroft school without expansion.
- The South West crowding problem is likely to be more severe in the catchments of Totley and Ecclesall than it is in Dobcroft. It is not clear how Dobcroft expansion therefore addresses what seems to be the biggest problems in the area.

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-january-2014>, underlying data, school level file

- Whilst some parts of SW Sheffield are likely to be overly popular, others (notably Lowfield and Nether Edge) look set to continue a trend of having far fewer 1st preference catchment applications than they have places available. These may, of course, be filled up with 2nd/3rd preference applications that were unsuccessful with 1st/2nd preferences, or by out of catchment children having them as their first preference. But in the last 2 years, there has been some surplus in those areas.

The current proposals suggest the only solutions to the problem presented by SCC are expansions to overly popular and outstanding schools. Re-distribution of catchment areas, or funding to improve the attractiveness of under-subscribed schools (moving from 'requires improvement' or 'good' to outstanding) should, in my opinion, be options SCC publically consider prior to any significant capital investment projects.

The data tells us that the pressure on places will be felt across a number of catchments, and it is unclear at present how injecting additional places into just one school will unravel to meet the future needs across several catchments.

SECTION 6: LIMITATIONS.

There are several limitations with this modelling work. Including

- The population data that they are all based on is imperfect for this use, as demonstrated by the fact that in 2013, 88 children in Dobcroft catchment submitted 97 applications
- The time series from which we can estimate migration patterns and 1st preference applications within catchment is short. This data is quite volatile and so any estimates would have large tolerances around them.
- We are modelling human behaviour in terms of migration, school choice etc. These things vary over time... 'we cannot count everything that counts'.
- This work only models 1st preferences within catchments. Parents who choose their catchment schools as 2nd or 3rd choices will also have preference if unsuccessful at schools they choose above it. These are small in number and probably represent 'noise' within SW Sheffield rather than any major disruption to the figures.

Despite these limitations, my discussions with SCC did not surface any more comprehensive data sources or analytical models or scenario-planning software which is more sophisticated than the approach taken here.



Cabinet Report

Report of: Executive Director, Communities

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 18th March 2015

Subject: Housing Employability, Apprenticeship and Garden Scheme Proposals

Author of Report: Carol Boot 0114 2735391

Key Decision: YES

Reason Key Decision: Expenditure/savings over £500,000
Affects 2 or more wards

Summary:

The Housing Employability Project will help to deliver the vision of the Council Housing Service and contribute towards the Council's Corporate Strategy and Economic Plan.

The proposals aim to benefit Council tenants and have been developed in consultation with service users, staff and from pilots established to test principles and practices.

The aim is to embed Apprentices into Housing and Neighbourhood Service to ensure they are a key part of the service and will greatly assist in succession planning for the future.

The service will deliver work experience and recruit 20 Apprentices annually, the recruitment will reach the local communities, Council tenants and young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), to better reflect the customers we serve and assist in the economical aspect of Council estates. The use of Traineeships and work experience will also enhance the ability directly contribute to the Council's visions and plans.

The Apprentices will be paid the standard rate paid by the Council to its apprentices. There will be discretion for this to be supplemented through a budget for bursary or hardship payments as required.

The report also includes proposals to develop a new gardening service for tenants for which a charge is made including assessment of the feasibility of a single free visit for approximately 2000 vulnerable customers as the service transitions away from the current model. A vacant garden service incorporating apprentices is also to be developed reflecting customer feedback on the vacant service.

Reasons for Recommendations:

The changes and recommendations as described in the report will deliver many of the Council's and Housing and Neighbourhoods Services commitments, visions and strategic objectives.

They also provide continuity and an improvement to services for Council tenants and are based on the views of tenants and staff.

The recommendations will improve the offer to Council tenants in respect of employment and visual look of areas.

The recommendation will create additional employment, particularly for young people in Sheffield.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is asked to:

- (a) Approve the establishment of a Housing Employability and Apprentice Scheme within the Council Housing Service;
- (b) Delegate authority to the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services to pay bursaries or hardship support if necessary subject to the agreed criteria;
- (c) Delegate authority to the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Director of Legal & Governance and Director of Finance to carry out work to develop a garden assistance scheme as described in this report.

Background Papers:

Category of Report: **OPEN**

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Karen Jones
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Andrea Simpson
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES Cleared by: Phil Reid
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO Cleared by:
Human Rights Implications
NO Cleared by:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO Cleared by:
Economic Impact
YES/NO Cleared by:
Community Safety Implications
YES/NO Cleared by:
Human Resources Implications
YES Cleared by: Julie Toner
Property Implications
YES/NO Cleared by:
Area(s) Affected
Citywide
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Lead
Cllr Harry Harpham
Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Safer and Stronger Communities
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press Release
YES

REPORT TO SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL CABINET

HOUSING EMPLOYABILITY AND APPRENTICESHIP PROPOSALS

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Housing Employability Project will help to deliver the vision of the Council Housing Service developed by Members, customers and staff and contributes towards the Council's Corporate Strategy and Economic Plan.
- 1.2 The proposals aim to benefit Council tenants and have been developed with consultation with service users, staff and from pilots established to test principles and practices.
- 1.3 The aim is to embed Apprentices into Housing and Neighbourhood Service to ensure they are a key part of the service and will greatly assist in succession planning for the future.
- 1.4 The service will deliver work experience and recruit 20 Apprentices annually, the recruitment will reach the local communities, Council tenants and young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), to better reflect the customers we serve and assist in the economical aspect of Council estates. The use of Traineeships and work experience will also enhance the ability directly contribute to the Council's visions and plans.
- 1.5 The Apprentices will be paid the standard rate paid by the Council to its apprentices. There will be discretion for this to be supplemented through a budget for bursary or hardship payments as required
- 1.6 The report also includes proposals to develop a new gardening service for tenants for which a charge is made including assessment of the feasibility of a single free visit to approximately 2000 homes as the service transitions away from the current model. A vacant garden service will also be delivered.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE

- 2.1 Council Housing represents a fifth of all Sheffield's Housing, the use of an Apprentice scheme, a gardening scheme and enhanced work to communal areas will bring benefits to the vast majority of its residents.
- 2.2 Creation of new work opportunities and work placements will have a positive effect on the community, especially if the targeted recruitment delivers to expectations. This directly contributes to the Council's corporate vision of a strong and competitive economy with successful young people.
- 2.3 An improvement to gardens brings benefits to all residents and contributes to the Council's vision of a great place to live.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 The Housing Employability Project contributes towards many of the outcomes in the Corporate Plan and the Economic and Employment strategy.

3.2 A Strong and Competitive Economy

- The creation of apprenticeships and work experience opportunities help to create more and better employment opportunities.
- The development of skills and gaining of qualifications via the programme will contribute to the enhancement of a highly skilled workforce, if the apprentices are retained in employment within the Council, but also amongst existing staff via the support and delivery of the programme.

Successful Young People

- The creation of the programme alongside Lifelong Learning and Skills will allow the Housing and Neighbourhoods Services to ensure the quality of learning and skills for all involved.
- Offering apprenticeships to specific audiences, alongside traineeships, will ensure that young people are active in their development and engaged with the programme.
- Apprentices are trained to a recognised, measurable standard.
- The apprentices will be better qualified and trained to either secure employment within SCC, in the wider job market or go on to further learning.
- The apprentices will achieve a recognised qualification.

Tackling Poverty and Increasing Social Justice

- The overall aim of the programme to develop employability skills helps to tackle unemployment as one of the causes of poverty.
- The paid nature of apprenticeships allows the immediate tackling of poverty by providing means of income to those involved.

A Great Place to Live

- The continued availability of a garden maintenance scheme for tenants will allow estates to keep looking neat, tidy and attractive to new customers.
- The maintenance of gardens will help to reduce ASB or nuisance calls regarding untidy gardens.

An Environmentally Responsible City

- Greater control over the delivery of the garden maintenance scheme will allow value for money to be achieved and greater control over the selection of waste management procedures.

3.3 One of the 6 priority areas within the Employment Strategy is:

We will increase work and progression opportunities for young people, by;

- Increase apprenticeships, training, work experience and job opportunities that are available for young people.
- Maximise the apprenticeship opportunities as a route to employment.
- Ensure that we know and are supporting every young person that is not in Education, Employment and Training so that there are no lost young people.

- 3.4 Sheffield recognises that young people are at the heart of Sheffield's future. To have a thriving economy with a new generation of businesses and skilled workers it is important that young people have the opportunity to find sustainable employment. Failing to provide these opportunities for young people will damage their life chances.
- 3.5 In addition to this the report recognises that opportunities to gain work experience through apprenticeships, placements and work trials are extremely important in helping young people take the first steps into employment, and in preventing a negative cycle of unemployment and loss of confidence and skills.
- 3.6 The Housing Employability Project supports key aspects of Sheffield City Council's Employment Strategy.

4.0 HOUSING APPRENTICESHIPS

- 4.1 The Housing and Neighbourhoods Services within Sheffield Council has always had a commitment to providing training and delivering employability opportunities. By directly delivering a number of Apprentice schemes and work experience in various different forms over 20 years. The provision of apprenticeships is embraced and encouraged by Councils vision, and Corporate, economic and employment plans.
- 4.2 Approval is sought to launch a new Housing Employability and Apprentice Scheme.
- 4.3 A pilot Housing Apprentice scheme has resulted in 15 Apprentices taken on during Jan 2015. They each have a 2 year fixed term contract and will train in all aspects of Housing. They are based in 8 different sections and cover 3 different roles, qualifications and levels of qualifications. This scheme varies vastly from previous arrangements, where short term placements were created and were narrowly focused on providing training in trades/green work experience. The learning from the pilot will inform the new Housing Employability and Apprentice Scheme.
- 4.4 Housing and Neighbourhoods are committed to providing training and employment opportunities for young people. The Housing Apprentice Scheme aims to provide 20 Apprenticeship places annually. The apprenticeships will be 2 year fixed term contracts, over and above the establishment, with assistance and placement in the talent pool to obtain permanent employment. Housing and Neighbourhood Services after investing time, training, finance and experience do wish to retain, by standard recruitment, as many of the Apprentices as possible. In addition to this the opportunity will be made available for Business Unit Managers to convert vacant posts to apprenticeships, therefore giving the apprentice a permanent job whilst learning valuable skills for the service.
- 4.5 The ultimate aim is to develop a palette of apprentice roles with varying levels of qualification so managers have access to the widest range in order to meet the needs of the service. The Project team are currently working with training suppliers in order to deliver Housing based qualifications. The qualifications will be at both NVQ Level 2 and 3.

4.6 **Traineeships**

Traineeships, which were trialled as part of the pilot, give opportunities to applicants who would not normally be able to compete in straight recruitment. Trainees spend 12 weeks gaining general employability and key skills as well as direct work experience within the Department. Successful trainees will have the opportunity to move onto a full Apprenticeship.

4.7 **Work Experience**

Short term work experience will be delivered in partnership with Lifelong Learning and Skills and the Ambition Sheffield City Region (SCR) scheme, and is expected to deliver 60 placements annually. The Ambition SCR Programme was approved by the Leader of the Council on 4th September 2014.

4.8 There is very little risk with the Apprentice and work experience schemes as the pilot has provided an opportunity to test out what works and put robust plans in place. The most significant risks are retention, the current service re-organisation and impact on the working environment.

5.0 **RECRUITMENT STRATEGY**

5.1 The apprentices will be recruited via normal Council process but will also have local recruitment drives to target applicants from diverse background and particularly target children of Council tenants in order to encourage employment from the customers we serve.

5.2 Traineeships will form part of the recruitment strategy in order to ensure we give opportunities to NEET applicants.

6.0 **PAY RATES FOR APPRENTICES**

6.1 Sheffield City Council in response to the fairness commission implemented the Living Wage for all employees, other than apprentices.

6.2 Retention of apprentices has always been an issue in Housing, in an early scheme, out of 5 taken on, all left the scheme before they finished their courses. By taking on an Apprentice and putting them through a qualification, the service is committing significant resources and obviously wishes to retain the investment made. One of the main factors in retention is a low wage.

6.3 An element of the recruitment strategy is to recruit from some of the most under-privileged backgrounds. There is clear evidence that paying the National Minimum Apprentice Wage puts additional stress on the apprentice and their family, as the apprentice cannot contribute towards the finances and covering bus fares and lunches can be a struggle. In some cases family benefits can be affected.

6.4 Consideration has therefore been given to paying apprentices within the Housing Service the Living Wage, in order to address the retention and meet the priority to offer opportunities from young people furthest from the job market and so in greatest financial need. However this may put at risk the Apprentice programme across the Council and elsewhere in the city. The Director Of

Human Resources has been commissioned to undertake a review of Apprentice Rates and this will be the subject of a further report.

- 6.5 Pending the outcome of the review the Housing Apprentice Scheme will pay the standard rates paid by the Council to apprentices. Part of this project, however, is to address concerns about poverty, social justice and retention and HRA funding has been identified that will be available to provide bursaries and / hardship support from the programme. This is consistent with arrangements for other training programmes managed by Lifelong Learning and Skills. The criteria for eligibility for this assistance will be developed in conjunction with Lifelong Learning Skills and it is proposed that the decision to award support is delegated to the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods Services.

7.0 GARDEN ASSISTANCE SCHEME

- 7.1 Gardens have a significant effect on a community's overall look, as well as impacting tenants' satisfaction, let-ability and the reputation of an estate. Gardens of vacant properties also play a part in this, at times leaving a new tenant with an un-manageable garden. Until recently there has been no provision for any vacant garden maintenance.
- 7.2 Since the mid 1990's there has been a garden assistance scheme for vulnerable tenants. The nature of the scheme has changed over the years but latterly it comprised of a free annual visit to vulnerable tenants who are unable to do their garden. The annual visit is not adequate in maintaining the garden to an acceptable standard.
- 7.3 Consultation has shown that current users of the provision feel more frequent visits are needed and most are willing to pay for this additional service, along with non-users also expressing an interest in a gardening service for which a charge is made
- 7.4 The ability to offer a garden assistance scheme and to maintain un-manageable vacant gardens would assist greatly with the maintenance of the environment and physical aspects of the area and would work well with the Housing+ model of housing management, as an option to be offered. The Housing + model, which is patch based with a more joined up and individually tailored service to tenants, was agreed by Cabinet in March 2014.
- 7.5 The feasibility of a gardening assistance scheme for Council tenants, for which there is a charge, including the charging arrangements and retaining an initial single transitional free element for the vulnerable is to be robustly explored. It is proposed that the assessment of the viability of the scheme is delegated to the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods Services in consultation with the Director of Legal & Governance and Director of Finance. The outcome of this assessment and resultant proposals for the delivery of the scheme will be the subject of a further executive report.
- 7.6 There is some risk is with the proposed change to the Garden Assistance Scheme by way of:

- a. adverse publicity, by transitioning from a free service to a charged service
 - b. over subscription and cannot meet demand
 - c. under subscription and having to write off the set up costs
 - d. and increase in un-maintained gardens, leading to legal action against the most vulnerable
- 7.7 The risks can be mitigated by exploring the feasibility of a free element, phasing the change, tendering work and robust agreements.

8.0 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation has taken place by way of surveys to users and non-users of the Garden Assistance Scheme, reports through the Council's established governance channels, the Local Housing Forum, Investment Repairs Planning Group and consultation with ex-Apprentices and staff. The full consultation outcome is attached to this report at Appendix A.
- 8.2 The main outcome of consultation was that 63% of current service users did additional maintenance to their gardens which potentially makes them ineligible for the service. 24% state they already pay for a gardening service and 61% state they would be interested in a garden service. However 37% of the respondents state that if the service was withdrawn no maintenance would be done to their garden. This could lead to The Council taking action against vulnerable tenants for not maintaining their garden.

9.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The cost of these schemes is to be funded from existing budget provision made in the Housing Revenue Account.
- 9.2 The proposed restructure of the Council Housing Service includes establishment of a permanent resource to oversee the Apprentice Scheme and work experience programme. The costs of running the proposed new garden scheme can be estimated but further work is required to develop proposals for the scheme to operate on a self-financing basis with costs recovered through charging a fee for the service. The HRA will still bear the cost however for the interim garden service and for vacant gardens. The financial implications of the garden scheme will be reported in the future executive report on the feasibility assessment and resultant proposals for the delivery of the scheme.
- 9.3 There is one new Grade 8 post arising from the proposals in this report about the Housing Apprentice and Employability Programme.

In addition, there are potentially new posts associated with the proposed garden service and are dependent on the outcome of the feasibility assessment and development of the scheme.

9.4 Estimated costs of the Apprentice and Employability proposals are as follows:

Category	Estimated Cost 15/16	Future Full Year Cost
Project Resources	£52,000	£46,000
Project Expenses	£5,000	£5,000
Marketing & Publicity	£10,000	£10,000
Apprentices (inc. Bursary Provision)	£516,000	£775,000
Qualifications and Providers	£140,000	£160,000
Employability Total	£723,000	£996,000

9.5 The estimated costs for Employability project in 2015-16 reflect the cost of the Apprentices currently recruited to the scheme and a further intake of 20 later in the year. The full year shows the estimated maximum costs of the scheme when fully operational.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 sets out the public sector equality duty: that all public bodies are under an obligation to have 'due regard' to eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality and fostering good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, i.e. in the contexts of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The opportunities provided by the Housing Employability and Apprentice Scheme meet this duty.

10.2 The Council may provide housing accommodation under Part II of the Housing Act 1985 (the 1985 Act). The powers include the provision and maintenance of buildings or land. The general power of management of its housing is vested in the Council by section 21 of the 1985 Act and there is wide discretion as to how the Council may exercise that power. The proposals within this report describing housing management, including the garden assistance scheme, are consistent with the powers under Part II of the 1985 Act.

10.3 In addition, the proposal to employ apprentices to assist in the management of the Council's housing is covered by section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972 which permits a local authority to employ such officers (which covers all employees, including apprentices) as thought necessary for the proper discharge of its functions.

10.4 Income and expenditure relating to houses and land held for the purposes of Part II of the 1985 Act must be accounted for in the Housing Revenue Account by virtue of Part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Schedule 4 of that Act prescribes what income and expenditure may be accounted for within the HRA. Only those things itemised in the Schedule may be credited or debited

to the HRA. The majority of the expenditure that must be debited is expenditure on the repair, maintenance, supervision and management of houses and other property within the account. The proposals in this report comply with the statutory restrictions on the HRA.

- 10.5 Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003 contains restrictions on the Council's powers to charge for discretionary services which must be taken into account in considering the development of a garden assistance scheme for which a charge is made.

11.0 HR IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 It is proposed that two new teams will be created, the Housing Employability team and a Garden service team. The Housing Employability team is being dealt with under the current Managing Employee Reduction for Housing and Neighbourhoods. The establishment of the garden service team will be addressed in the work done to develop the scheme.

- 11.2 Recruitment of the Apprentices will be within the City Council's existing recruitment framework.

- 11.3 Consultation with the necessary Trade Unions has also taken place and will continue to do so as and when relevant.

12.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The employment of 20 Apprentices and delivery of 60 work placements annually, with targeted recruitment at NEETS and within Council Housing tenants will greatly assist Sheffield City Council meet its targets as set down in the Corporate and Economic Plan and its commitment to developing successful young people.

13.0 EQUALITIES OF OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 Two Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) have been undertaken, which takes account of all the changes the project is bringing about and one specifically looks at the impact on recruitment on all groups. Copies are attached to this report at Appendix B.

- 13.2 The negative impact of the Gardening Assistance scheme was the potential loss of service for the elderly and vulnerable, but this is mitigated by the exploration of retaining a free service. The negative impact on the Recruitment identifies the need to recruit openly and fairly and to actively target diverse groups, which is dealt within the recruitment strategy.

14.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 14.1 Alternative options were considered for all elements of the project, including no change, which is not a viable option for any of the elements as it does not meet the needs of the service or the needs of the customers we serve.

- 14.2 The main alternative for the apprenticeship model was to keep with the work experience in the building trade background. This does not prove a viable option as we do not have the skills to develop and contribute to the learners.
- 14.3 Four options were considered for the charged gardening scheme, with the chosen option being the only one that initially maintains and potentially subsequently enhances the service provision without additional cost to the Council Housing Service. This will be addressed more fully as the scheme is developed.

15.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 15.1 The changes described in the report will deliver many of the Council's and Housing services commitments, visions and strategic objectives.
- 15.2 They also provide continuity and an improvement to services for Council tenants and are based on the views of tenants and staff.
- 15.3 The recommendations will improve the offer to Council tenants in respect of employment and the quality of neighbourhoods.
- 15.4 The recommendations will create additional employment, particularly for young people in Sheffield.

16.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 16.1 Cabinet is asked to:
- (d) Approve the establishment of a Housing Employability and Apprentice Scheme within the Council Housing Service;
 - (e) Delegate authority to the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services to pay bursaries or hardship support if necessary subject to the agreed criteria;
 - (f) Delegate authority to the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Director of Legal & Governance and Director of Finance to carry out work to develop a garden assistance scheme as described in this report.

Author – Carol Boot / Jill Hurst
Job Title – Unit Manager / HOS
Date – 17.2.15

Current Users - Garden Pledge Scheme Consultation Results

Q1 – Do you currently receive garden assistance from Sheffield City Council?

No	0
Yes	676

Q2 – How satisfied are you with the quality of the gardening service you currently receive?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Very Dissatisfied	←—————→								Very Satisfied
26	11	14	25	34	26	44	78	72	312

***34 No Response**

Q3 – Does anyone, other than the Council, help you with your gardening?

I do it myself	51
Yes, a relative/friend	206
Yes, a paid gardener	160
No, just the council	248

***11 No Response**

Q4 – How often does someone else, other than the Council, help you with your gardening?

Fortnightly	77
Weekly	10
When asked	187
Monthly	97
Every 3 months	27
Every 6 months	25

***253 No Response**

Q5 – If you pay, how much does this cost you per visit?

Don't pay	240
More than £20	80
Between £10 and £20	93
Between £5 and £10	50
Up to £5	10

***203 No Response**

Q6 – What types of work would you like to see as part of a gardening service?

Garden waste removal	420
Hedge trimming	533
Grass cutting	493
Tree lopping	184
Applying weedkiller	202
Weeding	309
Laying gravel	34
Laying turf	18
Shrub tidying	298
Planting	38

*from the comments collected in the “Other” option Fencing was highlighted by 170, Driveways, Alleyways and Paths were highlighted by 31, and levelling was highlighted by 24, out of 399 responses.

Q7 – Would you be interested in paying for a more regular and improved gardening service by Sheffield City Council?

Age Range	Yes	No
75+	375	240

***61 No Response**

Q8 – If yes, how often would you expect to receive this service?

When asked	69
Monthly	143
Fortnightly	29
Every 3 months	116
Every 6 months	50
Weekly	4

***265 No Response**

Q9 – As part of your tenancy conditions, it is your responsibility to keep your garden and hedges well maintained and tidy. If the current garden assistance scheme was removed and no replacement was available, what would happen to your garden?

I would have to do it myself	145
I would pay someone to do it	237
It wouldn't get done	240


***54 No Response**

Garden Pledge Scheme Consultation – Viewpoint Results

Q1 – Do you currently receive garden assistance from Sheffield City Council?

No	1468
Yes	32

Q2 – How satisfied are you with the quality of the gardening service you currently receive?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Very Dissatisfied									Very Satisfied
1		2		7	1	2	3	1	3

Q3 – Does anyone, other than the Council, help you with your gardening?

I do it myself	1160
Yes, a relative/friend	215
Yes, a paid gardener	91
No, just the council	15

Q4 – How often does someone else, other than the Council, help you with your gardening?

Fortnightly	338
Weekly	329
When asked	295
Monthly	247
Every 3 months	36
Every 6 months	24

Q5 – If you pay, how much does this cost you per visit?

Don't pay	1307
More than £20	59
Between £10 and £20	32
Between £5 and £10	18
Up to £5	4

Q6 – What types of work would you like to see as part of a gardening service?

Garden waste removal	895
Hedge trimming	779
Grass cutting	762
Tree lopping	632
Applying weedkiller	518
Weeding	505
Laying gravel	443
Laying turf	436
Shrub tidying	405
Planting	250

*from the comments collected in the “Other” option Fencing was highlighted by 170, Driveways, Alleyways and Paths were highlighted by 31, and levelling was highlighted by 24, out of 399 responses.

Q7 – Would you be interested in paying for a more regular and improved gardening service by Sheffield City Council?

Age Range	Yes	No	Total
16-18	2		2
19-24	50	27	77
25-39	339	233	572
40-54	384	329	713
55+	56	80	136
Grand Total	831	669	1500

Q8 – If yes, how often would you expect to receive this service?

When asked	308
Monthly	289
Fortnightly	110
Every 3 months	56
Every 6 months	20
Weekly	12

Q9 – If yes, how much would you consider paying per visit?

Between £5 and £10	227
Between £10 and £20	214
Don't know	163
Up to £5	81
More than £20	51
Nothing	24

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Name of EIA	Housing Employability Project
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See also separate EIA on Apprenticeship Scheme, updated February 2015

Completed By	Craig Watts – 30/06/2014 Updated by Carol Boot, Liz Tooke & Craig Watts – 12/02/2015
Date of Completion	30/06/2014 – Updated 12/02/2015

Please see link to all customer demographics – this will assist with your research into the impacts of this project/function/event.

[Demographics Information](#)

Section One:

1) *What are you trying to achieve?*

The Housing Employability Project is intended to:
Develop a Housing Employability and Apprentice Programme within the Council Housing Service. See also separate EIA on Apprenticeship Scheme, updated February 2015. Review and implement new arrangements for a garden maintenance scheme for tenants.

Provide temporary Arrangements for Improving Local Neighbourhoods, Green work and Painting.

2) *Who will be affected?*

All tenants, some Leaseholders
All residents on Council estates
Staff
Potential Apprentices
People not in education or employment
Current garden scheme users (those aged 75+ or have a disability that prevents them from gardening, and have no-one else under the age of 75 at home, or have any friends, relatives or neighbours who are able to do the work)

3. *How will they be affected?*

Potential gap in service delivery.
Potential financial charges for replacement service delivery (Leaseholders for any communal work, Garden Maintenance charge may apply)
Changes to management of service delivery.
Changes to processes.
Some areas of work potentially removed from our direct responsibility e.g. Target Hardening, Garden Maintenance delivery)

4. What measures if any are in place to address this?

Temporary teams to deliver a Garden Maintenance scheme from April to implementation of a new charged gardening service.

Temporary Estate to support green work delivery on estates until the transfer of the green element to Parks and Countryside's as part of the Green Open Space review.

Use of recently introduced Kier-based Community Handy Person scheme to deliver some miscellaneous work.

Temp painting arrangements until the outcome of the estates service review and The in-sourcing of the repairs project concludes.

Communications plan to keep staff and affected tenants informed of changes, including clear publicity plan over replacement schemes.

Continuation of the Apprentice pilot and subsequent annual intake of 20 Apprentices per year.

Section 2

5) Please complete the following impact table and give reasons for each impact.

Profile group	Impact N°	Positive impact	Negative impact	Reason
Black and Minority Ethnic People	001	Yes	No	<p>The current garden scheme is only available to specific client groups. A redesigned scheme will aim to broaden and change the eligibility to allow most client groups to access the service.</p> <p>As the profile of older people in Sheffield is predominantly White British as compared to the profile of younger people, opening up the scheme more widely would potentially enable more BME people to access it.</p> <p>The interim arrangements detailed previously are in place to ensure smooth transition into longer-term work arrangements.</p> <p>Creation of a Housing Employability Programme will provide learning and placement opportunities for everyone regardless of their background – see separate EIA.</p>

	002	Yes	Yes	<p>The current garden scheme is only available to specific client groups.- Current garden scheme users are those aged 75+ or have a disability that prevents them from gardening, and have no-one else under the age of 75 at home, or have any friends, relatives or neighbours who are able to do the work. A redesigned scheme will aim to broaden and change the eligibility to allow most client groups to access the service.</p> <p>The interim arrangements detailed previously are in place to ensure smooth transition into longer-term work arrangements.</p> <p>If the new garden maintenance scheme cannot provide a free element, or the criteria eliminates new categories, people who are disabled may be impacted by no longer receiving or being eligible for the service previously provided.</p> <p>Creation of a Housing Employability Programme will provide learning and placement opportunities for everyone regardless of their background - - see separate EIA.</p>
Women	003	Yes	No	<p>The current garden scheme is only available to specific client groups. A redesigned scheme will aim to broaden and change the eligibility to allow most client groups to access the service.</p> <p>The interim arrangements detailed previously are in place to ensure smooth transition into longer-term work arrangements.</p> <p>Creation of a Housing Employability Programme will provide learning and placement opportunities for everyone regardless of their background.</p>
Men	004	Yes	No	<p>The current garden scheme is only available to specific client groups. A redesigned scheme will aim to broaden and change the eligibility to allow most client groups to access the service.</p> <p>The interim arrangements detailed previously are in place to ensure smooth transition into longer-term work arrangements.</p> <p>Creation of a Housing Employability Programme will provide learning and placement opportunities for everyone regardless of their background.</p>

<p>Lesbian, Gay men, bisexuals</p>	<p>005</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The current garden scheme is only available to specific client groups. A redesigned scheme will aim to broaden and change the eligibility to allow most client groups to access the service.</p> <p>The interim arrangements detailed previously are in place to ensure smooth transition into longer-term work arrangements.</p> <p>Creation of a Housing Employability Programme will provide learning and placement opportunities for everyone regardless of their background.</p>
<p>Gender Re-assignment</p>	<p>006</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The current garden scheme is only available to specific client groups. A redesigned scheme will aim to broaden and change the eligibility to allow most client groups to access the service.</p> <p>The interim arrangements detailed previously are in place to ensure smooth transition into longer-term work arrangements.</p> <p>Creation of a Housing Employability Programme will provide learning and placement opportunities for everyone regardless of their background.</p>
<p>Marriage & Civil Partnership</p>	<p>007</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The current garden scheme is only available to specific client groups. A redesigned scheme will aim to broaden and change the eligibility to allow most client groups to access the service.</p> <p>The interim arrangements detailed previously are in place to ensure smooth transition into longer-term work arrangements.</p> <p>Creation of a Housing Employability Programme will provide learning and placement opportunities for everyone regardless of their background.</p>
<p>Pregnancy & Maternity</p>	<p>008</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The current garden scheme is only available to specific client groups. A redesigned scheme will aim to broaden and change the eligibility to allow most client groups to access the service.</p> <p>The interim arrangements detailed previously are in place to ensure smooth transition into longer-term work arrangements.</p> <p>Creation of a Housing Employability Programme will provide learning and placement opportunities for everyone regardless of their background.</p>

Older people (60+)	009	Yes	Yes	<p>The current garden scheme is only available to specific client groups. A redesigned scheme will aim to broaden and change the eligibility to allow most client groups to access the service.</p> <p>The interim arrangements detailed previously are in place to ensure smooth transition into longer-term work arrangements.</p> <p>If the new garden maintenance scheme cannot provide a free element, or the criteria eliminates new categories, people who are over 60 may be impacted by no longer receiving or being eligible for the service previously provided.</p> <p>Creation of a Housing Employability Programme will provide learning and placement opportunities for everyone regardless of their background.</p>
Older age groups	010	Yes	No	<p>The current garden scheme is only available to specific client groups. A redesigned scheme will aim to broaden and change the eligibility to allow most client groups to access the service.</p> <p>The interim arrangements detailed previously are in place to ensure smooth transition into longer-term work arrangements.</p> <p>Creation of a Housing Employability Programme will provide learning and placement opportunities for everyone regardless of their background.</p>
Religion/Belief	011	Yes	No	<p>The current garden scheme is only available to specific client groups. A redesigned scheme will aim to broaden and change the eligibility to allow most client groups to access the service.</p> <p>The interim arrangements detailed previously are in place to ensure smooth transition into longer-term work arrangements.</p> <p>Creation of a Housing Employability Programme will provide learning and placement opportunities for everyone regardless of their background.</p>
Impact on Community Cohesion				<p>The project aims to deliver fair access to provision of any replacement measures established.</p>

Impact on Social Inclusion				<p>The project aims to deliver fair access to provision of any replacement measures established. There may be financial implications from the possibility of a charged Garden Maintenance scheme. The Apprentice program will also seek to ensure that those not in education or employment are made aware that they can apply and access the opportunities it provides.</p>
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Notes: Religions/belief covers a wide range of groupings the most common of which are Muslim, Buddhist, Jew, Christian, Sikh and Hindu. Consider Religion/Belief categories individually and collectively when considering positive and negative impacts.

6. What actions will be taken if there are negative impacts?

It is highly unlikely that there will be any negative impacts, however if there are any the following will be available to reduce the impact:

Garden Assistance:

We already have a list of local suppliers and agencies that customers can be referred to as alternatives.

Potential to look at reducing any charges applied in certain circumstances, but the cost of assessing may be prohibitive.

Housing Employability Programme:

The project has established strong links with SCC's Lifelong Learning and Skills department which has already been able to provide assistance and a way forward for some of the Learners from the City Stewardship scheme.

Promotion of the scheme will take place in schools and other education facilities around the city and Council estates to promote the scheme to the areas we deliver services to.

Work experience opportunities for those not in education or employment will also be made available as a tie-in to the scheme to ensure the maximum number of opportunities are created and provided.

7. What communication / consultation process will be used to deal with the negative impacts identified?

The project is supported by a detailed Communications Plan covering all stakeholders.

Consultation has taken place in the form of a questionnaire targeted at those who already receive garden assistance and a sample of customers who do not currently receive the service but live in a property with a garden. Consultation has shown that current users of the provision feel more frequent visits are needed and most are willing to pay for this additional service, along with non-users also expressing an interest in a charged gardening scheme.

Consultation on the Housing Employability will primarily involve Council Housing Service and Line Managers in order to establish the scheme alongside Lifelong Learning and Skills. Work with qualification providers will also ensure that the scheme meets the desired outcome for what can be provided to the target audience.

Promotion of the scheme will take place in schools and other education facilities around the city and Council estates to promote the scheme to the areas we deliver services to.

Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

Please list below any recommendations for action that you plan to take as a result of this impact assessment.

Impact N°	Action required	Lead Officer	Timescale Resource	Comments
001-011	If a charged garden scheme is the preferred long-term option investigation of financial assistance for the economically disadvantaged.	Carol Boot	June 2015	
001-011	Clear marketing, promotion, and detail of opportunities to be provided to people around Council estates to promote the scheme in the areas we have a greater function within.	Carol Boot	June 2015	
002&009	Current users of free service are due to be reviewed by April 2015. This will allow us to obtain and analyse current customer information in order to greater understand how we can assist current users with service changes.	Carol Boot	June 2015	
002&009	Current users of free service would be supported with transition to a charged scheme if the free service was ended. The review scheduled to complete by April 2015 will allow us to better understand the customers affected and specify clearer action points.	Carol Boot	June 2015	
001-011	The implementation of a charged service will likely take the form of a mini-project for the service. A separate EIA for this project and service will be carried out as part of any mini-project.	Carol Boot	June 2015	

Completed By	
Completed By	Craig Watts – 30/06/2014 Updated by Carol Boot, Liz Tooke & Craig Watts – 12/02/2015
Date of Completion	
Date of Completion	30/06/2014 Updated – 12/02/2015

Signed off Authorised	
Carol Boot	12/02/2015
Project Manager	

Signed off Authorised	
Phil Reid	12/02/2015
Development Manager (Equality & Diversity)	

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Name of EIA	Employability Project (Recruitment)
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Completed By	Louise Nunn / Craig Watts
Date of Completion	01/08/2014 – updated 12/02/15

Please see link to all customer demographics – this will assist with your research into the impacts of this project/function/event.

**Section
One:**

1) What are you trying to achieve?

A programme that gives the opportunity for Sheffield people to gain employment through an apprenticeship scheme.
To support the development of underrepresented people who otherwise would have difficulty in gaining employment/training.

2) Who will be affected?

This will involve members of the public - more so the younger generation as the programme is based on younger trainees.

3. How will they be affected?

People will be expected to apply for the apprenticeships and then fulfil a training programme to gain qualifications.

4. What measures if any are in place to address this?

There will be no affect from this scheme.

Section 2

5) Please complete the following impact table and give reasons for each impact.

Profile group	Impact N°	Positive impact	Negative impact	Reason
Black and Minority Ethnic People	1	Y	N	<p>Positive Impact – this is a terrific opportunity for all people of Sheffield to have a go at applying for this 2 year programme and the chance to gain qualifications. This will bring employment to the City and also support people in social housing to join the scheme.</p> <p>19% of the total population of Sheffield are BME. 14.4% of Council Housing tenants are BME, however 26.3% of Council tenants aged between 16 to 29 years are BME. It is expected that there will be more applications to the scheme from people within this more traditional age bracket for apprenticeship. 20% of the recruits on the pilot scheme are BME, this is in-line with the 19% overall profile of Sheffield.</p> <p>However, as BME people are under-represented in the SCC staff profile we will continue to consider what Positive Action can be put in place to work towards recruitment reflecting the profile of Sheffield as a whole.</p>

<p>Disabled people</p>				<p>See impact number 1.</p> <p>0% disabled individuals who have joined us as part of the Pilot. 32.6% of Council Housing tenants are disabled, however 12% of Council tenants aged between 16 to 29 years are disabled. It is expected that there will be more applications to the scheme from people within this more traditional age bracket for apprenticeship., 8.4% of staff in the Council are disabled and we are working towards a target of 10% of our staff being disabled.</p> <p>Mitigating action will be put in place to address this as appropriate – See Action Plan below.</p>
<p>Women</p>				<p>See impact number 1.</p>
<p>Page 402</p>				<p>See impact number 1.</p>
<p>Lesbian, Gay men, bisexuals</p>				<p>7% of the recruits on the pilot scheme are LGB, this is in-line with official estimates of the LGB population.</p>
<p>Gender Re-assignment</p>				<p>No differential impact is anticipated for this group. We will ensure that recruitment is inclusive for all groups and good HR practice is followed.</p> <p>See impact number 1. No differential impact is anticipated for this group. We will ensure that recruitment is inclusive for all groups and good HR practice is followed.</p>
<p>Marriage & Civil Partnership</p>				<p>We will ensure that recruitment is inclusive for all groups and good HR practice is followed.</p> <p>See impact number 1. No differential impact is anticipated for this group. We will ensure that recruitment is inclusive for all groups and good HR practice is followed..</p>
<p>Pregnancy & Maternity</p>				<p>See impact number 1. No differential impact is anticipated for this group. We will ensure that recruitment is inclusive for all groups and good HR practice is followed.</p>
<p>Older people (60+)</p>				<p>See impact number 1. No differential impact is anticipated for this group. We will ensure that recruitment is inclusive for all groups and good HR practice is followed.</p>

Other age groups				See impact number 1 – although it is expected that there will be more applications to the scheme from people within this more traditional age bracket for apprenticeships, 16 to 29 years, there are no age restrictions on applying for the scheme.
Religion/Belief				See impact number 1 No differential impact is anticipated for this group. We will ensure that recruitment is inclusive for all groups and good HR practice is followed.
Impact on Community Cohesion.				See impact number 1 No differential impact is anticipated for this group. We will ensure that recruitment is inclusive for all groups and good HR practice is followed.
Impact on Social Inclusion				See impact number 1 No differential impact is anticipated for this group. We will ensure that recruitment is inclusive for all groups and good HR practice is followed.

Notes: Religions/belief covers a wide range of groupings the most common of which are Muslim, Buddhist, Jew, Christian, Sikh and Hindu. Consider Religion/Belief categories individually and collectively when considering positive and negative impacts.


6. *What actions will be taken if there are negative impacts?*

No negative impacts identified

7. *What communication / consultation process will be used to deal with the negative impacts identified?*

Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

Please list below any recommendations for action that you plan to take as a result of this impact assessment.

Impact N°	Action required	Lead Officer	Timescale Resource	Comments
All	Ensure a full communication plan is in place and that advertising the opportunity is effective and reaches the people of Sheffield.	Craig Watts	On-going	Update as and when.
Page 405	Update the information that is available in the work place to ensure that staff are fully aware of what the programme is and how it may have an impact on them regarding training and mentoring.	Craig Watts	On-going	Update as and when
All	Maximise links with Lifelong Learning and Skills to engage with groups and organisations they already support. See document for full details of groups.  List of organisations (Lifelong).docx	Craig Watts	On-going	
All	Engage with groups and organisations identified by Staff Equality and Inclusion Network. List to be provided by Louise Nunn and Josie Billings.	Craig Watts	On-going	
All	Engage with Page Hall Neighbourhood Management Delivery to raise awareness of scheme amongst unemployed young people as part of the work being done by the Page Hall Tasking Group.	Craig Watts	On-going	

Page 406	<p>Carry out profile analysis on pilot applicants and successful candidates to better understand any under-represented sections of the community throughout recruitment.</p>	<p>Craig Watts</p> <p>April 2015</p>	<p>Initial profiling of successful candidates indicates that there are 20% BME, 7% LGBT and 0% disabled individuals who have joined us as part of the Pilot.</p> <p>20% of the recruits are BME, this is in-line with the 19% overall profile of Sheffield. We will however continue to ensure that marketing is targeted at BME communities, as this group is under-represented in the staff profile of the Council as a whole.</p> <p>There is no official figure on the number of LGB people in Sheffield, nor is there a national figure. The range of national estimates vary considerably, but the Government use a figure of between 5% and 7%, which is the closest thing to an official estimate. 7% of the recruits are LGBT this is in-line with official estimates.</p> <p>Further work will be carried out to understand the seemingly under-representation of disabled people. This information will be analysed in comparison with all applicants for the posts to highlight improvements to strategies.</p>
All	<p>Use findings of profiling to highlight under-represented sections of the community throughout recruitment and improve marketing accordingly.</p>	<p>Craig Watts</p> <p>April 2015</p>	
All	<p>Ensure Positive Action is utilised throughout all aspects of recruitment when appropriate.</p>	<p>Craig Watts</p> <p>On-going</p>	



Completed By	Louise Nunn – 01/08/2014 Updated by Craig Watts and Liz Tooke – 12/02/2015
Date of Completion	01/08/2014 Updated – 12/02/2015

Signed off Authorised	
Carol Boot	12/02/2015
Project Manager	

Signed off Authorised	
Phil Reid	12/02/2015
Development Manager (Equality & Diversity)	

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Cabinet

Report of: Joe Fowler – Director of Commissioning

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 05/02/15

Subject: Care Home Market and fees analysis 2015/16

Author of Report: Steve Jakeman

Summary: This report:

- Describes the National Care home market and national demographics.
- Describes the local Care home market and Sheffield demographics
- Considers the impact of inflation and other cost pressures on care homes
- Considers the Council's financial position
- Makes recommendations on a the proposed level of Care home fee increase for 2015/16 given the above

Recommendation:

That there is a 2.33 % rise in Residential Care home fees and a 2.45% rise in Nursing home fees for 2015/16 acknowledging the general impact of inflation and the increase in staff costs on all Care homes, and the particular pressure of increased staffing costs on nursing homes

Summary

There has been a “freeze” in Care Home fees for the last two years. During this time we know that the cost of running a Care Home has increased.

This year the National Minimum Wage rose by 3% and inflation by 1.2%. Together these cost drivers create an estimated 2.33% cost pressure for care home providers.

In previous years, there has been sufficient confidence that the market would continue to develop and deliver modern, efficient accommodation to replace the capacity lost as less efficient care homes have closed. This confidence, coupled with the Council’s challenging financial position, meant that fees have not been increased for the last 2 years.

This year there has been further unplanned closures and there are a limited number of new care home developments at the planning stage. However, there *is* still capacity in care homes and providers tell us that they are benefiting from increased occupancy levels.

Our view is that the care home market is now in a stable position, with sufficient capacity for the short- to medium-term. However, we believe that given the cost pressures providers are under, there is a risk that a further fee freeze could destabilise the market and lead to unplanned closures. These closures would reduce choice for people in Sheffield needing to move into a care home, and increase the risks of capacity falling below demand.

Following consultation with providers, we have also acknowledged that staffing cost pressures for *nursing* homes are a particular challenge as staff costs inevitably form a greater proportion of overall costs in homes that have greater levels of staffing.

The recommendation this year is therefore for a rise of 2.33% in residential home care fees and an increase of 2.45% in the fee for nursing homes. These increases are based on a consistent calculation of increased costs given that inflation is at 1.2% and staff costs have risen by 3%.

It is recognised that the cost pressures discussed above relate to increases in the National Minimum Wage as opposed to the ‘Living Wage’. The introduction of the living wage across the care sector remains a key ambition for the Council. However, this *annual review of the fee level for just one component* of Sheffield’s health and care system is not in our view the vehicle for achieving this ambition.

We need to work with the full breadth of health and care providers to look at how the wider benefits of paying the living wage can be achieved within the context of the economic environment and the financial challenges faced by public services. This will be a key priority for the year ahead.

That the Cabinet lead:

- Note the conclusion of the market analysis.
- Confirm a 2.33% increase in Residential Care home fees for 2015/16
- Confirm a 2.45% increase in Nursing Home fees for 2015/16

Background Papers: Report attached

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Richard Jones
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Steve Eccleston
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES Cleared by: Phil Reid
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human rights Implications
NO:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic impact
NO
Community safety implications
NO
Human resources implications
NO
Property implications
NO
Area(s) affected
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader
Mary Lea
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in
Healthier Communities & Adult Social Care
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
YES/NO

Fees and Market Analysis: Care homes 2015-16

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Report to Cabinet

1. Management Summary

1.1 This report

- Describes the National Care home market and national demographics.
- Describes the local Care home market and Sheffield demographics
- Considers the impact of inflation and other cost pressures on care homes
- Considers the Council's financial position
- Makes recommendations on a the proposed level of Care home fee increase for 2015/16 given the above

2. What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?

2.1 The City's Health and Wellbeing Strategy aims to support people to live at home for as long as possible. This strategy appears to be working as people in Sheffield are entering care homes later in their life.

2.2 The Council will continue to offer support to help people to live independently, safely and well in their own homes. The Council will also continue to support the development of homes that help people with support needs to live more independent lives.

2.3 However, some people do need the care that care homes provide, and the Council has a responsibility to ensure that the city has a sufficient choice of good quality provision. In recent years, the Council has taken robust action, with local and national partners, to drive improvement in care homes that do not provide the quality of care that Sheffield people deserve.

2.4 The city currently offers a good choice of good quality care homes. However, with recent unplanned closures and limited development of new homes, we are concerned that a third consecutive fee freeze (following a year in which fees were reduced) could lead to closures, which will start to restrict choice and potentially impact on the quality of service provided to the people of Sheffield.

2.5 We believe that the fee increases recommended in this report will enable providers to continue to deliver the current level of provision and quality of care. We will continue to work with providers to ensure that is the case.

3. Outcome and Sustainability

3.1 As discussed above, the city's Health and Wellbeing Strategy aims to support more people to live independently at home for as long as

possible. This outcome is being achieved as more people are entering care homes later in their lives. Sheffield also has a relatively low rate of admission into residential and nursing care.

- 3.2 However, local demographics indicate that the number of older people in Sheffield will continue to grow and, as a city, we will be reliant on care homes to provide good quality care accommodation for the foreseeable future. There is therefore a clear need for a healthy care home market in the city and this requires the Council, as the dominant 'buyer' of care home places, to pay a fee level that supports a healthy market.

4. Background and Context

Market size and make-up

- 4.1 Over the last 18 months capacity in the care home market nationally rose by 3,600 beds to an estimated 487,800 residential places nationally. However, demand over the same period rose by 10,000 to an estimated 432,000 occupied places.
- 4.2 Average fee levels are approximately 4.8% down in real terms over the last 3 years. However, home closures were historically low in 2012, with smaller homes continuing to survive despite financial pressures.
- 4.3 Local Authority run care homes across the UK are in decline, falling by 11% over the last year. Sheffield Council no longer runs any care homes.
- 4.4 The big four national care providers account for 18.4% of the national market and in localized areas this can be more than 25% of the market. This could eventually lead to an increase in the abuse of "supplier" power, but currently there is no evidence of this happening.
- 4.5 Care homes are generally increasing in size with the average number of beds per home going up from 24 to 50 over the last 25 years.
- 4.6 **In Sheffield**, providers range from small, long established operators with a single care home in a converted property, to large national organisations that run many purpose-built care homes – typically focused on areas of the city where land costs are lower.
- 4.7 Providers operate a range of different business models. Some operate with significant debts whereas others may have very little. National providers will cross-subsidise across their homes to manage local variations in demand and profitability. Larger providers can also exploit economies of scale.
- 4.8 The current market share of residential and nursing care home provision in Sheffield is dominated by the private sector with a 79%

share of the market. The voluntary sector has a 16% share and the NHS 5%.

- 4.9 There are currently 83 private Care homes in Sheffield providing 3804 beds (see table below).

Care Type	Number of homes 2014	Number of beds 2012	Number of beds 2013	Number of beds 2014
Care homes with nursing	44	2,007	2,447	2,313
Residential Care homes	39	1,887	1,542	1,491
Total Private Care homes in Sheffield	83	3,894	3,989	3,804

- 4.10 In addition to these 83 homes there are 6 homes that are registered with CQC as 'Caring for adults over 65 years' but provide a predominantly specialist service for Learning Disabilities and therefore have not been further included within this report.
- 4.11 Approximately 200 beds in the independent sector were booked out by health services over the last year for people leaving hospital with continuing short-term health needs. This impacted on capacity in nursing homes.
- 4.12 The last year has seen five care home closures, two of these were planned closures at Norbury and Bolehill View, but the other three were unplanned. This market re-sizing has reduced care home beds in the city by 185.
- 4.13 This was anticipated to a degree in last year's fee report and to an extent is the market re-sizing itself as the strategy of supporting people at home reduces demand. The closures this year have cancelled out increases from the previous three years.

Year	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
New Care homes	2	1	2	0
Unplanned closures	0	1	1	3

- 4.14 To contribute to this report, all residential and nursing homes were invited to submit their actual levels of occupancy over the last year. Just over a third of Homes provided data.
- 4.15 Average occupancy data shows overall that care homes in Sheffield remain broadly comparable with other regions. The overall trend is up from 2013/14 but there remain variations within homes across the city. Some care homes have consistently high levels of occupancy whilst others are experiencing significant problems filling places.

	Nursing	Residential
	% Occupancy	% Occupancy
Sheffield 2014/15	87.53%	88.57%
Sheffield 2013/14	83.00%	86.70%
Sheffield 2012/13	90.10%	88.30%
North East	84%	85%
Yorkshire & The Humber	87%	87%
North West	91%	89%
West Midlands	89%	94%
East Midlands	89%	88%
East of England	88%	91%
Greater London	87%	89%
Southern Home Counties	87%	90%
South West	87%	91%
England 2012	89.8%	90.4%
England 2013	88%	90%

- 4.16 In the consultation with providers it was noted that the impact of low occupancy is experienced differently by different sized homes.
- 4.17 Smaller homes need consistently high levels of occupancy to survive and therefore the risk of reducing demand levels can be greater.
- 4.18 Medium sized Homes are proportionally more secure, however they may be managing low occupancy levels by cross-subsidy, drawing on capital, or re-scheduling debt.
- 4.19 Larger homes that are part of national organisations are often able to better manage reduced occupancy, through cross-subsidy or economies of scale.
- 4.20 The occupancy rate has risen slightly over the last year compared to previous year and this has been welcomed by providers. The figures below show that there is still sufficient capacity in the market to cope with any variations in demand. However any unplanned exits from the market could quickly change this situation.

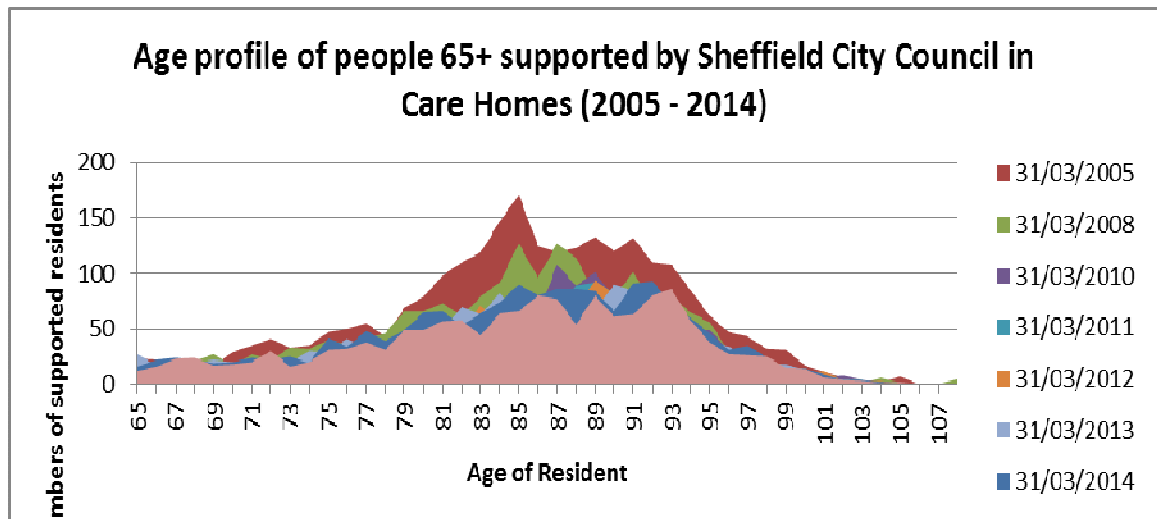
	Number of beds	Average occupancy	Vacancies 2014/15	Vacancies 2013/14
Care homes with nursing	2313	87.53%	289	415
Residential Care homes	1491	88.57%	171	205

- 4.21 Another issue of note is that because residents are remaining in care for shorter periods of time, there is now increased turnover of rooms in care homes. It is hard to quantify this as a percentage as there are too many variables, but it is safe to say that at any given time not all of above 'vacancies' are actually available.

- 4.22 Some smaller homes are looking to diversify into taking residents with increased care needs. Whilst this may increase occupancy it may also increase staff costs. In the past this diversification has proven difficult for smaller homes to manage and sustain in the longer term.
- 4.23 The market for **adult mental health** care home accommodation is relatively small. There are around 80 beds registered for mental health only with some additional capacity added in 2014. Of these beds, 55% are provided by the independent sector and 45% by not for profit organisations (e.g. national mental health charities or housing associations).
- 4.24 However, there are a wider number of beds (300+) in homes registered to provide care across a range of needs including mental health, physical disability and learning disability. These are primarily in the independent sector. About 23% of people have high and complex needs requiring specialist packages of care including meeting physical as well as mental health needs. This includes people with a diagnosis of mental illness and Aspergers or other conditions on the autistic spectrum. (See Appendix B)

Market trends – history

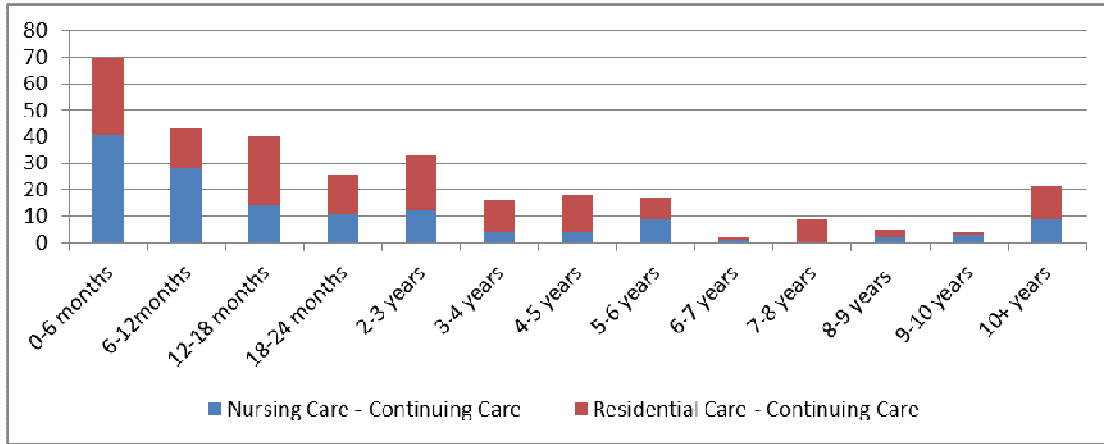
- 4.25 Sheffield is mirroring the national demographic picture, with increased numbers of older people living for longer. In public health terms this is a huge success story with most people now able to anticipate increased life expectancy.



- 4.26 From this chart it can be seen that, 57% of the people living in residential Care are now aged 85 plus.
- 4.27 More people are entering residential care homes later in life 85+ when their care needs are likely to be greater. This increases pressure on care homes and also means that people’s stay in care homes tends to be shorter. The graph below illustrates this – showing a gradual

decline in the average time spent in care (the 10+ years is historical data).

- 4.28 The overall strategy at national and local level is to support people to stay healthy and well in their own homes for as long as reasonably possible. This appears to be having an impact.



- 4.29 However, even if people enter care homes later in life, the changing demographics mean that there will still be an increasing need for residential and nursing care in Sheffield.
- 4.30 Typically, people entering residential care have increasingly high care needs and this can lead to higher costs for providers. Residents are also staying in care homes for a much shorter period of their lives. This needs acknowledging in our approach to residential care. Care homes can no longer be thought of as “old people’s homes” where residents live in relatively good health for many years.
- 4.31 Single or widowed women over 85 are most likely to become residents in a care home, the average length of stay is reducing; this is due to residents entering the Care home at a more advanced age.

Market trends – looking forward

- 4.32 In 2013 there were an estimated 89,900 people over the age of 65 living in Sheffield. By 2020 it is estimated that this group will increase to 96,000 with the over 85 age group showing a particularly pronounced increase.
- 4.33 In 2013, approximately 12% (9,000) of over 65s in the city received formal support from adult social care services.
- 4.34 Around 6,400 people aged 65 or over in Sheffield are living with some form of dementia. This number is expected to increase by 1,000 by 2020 and by 3,000 by 2030. We know the biggest increase is likely to be in the numbers of those aged over 85.

- 4.35 Almost a third of people living with dementia live in care homes with others living in the community (often supported by family carers). If the proportion of people with dementia living in care homes persists, then this will obviously put pressure on the capacity of care homes.
- 4.36 Although we know that older people live in many areas of the city, there are high numbers of older people living in Chapeltown, High Green, Burncross, Mosborough and the South West of the city.
- 4.37 We also know that as the city population diversifies so will the older population, therefore it will be important to ensure the market is ready to meet more diverse and differing needs.
- 4.38 In terms of **increased supply / capacity in the market**, there is currently a planning application for a 64 bed development in the city with a mix of extra care and residential care accommodation.
- 4.39 The Council is also working with a number of potential developers and providers of accommodation for people with care needs with an aim to bring in additional supply to a similar timescale.
- 4.40 Clearly, with increases in demand likely, ensuring a sufficient supply and choice of accommodation for people with care needs will be a challenge over the medium-term; particularly if Government funding to support schemes remains constrained.

Care home quality

- 4.41 The Council has robust quality assurance arrangements in place, which give an up to date position on standards in care homes. These arrangements include the use of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) (including data from a number of sources including the Care Quality Commission (CQC)).
- 4.42 As part of this monitoring process each home is visited by the team at least every two years. This is in addition to the CQC annual inspections and visits. A risk assessment tool is completed based on any evidence of risk and where a home requires some improvement, support is given and the visit frequency is increased.
- 4.43 The risk assessment tool, which is worked on in partnership with colleagues in health, enables us to determine the most effective interventions to improve quality.
- 4.44 The performance of each home is assessed alongside consideration of the commitment and ability of the home to improve. The Council escalates as appropriate from supportive actions to, if necessary, formal sanctions and termination of contract.
- 4.45 Currently very few care homes are assessed as being at any level of risk, suggesting that the quality of provision in the city is relatively high.

- 4.46 The Council and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) also provide direct support to care homes to help them deliver quality care. These include:
- additional payments (£6 per week for nursing care and £4 per week for residential care providers) based on a higher standard of physical environment (room size, availability of ensuite facilities, absence of shared rooms)
 - Sheffield City council offer some training to Care home staff, mostly free of charge to the provider. The SCC current offer includes training to meet the Common Induction Standards and from April 2015 will offer training to support the Care Certificate. The training is seen by providers as relevant and of high value and is reported to save costs on training required by CQC. Evaluation suggests that it is well received by attendees.
 - Sheffield CCG invest in a GP Locally Commissioned Service (LCS) which begun as a pilot in 2006 and extended to all Care homes in 2010. Under the scheme, which costs around £800,000, each Care home is aligned to one GP practice which accepts all residents who choose to register. A service agreement is set up between home and practice. One or two named GPs provide proactive care to all residents in the home. An annual medical review is arranged, leading to a medical care plan organised between residents and carers, to anticipate and plan for exacerbations and crisis, including end of life.¹
- 4.47 A new initiative “Adopt a Care home” has also commenced, which is a collaboration between local Schools and nearby care homes. This aims to improve students understanding of old age and give the School greater reach into the community. If the current pilot proves successful this initiative will be rolled out city-wide

Who pays for home care in Sheffield?

- 4.48 There are three main purchasers of care home places in Sheffield:
- Sheffield City Council – about 48% of all places
 - Self-funders (people who fund their own care) – estimated at about 32%
 - NHS Sheffield – about 20% of all places
- 4.49 **Sheffield City Council** is the dominant buyer in the market. The Council contracts with care homes through an *individual placement agreement*, the content of this is currently under review. The agreement requires care homes to adhere to:
- Care Quality Commission (CQC) standards

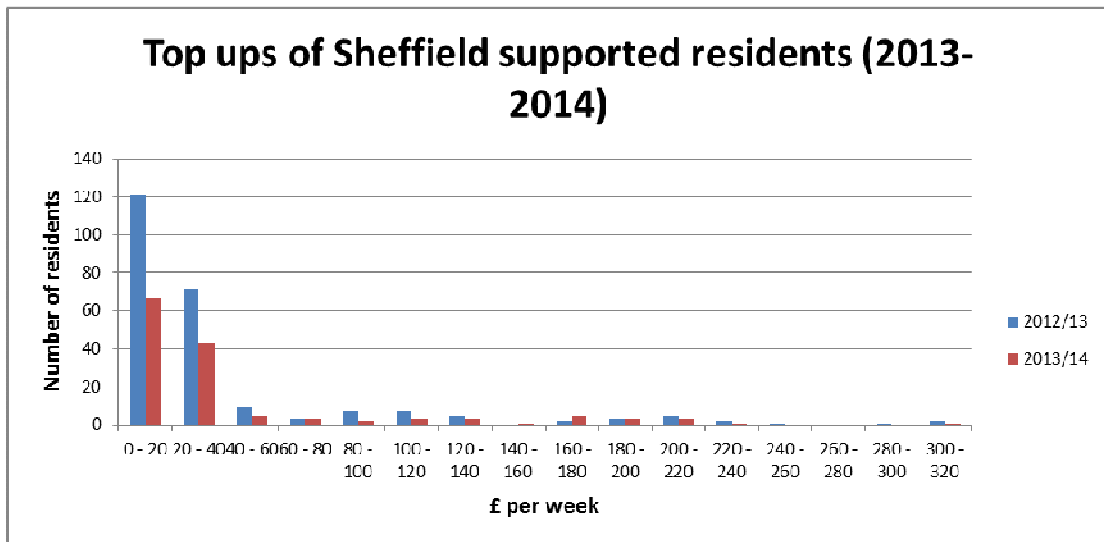
¹ ‘Sheffield - Integrated care and supporting care homes’ - Tom Thorpe, British Geriatrics Society March 2012

- Standards set out in '*A Better Home Life*'² (under review)
 - Requirements in the individual resident's support plan
- 4.50 Each placement is an individual or spot contract at the usual fee level.
- 4.51 Sheffield City Council no longer manages residential or nursing homes having closed its last care home in September 2012.
- 4.52 Many people have the means to purchase their own care and choose to do so. As home ownership and property values increase across the population, the proportion of '**self-funders**' is likely to increase.
- 4.53 The estimated figure of 32% of self-funders in Sheffield is broadly in line with authorities with similar economies and demographics. However, it is lower than the national average of 43%.
- 4.54 **Self-funders** (and their relatives) generally have higher expectations of care and often exercise greater levels of choice. This generally benefits newer or refurbished care homes at the expense of smaller older homes, even though the care may be excellent in either alternative.
- 4.55 Generally, people who fund their own care tend to live in the south, west and south west of Sheffield. This reflects the higher level of income and home ownership in those parts of the city. The distribution of self-funders in care homes reflects this with some homes having a higher proportion of self-funders to others.
- 4.56 The **NHS** will assess if an individual's need for a care home placement is *primarily* related to their health needs using a nationally defined set of criteria. Unlike care funded by the local authority, health funding is not means tested and residents do not pay an assessed charge.
- 4.57 NHS Funded Nursing Care is provided to clients residing in a registered nursing home only. The local authority cannot provide clinical services because the NHS is responsible for any care provided by a registered nurse. The amount paid by the NHS for clinical services is set annually by central government and is currently £110.89 pw.
- 4.58 Younger adults in residential or nursing care are much less likely to be self-funding.
- 4.59 A "**top up**" is the difference between what the local authority would usually expect to pay (depending on that particular person's care needs) and the extra cost of a specific care home.

- 4.60 The number of top ups and their average cost are good indicators of the market response to local authority fee levels and to supply and demand in the market.
- 4.61 Over the last year the overall number of people paying “top ups” has decreased significantly, but the number of Care homes charging a top-up has gone up from 44 to 46 and the amount of the average top up has increased from £39.94 (2102/13) to £44.40 (2013/14)

No. of people paying top-ups	Average 2011/12	Average 2012/13	Average 2013/14
Total	201	237	139

- 4.62 The fact that more homes are choosing to charge an increased price indicates that some homes may have had to pass on the effect of the zero increase in fees last year to residents and their families. The average value of a top up has increased by 11% over the last year.



- 4.63 Many Care homes charge different rates for Council placements and self-funders with the latter price being dependent on market conditions at the time – e.g. local demand, occupancy rates, and the care home’s business plan.

Residential care	Lowest Fee	Highest fee	Average Fee
Self-funders	£420.00	£785.00	£586.00

- 4.64 Providers in less well-off areas of the City have very small numbers of self-funders. This means they are highly dependent on the Council’s fee level.
- 4.65 The implications of the cost of top-ups and self-funded care are a potential threat to the cost of care for the local authority. The

Directives on Choice notes that if insufficient supply is available at the contract fee level then the local authority may be obliged to fund care at the next level – potentially the third party level or self-funder price. The Council not only has an obligation as the dominant buyer in the market to ensure that it pays a fair price, but a direct financial incentive to ensure there is sufficient capacity at the fee level in the market.

Market profitability and cost pressures

- 4.66 Because of the wide variation of care home size and business models it is difficult to ascertain whether individual Care Homes are generally profitable or not.
- 4.67 What we can consider is the cost pressures on care homes and how, when compared with wider market intelligence, any changes to fee levels might impact on the market overall (in terms of capacity, quality, sustainability etc).
- 4.68 Care and nursing homes are basically subject to the same financial increases in terms of food, energy and maintenance as any domestic home. The difference between care homes and a domestic home is of course that there are staff costs associated with the running of the homes.
- 4.69 Therefore, a simple way to look at the increased financial pressures on care and nursing homes is to focus on two main areas:
- Staff costs
 - Non-staff costs
- 4.70 Examining the inflationary impacts of these areas will give a good *indication* of the increased operating costs required to maintain the status quo. This can then be considered alongside other information such as market quality, demand, and capacity to inform recommendations on fee levels.
- 4.71 **Staff Costs** are predictably the biggest single factor in the running of care and nursing homes. Because of the nature of the work, the ratio of staff to residents also has a significant impact on the quality of care that can be provided.
- 4.72 Wage inflation in the UK is currently running at 1.1%. However a great many of the staff who work within care and nursing homes are working at the national minimum wage level - and the salary structures in care homes are often held relative to the national minimum wage (e.g. a supervisor will be paid a given amount more per hour than the minimum wage).
- 4.73 The national minimum wage level has increased each year since inception and care home employers are required to increase staff pay

accordingly. They have no choice but to absorb this cost unless they reduce staffing levels or find other efficiencies, which can *potentially* lead to compromises on quality.

4.74 The Sheffield contract fee increase in the last 14 years compared to minimum wage uplifts are set out below:

Year	% Fee Increase	Minimum Wage % Increase
2000	1.73	2.8
2001	3.39	10.8
2002	2.85	2.4
2003	7.35	7.1
2004	6.56	7.7
2005	4.47	4.1
2006	3.97	5.9
2007	3.14	3.2
2008	2.75	3.8
2009	2.39	1.2
2010	1	2.2
2011	-1	2.5
2012	3	2
2013	0	1.9
2014	0	3
Overall: <i>last 5 years</i>	3	11.6

4.75 As most of the care homes consulted use the national minimum wage increase to inform wage increases for other staff the national minimum wage is a better measure than general wage inflation for estimating increases in care home staff costs.

4.76 The national minimum wage (over 21 years) rose in October this year from £6.31 to £6.50, a percentage increase of 3%

4.77 **Non-staff costs** associated with the running of a care or nursing home are subject to the same inflationary pressures as the rest of society. These costs are published each month as the Consumer Price Index (CPI). It seems logical to use CPI as the benchmark for calculating increased staff costs.

4.78 CPI is a measure of the average change over time of prices paid by consumers for a market “basket” of consumer goods. The indices making up CPI total around 200, covering:

- Electric and Gas
- Food
- Mortgage

- Medicines
 - Repairs & Maintenance
 - Consumer white goods
- 4.79 Because of the wide ranging nature of the indices they do cover items such as tobacco and alcoholic drink that would not be appropriate to the running of a Care home.
- 4.80 However each item is “weighted”, with the items listed above carrying much greater weightings than Tobacco or alcohol. This means the inclusion of these items makes very little difference to the overall CPI rate.
- 4.81 For our purposes then, CPI is a good indicator of the rate at which non-staff costs are increasing.
- 4.82 CPI is calculated monthly on a twelve month cycle and therefore can fluctuate each month. The September CPI rate is the month used for the calculation of the increase in the State Pension. It seems sensible to use this same month for our calculation.
- 4.83 In September 2014, the CPI rate was 1.2%.
- 4.84 Providers tell us that the ratio of staff to non-staff costs varies across different care homes, e.g.
- Smaller homes (e.g. 30 beds) tend to have higher staff to non-staff ratios, with 70:30 being commonly quoted
 - Nursing homes also consider 70:30 a reasonable ratio as they are more staff intensive
 - Larger homes quote 55:45 as a reasonable ratio
 - Laing & Buisson quote a 57:43 national ratio
- 4.85 This range of ratios makes it difficult to come up with an accurate estimate of the costs pressures for the local market as a whole. However, agreeing a sensible ratio for Sheffield is an intrinsic element of recommending a fee level.
- 4.86 For residential care, we have therefore put forward a mean figure of 63.37 staff to 36.63 non-staff. This is the same ratio used in the 2012/13 and 2013/14 market analyses and has been confirmed as a reasonable ratio during provider feedback this year.
- 4.87 Additionally, following this year’s engagement events with providers, a 70:30 ratio has been estimated for nursing homes. This slightly different ratio is why the recommended fee increase for nursing homes is slightly higher than for residential homes.
- 4.88 The **state pension** is taken into account as a contribution towards the cost of care when someone is placed in residential care and it is worth noting here that the Government’s commitment to a “triple-lock” on

the state pension means that the state pension rise will be 2.5% or £2.85 per week.

4.89 The assumptions above enable us to estimate the cost pressures on residential and nursing homes. The workings for residential care homes are shown in the table below to illustrate.

2013/14 Sheffield Care fee	Staff Cost ratio @63%	Non-Staff cost ratio @37%	Staff cost increase 3% (Min Wage)	Non-staff increase @ 1.2% (CPI)	Projected 2014/15 Sheffield Care home fee
£391.00	£246.00	£145.00	£253.37	£146.74	£400.11

4.90 Based on these assumptions (alone) the Sheffield maximum residential care fee for 2014/15 would need to rise to £400.11. This represents a 2.33% increase. For the Nursing Home fee the slightly different staff to non-staff ratio (of 70:30) results in a 2.45% increase in the fee.

Comparing care home fees with other towns and cities

4.91 The table below shows that Sheffield’s standard nursing care and standard residential care are second lowest amongst neighbouring authorities. However for dementia care we are the lowest.

Authority	Reg.	Elderly £/wk		Dementia £/wk	
		min	max	min	max
Sheffield	Nursing	£391.00	£397.00	£403.00	£409.00
	Residential	£353.00	£391.00	£395.00	£399.00
Doncaster	Nursing	£434.67	£434.67	£486.41	£486.41
	Residential	£414.71	£414.71	£431.48	£431.48
Rotherham	Nursing	£411.00	£411.00	£508.00	£508.00
	Residential	£393.00	£393.00	£442.00	£442.00
Barnsley	Nursing	n/a	£369.39	n/a	£409.60
	Residential	n/a	£369.39	n/a	£399.86
Wakefield	Nursing		£416.00		£416.00
	Residential	n/a	£416.00	n/a	£416.00

4.92 The figures above all exclude Funded Nursing care at £110.89

4.93 The comparable figures for core cities are shown below. This shows that our residential fees are relatively low whilst our nursing figures appear relatively high. Note however that the primary cost driver in nursing homes is likely to be staffing costs, so comparison of costs with neighbouring areas, with shared labour markets, are most relevant.

Authority	Reg.	Elderly £/wk		Dementia £/wk	
		min	max	Min	max
Sheffield	Nursing	501.89	507.89	513.89	519.89
	Residential	353.00	391.00	395.00	399.00
Liverpool	Nursing	480.54	563.22	471.26	552.50
	Residential	366.82	449.51	366.82	449.51
Manchester	Nursing	402.62	443.48	402.62	443.48
	Residential	375.88	415.42	395.88	435.42
Newcastle	Nursing	447.98	492.35	467.46	511.82
	Residential	447.95	492.32	467.43	511.79
Leeds	Nursing	569.89	589.89	573.89	594.89
	Residential	429.00	446.00	442.00	464.00
Birmingham	Nursing	461.00	461.00	461.00	461.00
	Residential	405.00	405.00	405.00	405.00

N.B. These figures include the funded Nursing care fee and are taken from the Laing & Buisson 2013/14 report

Feedback from care home providers

4.94 In order to understand the issues from the perspective of providers, a range of engagement methods were used. This included:

- Consultation with three separate providers to gather learning points from last year's fee setting exercise
- An online questionnaire (resulting in 43 replies)
- Presentation and Q&A session at the October care home managers meeting
- Mail shot to all care home operators offering individual visits (only one provider took up this offer but detailed information was obtained)
- Four consultation events in December for care home providers to discuss cost pressures, fee levels, SCC financial pressures, and any other issues raised by providers
- Opportunity offered to all Care home operators to feedback via the SCC website

4.95 The key issues identified by providers during this engagement were as follows:

- The market for most operators remains difficult, with increased staff costs and price inflation, especially gas and electricity. There was no fee increase over the last two years
- The increase in minimum wage drives wage rises generally as it is seen to be important to preserve pay differentials across care home staff structures
- Nursing costs are rising and it is difficult to retain nursing staff. This can lead to an over-reliance on expensive nursing agencies
- Occupancy is rising slightly overall, but this does disguise a number of variables. Some homes say they are only managing by cross-subsiding different parts of their business, re-capitalising debt, or drawing on cash reserves
- Speed of payment by SCC is seen as a major issue by homes of all sizes. Waiting times for payment can stretch into months and this has an impact both on cash flow and administration time (chasing payments)
- Multiple inspections of the same premises by different organisations with different and sometimes inconsistent requirements also drew criticism

4.96 This feedback allows us to understand the real issues in the local Care home market and has genuinely informed the recommendation of the fee level. The feedback has been summarised in more detail in Appendix A of this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The recommended 2.33% and 2.45% rise to fee levels for residential and nursing care homes respectively would have the following impact on fee levels.

Elderly	Min 2014/15	Max 2014/15	Min 2015/16	Max 2015/16
Residential	£353.00	£391.00	£361.22	£400.11
Nursing	£501.89	£507.89	£511.47	£517.62

Dementia	Min 2014/15	Max 2014/15	Min 2015/16	Max 2015/16
Residential	£395.00	£399.00	£404.20	£408.30
Nursing	£513.89	£519.89	£523.76	£529.91

5.2 Nursing fees figures in the tables above include the Funded Nursing Care element which is currently £110.89 per week. This element has not been uplifted by 2.45%.

5.3 The estimated impact on the Council's budget as a result of these increases would be as follows. These increases are in the context of significant reductions in other Council budgets. Note that the increase cannot be predicted exactly as levels of demand for care home places will vary over the year.

	Total £	Increase	Impact £
Residential	25.9m	2.33%	603k
Nursing	15.0m	2.45%	369k
Gross Total	40.9m		972k

6. Equalities Implications

6.1 Under the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty) local authorities have to pay due regard to: “Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations”). A key element of the Equality Act is that of ‘no delegation’ – public bodies are responsible for ensuring that any third parties which exercise functions on their behalf are capable of complying with the Equality Duty, are required to comply with it, and that they do so in practice. It is a Duty that cannot be delegated. This means that when we are commissioning and contract monitoring services, equality and diversity will form a key part of the criteria used to do this.

6.2 The EIA identifies that if fees are frozen or a rise is set too low, there would be a high risk of negative impact as quality of care to residents could be adversely impacted upon. As there was a reduction in fees in 2012/13 and zero increases in fees for 2013/14 and 2014/15, the cumulative effect of a further year could also mean that some providers would be unable to operate, which would cause disturbance to residents before, during and after the transition period.

The reverse logic of this would be that the proposed increase in fees, supports Care home viability, therefore reducing the risk of health inequalities and of potential disturbance to residents from unplanned closures.

6.3 Any negative impact would be felt disproportionately by older and disabled people due to the demographic profile of the client group.

6.4 Approving the recommended 2.33% rise in fees, and following other actions identified in the EIA (e.g. fee levels to continue to differentiate between different levels of need; close management of provider viability), should provide effective mitigation for the identified risks.

6.5 A full list of our equality considerations, impacts and actions can be found in the Equality Impact Assessment at [Appendix D](#).

7. Legal Implications

7.1 Under section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948 (NAA 1948) and directions made under it in Department of Health Circulars LAC (93)10 and LAC (2004)20, local authorities have a duty to make arrangements for providing residential accommodation for persons aged eighteen or over who by reason of age, illness, disability or any

other circumstances are in need of care and attention which is not otherwise available to them.

- 7.2 Sections 7 and 7A of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 (LASSA 1970) require local authorities to act under the general guidance and directions of the Secretary of State in the exercise of their social services functions.
- 7.3 The National Assistance Act 1948 (Choice of Accommodation) Directions 1992 (Directions 1992), which were made under section 7A of the LASSA 1970, provide that where a local authority has decided that residential accommodation should be provided under section 21 of the NAA 1948 the local authority shall make arrangements for accommodation for that person at the place of his choice within the United Kingdom if:
- Having assessed an individual's needs, the preferred accommodation appears to the authority to be suitable in relation to his needs.
 - The cost of making arrangements for an individual at his preferred accommodation would not require the authority to pay more than they would usually expect to pay having regard to his assessed needs (known as the "usual cost", the basis on which local authorities set the fees they will normally be prepared to pay to care homes).
 - The preferred accommodation is available.
 - The persons in charge of the preferred accommodation provide it subject to the authority's terms and conditions.
- 7.4 Circular LAC (2004)20 (Circular) replaced the guidance that accompanied the Directions 1992 and is issued under section 7 of the LASSA 1970. The Circular sets out what an individual should be able to expect from the council that is funding his care, subject to the individual's means, when arranging a care home place. The relevant parts of the Circular for the purposes of this case are:
- "2.5.4 ... [The usual cost] should be set by councils at the start of a financial or other planning period, or in response to significant changes in the cost of providing care, to be sufficient to meet the assessed care needs of supported residents in residential accommodation... In setting and reviewing their costs, councils should have due regard to the actual costs of providing care and other local factors. Councils should also have due regard to Best Value requirements under the Local Government Act 1999.*
- 3.3 When setting its usual cost(s) a council should be able to demonstrate that this cost is sufficient to allow it to meet assessed care needs and to provide residents with the level of care services that they could reasonably expect to receive if the possibility of resident and third party contributions did not exist".*

- 7.5 The Care Act will come into force in April 2015. It sets out a range of measures, in order that local people can choose from a diverse range of high quality care services, to drive up the quality of care and put people's needs and outcomes centre-stage.
- 7.6 A new legal framework is planned which reinforces local authorities duty to promote a diverse, sustainable and high quality market of care and support services. Local authorities are required to ensure that there is a range of providers offering services that meet the needs of individuals, families and carers.
- 7.7 This duty requires local authorities to understand the level of risk and the quality support for Care home residents to assure itself that they:
- Meet the minimum standards as set out by the Care Quality Commission
 - Is sustainable
 - Have sound leadership and that all staff are appropriately trained
 - Are focused on delivering quality care that is evidence based
- 7.8 The council should also consider a number of recent high court judgments made as a result of challenges by Care home providers following the cut in fees as local authorities try to meet the demands of the demographic changes and budget cuts.
- 7.9 In 2010 Sefton Council was ruled to have acted unlawfully by freezing Care home fees for 2011-12. Judge Raynor ruled that Sefton Council "failed adequately to investigate or address the actual costs of care with the claimants and other providers", which was contrary to relevant guidance. The judge said setting fee levels significantly below actual cost would inevitably lead to a reduction in the quality of service provision which "may put individuals at risk".
- 7.10 Also in 2010 Leicestershire County Council attempted to freeze the fees it paid to Care home providers for the year 2011-12 at the rate it paid for the year 2010-11. Judge Langon agreed with the findings in Sefton (above)
- 7.11 In 2011 SW Care v Devon Council. A group representing Care home providers challenged the council's decision taken not to increase the fees in 2011/2012 also citing that the council had also awarded no increase in fees for the previous financial year. The Council agreed not to award any fee increase but instead enter in to further discussions with providers to address individual concerns.
- 7.12 Concerns were expressed about the consultation process and the superficiality of the Equality Impact Assessment and the importance for local authorities to pay regard to their equality duty when setting fees.

- 7.13 On 18 October 2012 in *Care North East Newcastle v Newcastle City Council* the judge ruled that councils must have due regard to the actual costs of care, stating that, "In making the decision to set appropriate rates for Care homes the local authority is under an obligation to have due regard to the actual costs of providing care and other local factors".
- 7.14 He emphasised the need for local authorities to ask themselves the right questions when considering fees and the need for it to use an evidence-based system to ascertain the actual cost of care.
- 7.15 In March 2012 Northumberland County Council was involved in a dispute over the level of fees to care homes for older people under a new three-year contract starting in April 2012. The care home owners' trade association, Care North East – Northumberland (CNEN), would not accept the new terms offered by the Council, and advised their members to refuse to sign the contract. In June 2012 CNEN applied for judicial review of the Council's decision.
- 7.16 The detailed grounds of the claim changed between documents, but by the time of the court hearing, the claim alleged that the Council had:
- failed to consult adequately
 - failed to ascertain the "actual cost of care" provided by care homes
 - made irrational assumptions
 - unlawfully refused to make placements with the claimant
- 7.17 The judgement which was published on 15 February 2013 dismissed all four of the grounds of claim. There was evidence of genuine consultation, that rational decisions had been made, and that Northumberland acted lawfully in making placements.
- 7.18 Most importantly, the judge rejected the claimants' argument that Government guidance required the Council to carry out research to set a figure for the "actual cost of care", and accepted the Council's view that it was reasonable to set fees based on what they knew about the Care home market – which was that there is substantial excess capacity, with many homes carrying large numbers of vacancies, and that new providers are still wanting to build Care homes.
- 7.19 In December 2014 in *R (Torbay Quality Care Forum Limited) v Torbay Council* [2014] The High Court upheld a challenge by a group of care home providers to a local authority's decision to set the rates it would pay for residential care. The court, in quashing the authority's decision, held that the mathematical formula on which the rate for establishing the usual cost of care was based was flawed in several respects, including that it took into account income the providers would receive from private clients. The judge reluctantly made the decision that he did, commenting that the council had been honest

and straightforward in its attempt to balance the competing needs of those requiring care against its duty to ensure that public funds were properly expended. However, he quashed the decision on the basis that the mathematical model that was used contained errors, had been interpreted erroneously and did not have regard to the guidance.

7.20 From April 2016 there will be changes to the amount of capital people can have before contributing to their personal care. There will also be a “cap” on the total amount care home residents will have to pay for their personal care during their lifetime. This will have implications for residents, Care providers and the local Authority in the future but not for the period covered by this report. A brief overview is included as Appendix D of this report

8. Alternative Options Considered

8.1 There were three options considered:

- Freeze the fee level for a third year
- Increase fees by 1.75% to partially off-set cost pressures on providers
- Increase fees by 2.33% and 2.45% for residential and nursing respectively based on estimated rises in provider costs

8.2 Consideration of the three options regarding fees 2015/16 was undertaken taking into account the following;

- Market factors as described in this report
- Costs of care as calculated in the report
- Provider feedback from engagement events & planned consultation
- The financial position of the Council.

8.3 Each option was risk assessed as summarised below. Detailed risk assessments are included on the following pages. The summary position is as follows:

Freeze the fee level for a third year

- Risk of unplanned exits from the Market and of legal challenge

Increase fees by 1.75% to partially off-set cost pressures on providers whilst recognising Council's financial position

- Reduces risk of further unplanned exits and legal challenge – but still a real terms reduction in fee at a time when the market is finely balanced

Increase fees by 2.33% and 2.45% for residential and nursing respectively based on estimated rises in provider costs

- Should stabilise market but increases risks on Council social care budgets.

The additional 0.18% (2.45%) reflected the additional staff costs faced by Nursing homes

Risk Assessment - The following risk assessment aims to inform this process.

Action	Risk	Risk Impact	Risk Probability	EIA Risk	Overall risk	Costs/Benefit	Notes/Mitigation
Decision taken to freeze fee level for a third year.	Service User –Risk of top up fees increasing.	Medium	High	High	High		
	Provider risk – Homes could be forced out of business	Medium	High	low	High		Real terms cut to fee level
	Financial - Risk of litigation	High	Medium	n/a	High		Provider legal challenge risk high – resulting in legal fees for Council
	Financial risk to SCC budget	Low	n/a		Low	Cost neutral	Although cost neutral a fee freeze plus uplift to the State pension would result in financial benefit to the Council of approx £200K..
	Reputational risk – risk to quality within care homes	High	Medium	low	High		

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Action		Risk Impact	Risk Probability	EIA Risk	Overall risk	Costs/Benefit	Notes/Mitigation
Decision taken to increase fees by 1.75%	Service User –Risk of top up fees increasing.	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium		
	Provider risk – Homes could be forced out of business	Medium	Low	Low	Low		Additional 1.75% compared to 2.33% increase in staff/non staff costs would still be a real terms decrease in fee for Care Homes.
	Financial - Risk of litigation	Medium	Low	n/a	Low		
	Financial risk to SCC budget	Low	n/a	n/a	Low	£716k increase to budget required	Increase will £716k for SCC off-set by approx. £200k
	Reputational risk – risk to quality within care homes	Low	Low	Low	Low		

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Action	Risk	Risk Impact	Risk Probability	EIA Risk	Overall Risk	Costs/Benefit	Actual Cost	Notes/Mitigation
Decision taken to increase Care home fees for 2015/16 by 2.33% & 2.45%	Service User –Risk of top up fees increasing.	Medium	Medium	low	low			
	Provider risk – Homes could be forced out of business	Medium	Low	Low	Low			Additional 2.33% compared to 2.33% increase in staff/non staff costs would equate to a zero increase in real income for Care Homes. Additional 0.18% (2.45%) reflects higher staff costs for Nursing Care providers.
	Financial - Risk of litigation	Medium	Medium	n/a	Medium			Early provider feedback on draft recommendation indicates legal action may be possible. Legal services aware of this possibility
	Financial risk to SCC budget	medium	medium	low	low	£972K increase on budget		Increase will £972k for SCC off-set by approx. £200k
	Reputational risk – risk to quality within care homes	Low	Low	Low	Low			

9. Recommendations

- That the market analysis is noted
- That a 2.33% increase in Residential Care home fees for 2015/16 is confirmed
- That a 2.45% increase in Nursing Home fees for 2015/16 is confirmed

10. Reasons for Recommendation

- 10.1 There has been a “freeze” in Care Home fees for the last two years. During this time we know that the cost of running a Care Home has increased.
- 10.2 This year the National Minimum Wage rose by 3% and inflation by 1.2%. Together these cost drivers create an estimated 2.33% cost pressure for care home providers.
- 10.3 In previous years, there has been sufficient confidence that the market would continue to develop and deliver modern, efficient accommodation to replace the capacity lost as less efficient care homes have closed. This confidence, coupled with the Council’s challenging financial position, meant that fees have not been increased for the last 2 years.
- 10.4 This year there has been further unplanned closures and there are a limited number of new care home developments at the planning stage. However, there *is* still capacity in care homes and providers tell us that they are benefiting from increased occupancy levels.
- 10.5 Our view is that the care home market is now in a stable position, with sufficient capacity for the short- to medium-term. However, we believe that given the cost pressures providers are under, there is a risk that a further fee freeze could de-stabilise the market and lead to unplanned closures. These closures would reduce choice for people in Sheffield needing to move into a care home, and increase the risks of capacity falling below demand.
- 10.6 Following consultation with providers, we have also acknowledged that staffing cost pressures for *nursing* homes are a particular challenge as staff costs inevitably form a greater proportion of overall costs in homes that have greater levels of staffing.
- 10.7 The recommendation this year is therefore for a rise of 2.33% in residential home care fees and an increase of 2.45% in the fee for nursing homes. These increases are based on a consistent calculation of increased costs given that inflation is at 1.2% and staff costs have risen by 3%.

Appendix A

Care Home Engagement – Summary of Feedback

Introduction

As part of the review of Care Home fees for 2015/16, a number of different Care Home engagement sessions were held:

Feedback on last year' process – 3 x individual meetings

On-line questionnaire – 43 responses

Care Home Manager's Forum x 2

Individual Meetings with Providers x

Evening and daytime engagement sessions x 4

The aim of these sessions was to find out what the pressures were on Care Home providers, both regarding the fee level and any others. It became clear that there were a number of “themes” developing that were of concern to Care Home providers.

This paper summarises this feedback but detailed notes from each event are available if required.

Key Points

Nursing Costs

It is becoming increasingly difficult for Nursing Homes to recruit and retain nursing staff, largely due to recruitment by the NHS and competition from other neighbouring authorities. This was leading to a reliance on agency nurses which was pushing up costs. Nursing homes reported staffing was now approximately 70% of their costs.

Fees level

Fees were obviously important and providers made the point that Sheffield's fee levels were lower than other local towns and cities. The point was also made that the Local Authority had in fact gained from last two years fee freeze as State Pension levels had risen but this rise had not been passed on to the providers.

National Minimum wage (NMW) rise

The National minimum wage rise is a key contributor the Care Home costs; this is because the rise for those employees on minimum wage has a knock on effect on all employee salaries to preserve differentials between grades. This year the NMW is rising by 3%, much higher than in previous years.

Pension Costs

Many Care homes are already paying the compulsory pension to their employees, over the next two years all Care homes will have to offer this to their employees. This has to be paid to all employees who can then “opt out” if they wish. It was thought that the majority of lower paid workers would opt out of this pension; however this has not proved to be the case and is another additional cost for Care homes.

Speed of payment

The length of time taken between assessments of an individual until the provider actually received the payment was consistently raised at all events. Averages varied but 6-8 weeks was not unusual and in cases providers were waiting many months before payment arrived.

Whilst waiting for payment, the providers had to manage the care needs of the resident at their own cost. The delayed payment had a detrimental impact on business cashflow.

This issue was the subject of a recommendation last year, improvements have been made but staff reduced at the same time. Providers are therefore still experiencing the same problem of an average 8 weeks to receive payment.

A further complication is that it is no longer unusual for a resident to have passed away before payment is received. This leaves care home providers with the unenviable task of trying to agree back-dated payments with recently bereaved families.

Occupancy

Whilst overall occupancy is up, many homes were experiencing reduced occupancy as a consequence of the strategic direction of the Local Authority which was to support people to stay in their own homes as long as possible. Care home providers were supportive of this strategy, but felt in many cases people were remaining in their own home when actually 24/7 residential care might be more appropriate.

Age and frailty of residents

People were entering residential care much later in their lives, typically 80-85 and frequently their care needs tended to be higher. This had an impact on the skill levels of Care home staff and on the number of staff required. This is of particular concern in Nursing homes where providers are reliant on agency nurses that tend to be paid above the rate of in-house staff.

Downtime

Because of the age and frailty issue outlined above, residents tend to be in Care homes for much shorter periods before they die or move to a Nursing home... The person's room cannot simply be re-filled overnight and the

increasing turnover of shorter term residents is leading to Care homes having to build in significant periods of “downtime” i.e. rooms standing vacant , into their Business planning

Other Issues

Quality premium – This premium payment is considered unfair as it is based on size of room rather than actual quality of the environment and of the service delivered.

Inspection regimes

Multiple inspections of the same premises, by different organisations with different and sometimes opposing requirements also drew criticism.

Summary of Provider feedback - Internet

Introduction

Following engagement session with Care Home providers the following draft recommendation was made and placed on the SCC internet (05/02/15) for comment.

Recommendation:

That there is a 2.33 % rise in Residential Care home fees and a 2.45% rise in Nursing home fees for 2015/16 acknowledging the general impact of inflation and the increase in staff costs on all Care homes, and the particular pressure of increased staffing costs on nursing homes.

No. of responses received

There were 14 responses received covering 39 Homes

Main points of feedback

Fee Level

The recommended level of fee increase was not generally well received with only one provider writing in its favour. Providers cited the fact that Sheffield's fees were now among the lowest in the country and that this had been the situation for some years.

Providers felt that the fees were at a level that would make either further unplanned closures or a decline in quality inevitable. Several providers had used the Laing & Buisson cost of care model to evidence the fact that the fee levels were too low. Rotherham Council was mentioned by two providers as a benchmark of the true cost of care regionally. Leeds was mentioned similarly by a different provider. Opinion on the size of the gap varied from 3.1% to 49%.

Two Providers backed up their assertions above with a detailed breakdown of costs and in one case with an extract from their management accounts.

Providers recognised the impact of budget cuts on the Council but felt that the cumulative impact of low fee rises over the last 10 years on their businesses was not recognised by the Local authority.

One Provider made the point that a yearly review was not the most appropriate way of dealing with fees and that a longer term view of where we want to move fees to should be taken.

Staff costs

Staff costs were an issue for Providers. The minimum wage is expected to rise sharply again this October and this tends to drive all wage differentials up in the sector.

.Three Providers specifically mentioned that they were committed to the principle of the "living wage" but conceded that achieving this would be unlikely with inflation only fee increases.

Other costs

Other significant costs mentioned were the cost of insurance, higher utility costs, loans and higher maintenance costs.

The new Pension arrangements were mentioned by three Providers who felt that although we had acknowledged this additional cost it had not been factored into the proposed fee rise. By 2018 these costs could be 3% of payroll.

Training costs were mentioned as a factor, even when training is free there is a cost of cover and travel.

Regulation and inspection were seen as costs both in terms of subscription increases (CQC) and indirect cost impact on management and staff time.

Recruitment and retention

Nursing staff was a particular problem, staff were being “poached” by better pay in the NHS or moving to other local authorities whose Care Homes were able to pay better rates. One Provider was trying to fill this gap by recruiting nurses from Eastern Europe, but this presented a different set of problems in terms of working practices and additional payments to recruitment agencies.

Complex needs

It was acknowledged by a number of providers that generally people were entering care with more complex needs requiring more costly care arrangements or additional trained staff.

One Provider made the point that people were entering care later in life with more complex needs and were therefore staying in care for less time before dying. This was impacting on occupancy when one resident dies or goes into hospital and a new resident arrives.

F3 process

Only one Provider specifically referenced this process, they believe that although the payment process has improved the F3 process is still delayed due to incorrect or delayed completion by social workers.

Care Act

One Provider expressed the view that the current level of fees could have an adverse impact on the ability of the Local Authority to meet the requirements of the Care Act

Meeting

Five providers indicated that they would welcome the opportunity to discuss points raised in their feedback with the appropriate councillors or SCC Officers.

Appendix B – Adult Mental Health

Registered care (residential and nursing home) provision for adult mental health in Sheffield is relatively small but continues to play a vital part in the spectrum of provision.

40+ different providers currently support 150-160 adults of working age with mental health problems with funding support from SCC at any one time. Not all providers are in Sheffield. There are currently approximately 80 beds in Sheffield across residential and nursing care registered to provide care only to people with mental health problems, but a further 300+ beds available with providers registered to provide care across a range of needs including mental health, physical disability and learning disability.

The numbers of placements supported by SCC for residential and nursing care has fluctuated over recent years. However, there has been a noticeable increase in the last two years corresponding with NHS Continuing Health Care transfers and a greater identification of people with complex needs on the Autistic spectrum including Asbergers. See Table 1

Table 1

Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Average Number of Residential Care Placements	99	90	96.75	115.5	136	138
Average Number of Nursing Care Placements	26.5	19.25	18.25	28.25	29.5	29
Total	125.5	109.25	115	143.75	165.5	167
% subject to S117	57.8%	61.8%	61.1%	63.1%	66.1%	73%

There are a small but significant number of high cost placements funded by SCC mental health care purchasing: at November 2014 there were 23% greater than £600 per week; 16% greater than £850 per week and 8% over £1000 per week. These are primarily with independent sector providers offering support for people with complex needs. This is where a person's mental health problems present risky and challenging situations that need to be managed and/or there are additional needs due to e.g. Asperger's, learning disability, Huntingdon's Disease. Some high cost placements have been inherited from CHC funded placements including programmes to bring people from secure rehabilitation facilities back to Sheffield. The demand for this range of placements has been increasing.

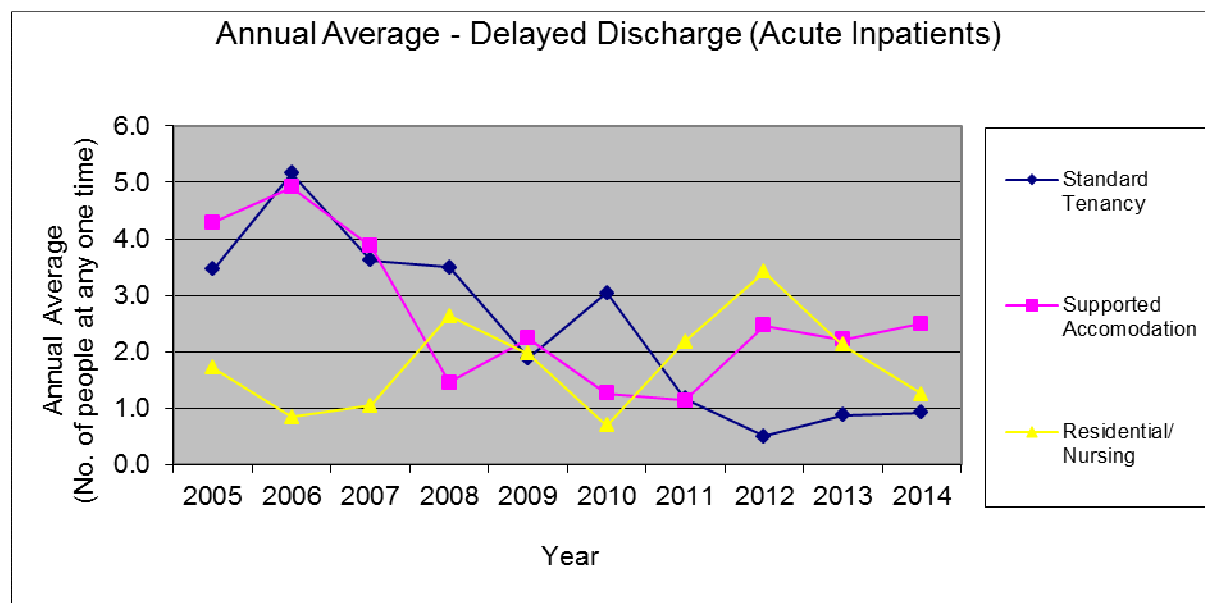
S117 of the Mental Health Act places a duty on local health and social care authorities to provide after-care following discharge from particular sections of the Act. Under S117 charges for care cannot be levied by local authorities. This applies to a significant number of the placements (see table 1).

There is an aging profile within nursing and residential care. Some services remain the home of people placed in the community following closure of the

long stay psychiatric hospital (Middlewood). Over 78% (70% in 2006) 45 plus years old; 66% men. (2010)

Delayed Discharge

The following table indicates a reduction in the number of people on acute psychiatric inpatient wards whose discharge is dependent on a place in residential/nursing care, indicating there is reasonable availability, although new services have set to enter the market at high fee levels.



Appendix C – Implications of the Care Act

From April 2016 there will be changes to the amount of capital people can have before contributing to their personal care. There will also be a “cap” on the total amount care home residents will have to pay for their personal care during their lifetime. This will have implications for both residents and for the local Authority in the future but not for the period covered by this report.

New Capital allowance

The Capital allowance will increase from £23.5k to £118k
(This amount includes any property owned by the individual)

New Personal care allowance “cap”

The cap on lifetime personal cost of care will be £72K.

Hotel costs

The Care act also introduces the idea of ‘hotel’ costs whereby residents have to pay towards their accommodation costs such as food / utility bills etc. The hotel costs are likely to be set at £12,000 per annum for the UK. Approximately £230 per week.

The implications of this are:

Current fee paying care home residents.

The new capital allowance will not be introduced retrospectively but self-funders in residential care will be re-assessed so that any eligible needs and corresponding funding starts to accrue against the personal care cap. The £72k cap will start to apply to personal care of the resident and will not be backdated. It is estimated then that it will be approximately 7 years before people reach the £72k threshold and the Council has to start picking up additional care costs. Since the average stay in residential or nursing care is only around three years, this may not be a major issue.

Future fee paying care home residents. (Assessed post April 2016)

The capital allowance will have an impact on people assessed after April. The higher capital allowance will mean fewer people having to contribute to the cost of their own care with the Council contribution rising to meet the shortfall. Initial work on this suggests the Council contribution will rise by £2.6m in 2016/17.

Implications for Care home providers.

New Capital allowance.

Increasing the upper limit for funding means that current privately funded service users, those with assets above 23k, but below 118k will be eligible for funding and require assessments from us, they may need support from homes on how to access this.

The Personal care cap

Care providers will have to separate what is a hotel cost, and what is a care cost so that the Local authority can count the residents contribution towards the 72k cap. Some homes may not have the facility to do this.

If we take the current bed price of £395 per week, and residents pay 12k PA towards the “hotel” costs, then this is a weekly amount of £230 meaning they would only be paying £165 per week towards their personal care. This may cause some homes to re-negotiate rates, or increase the cost of meeting care needs, pushing up the weekly bed price.

If someone falls into arrears and makes a split payment do they pay the care costs first, or the accommodation costs, - the home would probably want the hotel costs as they are higher, but the individual may want the care costs so they contribute towards the cap.

APPENDIX D: Equality Impact Assessment

Portfolio: Communities

Name of policy/project/decision: 2015/16 Fees for Care Homes

Status of policy/project/decision: New

Name of person(s) writing EIA Steve Jakeman

What are the brief aims of the policy/project/decision?

- To consider the appropriate fee level for care home fees as part of the budget setting process
- This is achieved by:
 - A market analysis which considers demand, supply, quality and care home viability
 - Calculating the actual cost of care
 - Consultation with providers
 -

Recommendation

That there is a 2.33 % rise in Residential Care home fees and a 2.45% rise in Nursing home fees for 2015/16 acknowledging the general impact of inflation and the National Minimum wage rise on all Care homes and the particular pressure of staffing costs on Nursing homes

This recommendation recognises the impact of inflation and the National minimum wage on Providers.

Fee levels to continue to differentiate between different levels of need, to continue to meet the needs of those with more complex needs.

Provider feedback

Extensive engagement has taken place with residential care home and nursing Home providers, the key issues for them are as follows:

- Increases in staff costs created by rise in the National minimum wage and by increased reliance on agency nurses.
- Occupancy levels

- Speed of payment

Providers are concerned that without a fee rise quality of care to residents could be adversely impacted upon.

It is important to note that this is not the case at present and that quality of care remains high.

Are there any potential Council staffing implications, include workforce diversity? No

Entered on Qtier: -Select-

Action plan needed: Yes

Approved (Lead Manager)

(Commissioning) Date:

12/11/14

Approved (EIA Lead person for Portfolio):

Date:

Does the proposal/ decision impact on or relate to specialist provision: Yes

Risk rating: High

Under the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#), we have to pay due regard to: “Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.” [More information is available on the council website](#)

Areas of possible impact	Impact	Impact level	Explanation and evidence (Details of data, reports, feedback or consultations. This should be proportionate to the impact.)
Age	Negative	H	<p>A high proportion of care home residents are older people. (50% are aged over 80 and 31% aged over 85 years old.) They tend to have high dependency levels.</p> <p>To stay in line with minimum wage rises and cost of living rises (CPI) the fees would need to rise by 2.33%.</p> <p>Potentially then any decision to set fee levels below this level could negatively</p>

			<p>affect the quality of life of residents should Care home providers choose to cut costs affecting the quality of the environment or the amount of staff care available.</p> <p>Existing supported residents are entirely dependent on the fee level set by the Local Authority as they have no income of their own.</p>
Disability	Negative	H	<p>People of all ages with physical or mental health disabilities are residents of care homes. Any change in the ability of providers to deliver care at a reasonable level would have a disproportionate impact on the most frail or disabled residents.</p> <p>People are entering residential care much later in life, and an increasing number have some form of disability. Local figures are unavailable but national statistics suggest 69% will suffer from incontinence, 40-45% with dementia and 20% will have suffered a stroke. This means that they require more support from Care home staff.</p> <p>If fee levels did not properly differentiate between different levels of need, those with more complex needs may find these are not able to be met.</p>
Pregnancy/maternity			No disproportionate impacts are anticipated.
Race	Neutral		Our Market analysis tells us that BME residents are under-represented in Care homes. This may be for many reasons but we do not believe that there is any disproportionate impact from the setting of the fees level itself.
Religion/belief	Neutral		No disproportionate impacts are anticipated.

Sex	Negative	L	There are more women than men in older people care homes - 73% to 27%. Any change in the ability of providers to deliver care at a reasonable level would have a disproportionate impact on women
Sexual orientation	Negative	L	We expect providers who are under contract to the Council to provide care and support which is personalised to the individual, including recognising and respecting their sexual orientation but we are conscious that national research suggests that there is some way to go in achieving acceptable outcomes for LGB people in residential care. Notwithstanding we do not anticipate any disproportionate impacts from the proposals on fees for LGBT residents
Transgender	Neutral		No disproportionate impacts are anticipated.
Financial inclusion, poverty, social justice, cohesion or carers	Negative	L	<p>A fee level below inflation may increase affect the fee levels providers charge self-funders as there is evidence that care homes cross-subsidise council fees with higher fees for those who fund their own care.</p> <p>A recent judicial review in Sefton highlighted the responsibility of the local to carefully consider the impact of the level of fees set on the quality of care provided to people supported by a local authority.</p> <p>There is a risk that a fee level below inflation may also adversely affect the lives of people funded by the local authority as it maybe below the level that they may reasonably expect good quality care to be provided.</p> <p>However we have found no evidence of this happening anywhere at present in Sheffield.</p>

Voluntary, community & faith sector			No disproportionate impacts are anticipated.
Other/additional Closure of Care Homes – impact on age/disability	Negative	H	<p>Fee levels have been frozen for the last two years and the cumulative effect of a further year could mean that some providers will be unable to operate. Whilst here is sufficient capacity within the market at present to re-house residents if necessary, five homes have closed this year and the situation needs careful management.</p> <p>It is recognised that Care Homes closures can cause disturbance to elderly/disabled residents before, during and after the transition period.</p> <p>Whilst the local authority is not obliged to remove the risk by supporting inefficient providers it needs to demonstrate that it has mechanisms in place to anticipate this and mitigate the impact on existing care home residents whether funded by Sheffield CC or not. Sheffield CC has carefully considered the steps necessary to mitigate that risk further. Those steps are discussed in detail in the impact assessment.</p> <p>In summary they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Be alert to, and respond to, indicators of a risk of a home closure such as: low occupancy; high dependence on council placements; low number of registered beds. (ii) Improve the ‘early warning

			<p>system' for homes that are in difficulty to encourage discussion with the council or with an independent advisor to examine options other than closure.</p> <p>(iii) Develop a reasonable offer of support to failing homes where the council considers that there is a need for that home to remain open, which may avert closure and/or minimise impact on affected residents.</p> <p>(iv) In the event of an anticipated or actual closure, Sheffield adheres to the principles of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services national guidance: 'Achieving Closure – Good Practice in supporting older people during residential care closures'</p> <p>http://www.adass.org.uk/images/stories/Publications/Miscellaneous/Achieving Closure.pdf</p> <p>In summary Sheffield takes care to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Put in place well organised, dedicated and skilled assessment teams. Involve all relevant parties (especially older people and their families themselves) in decisions about future services.• Get to know people well and carry out holistic assessments of their needs. Support older people, families and care staff through potentially distressing and unsettling
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			<p>changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work at the pace of the individual and give as much time and space to explore future arrangements as possible. • Help residents and key members of care staff to stay together if possible. Ensure independent advocacy is available. • Plan the practicalities of any moves and ensure as much continuity as possible after the move has taken place. • Stay in touch with people and assess the longer-term impact of resettlement. Work in partnership with a range of external agencies and key stakeholders, managing information and communication well. • Follow the above principles even in an emergency closure so far as possible. <p>These are, of course, general principles which are adapted to the needs of specific cases. Although home closures are rare in Sheffield, where there has been a closure in the past 12 months a combined health and social care team oversaw the work surrounding the closures being prioritised to support affected residents. This in turn was monitored by Head of Service Adult Social Care Commissioning. Sheffield is satisfied that it follows best practice which enables the most appropriate mitigation of the risk.</p>
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<p>Carers and Families</p>	<p>Negative</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>There was a reduction in fees in 2012/13 and zero increases in fees for 2013/14 and 2014/15</p> <p>We have seen a slight decrease in the number of people paying a top up fee, however the amount of the average top-up has increased by 6.7% in 2012/13 and by a further 11% over the last year with more than 50% of care homes now charging top up fees.</p> <p>Any further freeze will potentially impact the financial burden on carers and families as Care homes increase Top up fees to balance their books.</p>
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Date: **Service:** *Adult Social Care Commissioning*

Overall summary of possible impact (to be used on EMT, cabinet reports etc):

The EIA identifies that if fees are frozen or a rise is set too low, there would be a high risk of negative impact as quality of care to residents could be adversely impacted upon. As there was a reduction in fees in 2012/13 and zero increases in fees for 2013/14 and 2014/15, the cumulative effect of a further year could also mean that some providers would be unable to operate, which would cause disturbance to residents before, during and after the transition period.

The negative impact would be felt disproportionately by older and disabled people due to the demographic profile of the client group.

Approving the recommended 2.33% rise in fees,(2.45% in Nursing homes)and following other actions identified in the EIA (e.g. fee levels to continue to differentiate between different levels of need; close management of provider viability), should provide effective mitigation for the identified risks.

Action plan

Area of impact	Action and mitigation	Lead, timescale and how it will be monitored/reviewed
<p>If fees were not sufficient to cover costs of care, then individuals' needs arising from age or disability might not be properly addressed.</p>	<p>Sheffield has carried out an extensive market analysis of a number of years and has also developed a good understanding of the issues facing care home providers. We believe that the fee level applied in recent years has ensured that there is an adequate supply of care home places for all care types. The evidence for this is the low level of market failures in the past 5 years and the fact that new care homes have opened in Sheffield and they do not require residents to 'top-up' the Council's contract fee. Analysis of the top up fees generally has shown that the numbers have not increased significantly. Occupancy levels in general are comparable with the national average.</p> <p>Sheffield has a policy of spot purchasing care from a range of providers rather than single providers on block contracts. This allows providers to meet diverse needs, in particular because of the potential for smaller providers to cater for specific cultural needs of (for example) minority ethnic and religious communities</p>	<p>Annual Fees and Market Analysis Reports compiled by Adult Social Care Commissioning</p>
<p>There is a risk that some inefficient providers will be unable to operate if fee levels are not increased.</p>	<p>Whilst the local authority is not obliged to remove the risk by supporting inefficient providers it needs to demonstrate that it has mechanisms in place to anticipate this and mitigate the impact on existing care home residents whether funded by SCC or not.</p>	<p>The Monthly multi-agency KPI led by SCC Contracts team</p>

Area of impact	Action and mitigation	Lead, timescale and how it will be monitored/reviewed
	<p>SCC has a duty to ensure that the citizens of Sheffield receive value for money for the residential services but it recognises the need to protect those people who are residents in care homes that become non-viable because the provider is inefficient. As demonstrated in the section of the Fees and Market Analysis report titled 'Reducing Risk and Raising Quality' Sheffield has in place a comprehensive multi-agency monitoring process. This allows SCC to identify providers that are struggling to meet appropriate standards. It further allows them to offer support where appropriate or take direct action to safeguard residents.</p> <p>Currently there is still some over supply of Care Home places in the Sheffield market but this year has seen some Care home closures and it is important that this happens in a managed fashion.</p> <p>As part of the 2014/15 review the Local Authority committed to reviewing and speeding up the assessment and payment processes to improve cash flow for Care Homes. This has not been as successful as we believed and a further review will be a recommendation of this year's report.</p> <p>The Local Authority has also committed to align its Quality requirements more closely with those of the CQC to avoid duplication of</p>	

Area of impact	Action and mitigation	Lead, timescale and how it will be monitored/reviewed
	work and inconsistency of advice for care homes. This will save staff time and associated costs.	

Approved (Lead Manager): Joe Fowler Date:

Approved (EIA Lead Officer for Portfolio): Phil Reid Date:

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Cabinet Report

Report of: Executive Director of Children, Young People and Families

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 18 March 2015

Subject: *Futureshapers* – a Youth Engagement Fund project

Author of Report: Sam Martin

Key Decision: YES

Reason Key Decision: Expenditure/savings over £500,000

Affects two or more wards

Summary:

The Youth Engagement Fund (YEF) is a Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) programme to pilot the use of Social Impact Bonds (SIBs) for innovative targeted youth support interventions aimed at preventing vulnerable and disadvantaged young people aged 14 and over from becoming, or remaining NEET (not in education, training or employment). Sheffield Futures, a local youth charity, has submitted a strong bid to a competitive two-stage bidding process to secure access to the YEF to run *Futureshapers*, a three-year SIB starting in April 2015, which if successful will engage 1800 young people who are at risk of becoming NEET.

DWP provides the majority of the funding for YEF projects but requires a local contributor to make a 25% commitment to the total cost of the programme. Sheffield

City Council (SCC) is well placed to act in this role because it already commissions Sheffield Futures to undertake targeted youth support, because it will help the local authority to achieve its statutory duty to reduce NEETs, and it contributes to its corporate objective of better preparing young people for adult life and work. In addition, the SIB allows SCC to pilot a new funding methodology through which it is seeking to develop a sustainable solution for targeted youth work at a time of continuing budget reductions.

This report sets out how the *Futureshapers* project would work and recommends that, should the bid prove successful, SCC adopts the role of local contributor and, as such, makes an *invest to save* financial contribution of £455,254 for each year of the three year project (April 2015 to March 2018 inclusive) from youth budgets, making a total contribution of £1,365,762.

Reasons for Recommendations:

The *Futureshapers* project will make a significant contribution towards the achievement of the council's strategic outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. It will help over 1300 young people make a successful progression from school into the world of further education, training and employment, as well as building their resilience and confidence.

The *Futureshapers* project will, by bringing in new funding of over £3m initial investment from social investors and over £4m from DWP for outcome payments, deliver considerable added value to the 25% investment the council makes for the payment of outcomes. For the councils' investment, 100% of the return will be achieved in delivery and overall outcomes payments. This represents a high value use of council investment.

The successful delivery of the *Futureshapers* programme will result in lower demand for more intensive interventions with young people who are NEET. This will enable the council to make further year on year savings over the next three years against targeted youth support budgets, in anticipation of further public sector savings, whilst maintaining an effective system of support for young people progressing from school into adulthood.

Futureshapers allows SCC to test the SIB financial model, build a relationship with a network of potential social investors, and position Sheffield as a council and a city that can deliver significant improvement in outcomes using external investment in its services. As such, it is intended that this new investment model will allow SCC to build a sustainable funding model for targeted youth support at a time when the resources available to the council continue to diminish and it will provide the evidence base for continuing dialogue with government as to new

risk and reward arrangements through which youth services can be made sustainable.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that subject to the bid being successful:

- Cabinet endorses Sheffield City Council to act as the local contributor to the *Futureshapers* programme.
- the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Family Services and the Executive Director, Resources agree the appropriate financial profile and payment mechanism to allow the council to make an *invest to save* financial contribution of £455, 254 for each year of the three year project (April 2015 to March 2018 inclusive) from youth budgets, making a total contribution of £1,365,762.
- the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Family Services in consultation with the Executive Director, Resources and the Director of Legal and Governance be authorised to take all such necessary steps to ensure that any SCC contribution is legally safeguarded, including placing a charge on the ring-fenced bank account and negotiating and entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with *Futureshapers*; and that the outcomes are properly and appropriately assessed prior to the outcomes payments being made
- The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Family Services be authorised to recommend, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Family Services, a suitable candidate to assist the Board of *Futureshapers* properly to manage public funds and services.

Background Papers: none

Category of Report: OPEN

If CLOSED add 'Not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).'

* Delete as appropriate

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Liz Gough
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Deborah Eaton
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES Cleared by: Bashir Khan
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
Yes Cleared by: Dr Jeremy Wight
Human Rights Implications
NO Cleared by:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO Cleared by:
Economic Impact
YES Cleared by:
Community Safety Implications
YES Cleared by:
Human Resources Implications
NO Cleared by:
Property Implications
NO Cleared by:
Area(s) Affected
All
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Lead
Cllr Jackie Drayton – Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families
Relevant Scrutiny Committee
CYPF
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press Release
YES

Futureshapers – A Youth Engagement Fund Project

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Youth Engagement Fund (YEF) is a Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) programme to pilot the use of Social Impact Bonds (SIBs) for innovative targeted youth support interventions aimed at preventing vulnerable and disadvantaged young people aged 14 and over from becoming, or remaining NEET (not in education, training or employment). Sheffield Futures, a local youth charity, has submitted a strong bid to a competitive two-stage bidding process to secure access to the YEF to run *Futureshapers*, a three-year SIB starting in April 2015, which will engage 1800 young people who are at risk of becoming NEET.
- 1.2 DWP provides the majority of the funding for YEF projects, but requires a local contributor to make a 25% commitment to the total cost of the programme. Sheffield City Council (SCC) is well placed to act in this role because it already commissions Sheffield Futures to undertake targeted youth support, because it will help the local authority to achieve its statutory duty to reduce NEETs, and it contributes to its corporate objective of better preparing young people for adult life and work. In addition, the SIB allows SCC to pilot a new funding methodology through which it is seeking to develop a sustainable solution for targeted youth work at a time of continuing budget reductions.
- 1.3 This report sets out how the *Futureshapers* project would work and recommends that, should the bid prove successful, SCC adopts the role of local contributor and, as such, makes an *invest to save* financial contribution of £455, 254 for each year of the three year project (April 2015 to March 2018 inclusive) from youth budgets, making a total contribution of £1,365,762.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE?

- 2.1 Many young people find the transition from school into the world of further education, training, employment and young adulthood hard. Some lack the resources or support from family or others to make the right choices. This not only creates early barriers to their life chances, but leads to additional costs to the public finances in support services, benefits payments, and, for a small number of those most unfortunate, criminal justice system costs.
- 2.2 The *Futureshapers* programme will identify young people in Sheffield most likely to struggle with the transition to adulthood, and will provide early support to help them make the right choices and stick at them. It will do this by drawing on funds available from government (DWP) that would otherwise not be available to Sheffield. By setting this against investment from new social investors and the council, it will bring value to the city to pay for important social and educational services, as well as reduce costs to the public purse across the life of the programme.

Introduction

3.0 'FutureShapers' – how it will work

3.1 If the bid is successful *FutureShapers* will, over the three years, target 1800 14-19 year olds with the aim of fully engaging 1375 of these young people in post-16 education, employment or training. The target group will be teenagers who have exhibited one or more of the following risk factors that indicate a propensity towards long-term disengagement from learning or work including:

- poor school or college attendance
- exclusion from school or college
- low levels of attainment or progress at education key stages 3 and 4
- involvement in offending
- less likely to progress successfully from school to post 16 education, training or employment, including those with Special Education Needs or Disabilities, those in council care, teenage parents and teenagers from some Black and minority ethnic communities.

3.2 These target groups are known to face significant barriers to post-16 progression that can only be overcome with dedicated support and a range of high quality interventions including activity to build resilience and emotional wellbeing, to tackle low confidence and low self-esteem, to build employability skills and to improve literacy and numeracy. These young people also require support to address a wide and complex range of personal, social, family, health and housing issues. Evidence shows that more intensive support which commences at a much earlier stage enables vulnerable teenagers to make a successful transition into post-16 training or work. *Futureshapers* will provide this support.

3.3 The key to the help offered to the young person is a mentor who will provide consistent wrap-around support to participants throughout their *Futureshapers* journey. Programme participants will benefit from:

- *the Xtra Push* mental toughness programme – a six-day tried and tested group work programme focusing on developing Control; Challenge, Commitment and Confidence.
- Duke of Edinburgh Scheme Bronze Award, or the National Citizenship Service programme
- Essential Life Skills – budgeting, self-care, getting around, dealing with problems
- Employability Skills and work experience placements
- Parental Engagement
- ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), where appropriate
- Access to specialist support including mental health and emotional wellbeing,

substance misuse support, specialist training etc.

3.4 Key outcomes for the programme (which will trigger outcome payments) include improvements in:

- school attendance and fewer exclusions
- continued engagement at school, college or work-based training, including apprenticeships
- attainment at ages 16 and 19
- sustainable employment.

4.0 **The Social Impact Bond (SIB) Model**

4.1 A SIB is a tool to raise external investment to enable the delivery of positive social outcomes. Social investors provide the funds to pay for services to be delivered, and are paid *back* their investment plus interest when, and only when, specific measurable outcomes have been achieved. The savings made by public bodies (local authorities, government, NHS, Police etc) in reduced service demand releases sufficient funds to allow the social investors to be paid back with some savings left over for the public purse.

4.2 SIBs are a relatively new idea and government departments, such as DWP, are keen to make funds available to local commissioners to test new methods of outcome-based payments where there is some confidence that greater impact is possible.

4.3 *Futureshapers* would be ground breaking in that it would be the first time a SIB has been piloted in Sheffield. DWP requires its SIB to be organised through third sector organisations working closely with their local authorities. DWP has stipulated that public bodies such as local authorities cannot, in their own right, act as the delivery agent for the Youth Engagement Fund. Sheffield Futures, as the city's leading youth charity, is well placed to adopt the delivery agent role whilst the council maintains its function as the primary commissioner of broader targeted youth services in the city.

5.0 **Financial Implications**

5.1 *Futureshapers* will, at a time when local authority funding for youth services is likely to reduce further, bring over £3m of additional government funding and social investment for targeted youth support to Sheffield over the lifetime of the project. This external investment will help SCC to meet its statutory duty under the Raising of the Participation Age legislation to take action to reduce NEETs and to increase 16-18 participation in learning or employment.

5.2 The YEF requires the local contributor to make a financial contribution to the project equivalent to 25% of the total amount available to the programme to pay for successful outcomes. The YEF stipulates that the local contribution is paid in full, up front within 28 days

of a successful project being signed off by DWP. This would be in April 2015. The funds, comprising the 25% committed by the local commissioner and the 75% committed by DWP, will be held in a protected bank account set up specifically to make outcome payments to the original social investors on a *payment by results* basis. The payments are made in units, not a lump sum, based on an agreed rate card set out by DWP in the programme prospectus e.g. if a young person on the programme achieves an NVQ Level 1 qualification, this triggers an outcome payment of £1,100 and a young person on the programme entering full-time employment triggers an outcome payment of £3,500. It is therefore only when significant volumes of successful outcomes are delivered that the original investors start to see a full return on their investment. If the delivery agent fails to achieve outcomes equivalent to the full value of the funds held in the outcomes account then unclaimed outcome funding is returned, in proportion to the share of their initial investment, to DWP and the local contributor (SCC) at the end of the programme, along with any interest that the contribution has accrued over the three year period.

- 5.3 The rules require three years' worth of local contribution to be paid in full in advance at the start of the programme. After this point, SCC will not have direct influence over the release of outcome payments. DWP will take responsibility for approving the release of funds from this outcome payments account. However, the financial framework for the programme is in line with SCC future spending plans for youth services and an appropriate legal agreement will be put in place which allows the council to recover, in full, its proportion of any unspent funds at the end of the programme.
- 5.4 Over the three years of operation, the SCC investment in the programme from its youth budget would be offset against planned savings arising from reductions in the value of its contract with Sheffield Futures. The upfront investment by SCC in the SIB would therefore be contained within its three-year youth budget savings plans.
- 5.5 For SCC, the payment of up-front funds would represent an *invest to save* proposal. SCC pays in Year 1 the total amount of funds that *would otherwise be spent over three years*, on the basis that this allows savings to be made over the three-year period against its youth budget. These savings will be possible because the successful delivery of the programme will lead to fewer young people falling into the category of NEET at 16/17, and a resultant reduced demand on council funded resources to provide the necessary support to these young people.
- 5.6 SCC currently contracts with Sheffield Futures to work with 2200 young people age 16/17 each year who are at risk of becoming NEET. The project will allow Sheffield Futures to undertake prevention and early intervention work with 752 young people in key stage 4 who are most at risk of becoming NEET and to offer intensive support to 563 teenagers who have left school and who disengaged from learning or work. This work will, over the life of the programme, lead to fewer young people falling into, or remaining NEET. This will result in lower demand for NEETs interventions at 16/17 which will enable SCC to reduce its spend in this area in line with anticipated budget pressures whilst, crucially, *maintaining the level of*

current good outcomes for young people and the city.

- 5.7 It is highly unlikely that all of the outcomes funding will be paid out by the end of the programme. For this to happen, every young person engaged by the programme would need to achieve every single milestone and achieve the full outcomes up to and including sustainable employment. Outcome and cost modelling suggests that between a third and a quarter of the outcomes payments might not be claimed. Although this would still deliver a range of positive outcomes for young people in Sheffield and a majority of those targeted, it would result in a repayment at the end of the programme of between £2-£400,000 to SCC in proportion to the original payment made by the council to the outcomes account. This funding would be available for SCC to reallocate as required.
- 5.8 For Sheffield Futures, as an independent charity, there are implications for the value of the contract that SCC makes available to it, which will be taken account of by the Sheffield Futures board. Over the life of the programme SCC will, as well as making planned savings as council budgets reduce, redirect £1.3m of contract payments to contribute to the outcome payments account for the *Futureshapers* programme. This loss of income can be offset against new income received through the SIB. This will allow Sheffield Futures to deliver the new work of the *Futureshapers* programme, as well as continuing to meet its full contractual obligations to the council's wider range of youth services.
- 5.9 In 2017, SCC's 15- year contract with Sheffield Futures to deliver youth services ends. The council will need to work with the Sheffield Futures board over the next two years in planning the approach to re-letting that contract, to take account of any potential change of provider and any possible implications for delivery of the *Futureshapers* programme.

6.0 ***Mitigation of Financial Risks***

- 6.1 SCC would, in making arrangements for the payment of its contribution to the outcomes fund, take a number of steps to limit any financial risk:
- 6.2 SCC would stipulate that the cash should only be held with a financial institution that meets the council's creditworthiness policies, and should not be invested for terms outside of the council's Annual Investment Strategy parameters. This would help to mitigate counterparty risk.
- 6.3 SCC will ensure that restrictions are placed over the delivery agent's use of the cash. These restrictions should ensure that the cash is held distinct and apart from the agent's wider operations, and should not be used to cash flow other activity, nor be offered up as collateral or security for other schemes. This would help to limit fraud risk.
- 6.4 SCC will ensure that its cash is kept safe in the event of the delivery agent failing. This can be achieved by way of a charge over the cash or a similar means of ensuring that the residual cash not due to investors is retrievable by the council in the event of the delivery

agent coming under financial distress, or outright failing. This would help to limit default risk.

- 6.5 SCC will also ensure that it has both the right and the means to actively monitor and challenge the financial and operational activity of the delivery agent. This could be achieved by having a non-voting seat on the delivery agent's board, or through open book reporting, if these would be acceptable to DWP as the programme commissioner. These principles would help to ensure the council could retain proper oversight over its cash deposit up until it was released in accordance with the contract.

7.0 Legal Implications

- 7.1 SCC has a duty under the Education and Skills Act 2008 to make available to young persons and relevant young adults for whom it is responsible such services as it considers appropriate to encourage, enable or assist the effective participation of those persons in education or training.
- 7.2 The Education and Skills Act also placed a duty on 16 and 17 years olds to participate in education or training, and a related duty on local authorities with a view to reducing the number of NEET young people, by promoting the effective participation in education and training of 16 and 17 year olds in the area with a view to ensuring that those persons fulfil the duty to participate in education or training.
- 7.3 The DfE guidance makes it clear that the government's approach is to give local authorities freedom and flexibility to decide how to fulfil their statutory duties with regards to the provision of these services. Local authorities are expected to meet any costs incurred in the delivery of these duties from their overall budgets, including central government grants. The *Futureshapers* project will enable SCC to fulfil this duty.
- 7.4 Although SCC has contributed to the development of the bid to help shape the services that will be offered the DWP rules do not allow for a contractual relationship between SCC and *Futureshapers* for the delivery of the services and therefore no procurement implications flow from these recommendations. However, this also means that SCC would have no direct control over the way that the services are delivered as it would if contractual relations existed.
- 7.5 A number of options are being investigated to mitigate the risks to the local contribution including:
- taking a legal fixed charge over the monies held in the ring-fenced account. Such a charge would require registering at Companies House
 - entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the *Futureshapers* Board regarding the bank account, signatories, interest, and use and release of the outcomes fund and monitoring reports as well as the return to SCC of any unpaid funds at the end of the project
 - SCC participating in the appointment of an independent Chairman of the

Futureshapers Board and, in so doing, seeking to recruit someone with the requisite skills, knowledge, expertise and personal integrity.

8.0 Health Equalities Implications

- 8.1 By securing additional investment into services to improve outcomes for young people, *Futureshapers* would reduce the number of NEETs (one of the measures in the Public Health Outcomes Framework). Young people *not in education employment or training* are more prevalent in the more disadvantaged parts of our communities. Being NEET correlates well with a number of adverse health outcomes over the life course. This programme should therefore help to reduce health inequalities in the City.

9.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 SCC is not eligible to submit a bid to the YEF, which is primarily aimed at charitable and private organisations acting as the contractor and delivery agent.
- 9.2 SCC has not been approached by other bidders to the YEF, but is supporting this submission in partnership with Sheffield Futures, the city's leading youth charity.
- 9.3 SCC could decline to act as the local commissioner to the bid, but to do so would be to deny the city the potential to access to £3m of external funding for targeted youth support. This would be inconsistent with its strategy of negotiating deals with government designed to secure sustainable financial arrangements that are capable of delivering better outcomes.
- 9.4 SCC has discussed with DWP the technical arrangements for the payment of the contribution to outcome payments, and has proposed alternative arrangements that give more financial oversight to the release of outcome payments. DWP has made it clear that it is not in a position to change the financial rules set out in the programme prospectus, and that any change to the financial arrangements would invalidate the Sheffield bid.

10.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The *Futureshapers* project will, if the bid is successful, make a significant contribution towards the achievement of SCC's strategic outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. It will help over 1300 young people make a successful progression from school into the world of further education, training and employment, as well as building their resilience and confidence.
- 10.2 T The *Futureshapers* project will, by bringing in new funding of over £3m initial investment from social investors and over £4m from DWP for outcome payments, deliver considerable

added value to the 25% investment the council makes for the payment of outcomes. For the councils' investment, 100% of the return will be achieved in delivery and overall outcomes payments. This represents a high value use of council investment.

- 10.3 The successful delivery of the *Futureshapers* programme would result in lower demand for more intensive interventions with young people who are NEET. This will enable SCC to make further year on year savings over the next three years against targeted youth support budgets, in anticipation of further public sector savings, whilst *maintaining an effective system of support for young people progressing from school into adulthood*.
- 10.4 *Futureshapers* allows SCC to test the Social Impact Bond financial model, build a relationship with a network of potential social investors, and position Sheffield as a council and a city that can deliver significant improvement in outcomes using external investment in its services. As such, it is intended that this new investment model will allow SCC to build a sustainable funding model for targeted youth support at a time when the resources available to the council continue to diminish and it will provide the evidence base for continuing dialogue with government as to new risk and reward arrangements through which youth services can be made sustainable.

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that subject to the bid being successful:

- Cabinet endorses Sheffield City Council as the local contributor of the *Futureshapers* programme.
- the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Family Services and the Executive Director, Resources agree the appropriate financial profile and payment mechanism to allow the council to make an *invest to save* financial contribution of £455, 254 for each year of the three year project (April 2015 to March 2018 inclusive) from youth budgets, making a total contribution of £1,365,762.
- the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Family Services in consultation with the Executive Director, Resources and the Director of Legal and Governance be authorised to take all such necessary steps to ensure that SCC's contribution is legally safeguarded including placing a charge on the ring-fenced bank account and negotiating and entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with *Futureshapers* and that the outcomes are properly and appropriately assessed prior to the outcomes payments being made;
- the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Family Services be authorised to recommend, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Family Services, a suitable candidate to assist the Board of *Futureshapers* properly to manage public funds and services.

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Sheffield City Council Equality Impact Assessment



[Guidance for completing this form is available on the intranet](#)

Help is also available by selecting the grey area and pressing the F1 key

Name of policy/project/decision: Youth Engagement Fund - Futureshapers Project

Status of policy/project/decision: New

Name of person(s) writing EIA: Sam Martin

Date: March 2015

Service: LLSC

Portfolio: Children, Young People and Families

What are the brief aims of the policy/project/decision? It is proposed that Sheffield City Council (SCC) adopts the role of local commissioner for the *Futureshapers* project which will use a social impact bond funding model to deliver support and guidance to 1375 young people age 14-19 to help them progress from school into secure training, education and employment.

The DWP provides 75% funding for such projects, however, a local contributor is required to make a 25% commitment to a fund available for results-based outcome payments for the programme. Locally SCC is well placed for this role due to already commissioning Sheffield Futures to undertake targeted youth support. In addition, it will help the local authority to achieve its statutory duty to reduce NEETs, and it contributes to its corporate objective of better preparing young people for adult life and work.

In addition, this allows the piloting of a new funding methodology through which it is seeking to develop a sustainable solution for targeted youth work at a time of continuing budget reductions.

Are there any potential Council staffing implications, include workforce diversity? No

Under the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#), we have to pay due regard to: “Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.” [More information is available on the council website](#)

Areas of possible impact	Impact	Impact level	Explanation and evidence (Details of data, reports, feedback or consultations. This should be proportionate to the impact.)
Age	Positive	Medium	<p>There will be an age specific positive impact for the 14-19 year age range.</p> <p>The three year Futureshapers Programme will target 1800 14-19 year olds with the aim of fully engaging 1375 of these young people in post-16 education, employment or training.</p> <p>The cohort will be drawn from teenagers who have</p>

Areas of possible impact	Impact	Impact level	Explanation and evidence (Details of data, reports, feedback or consultations. This should be proportionate to the impact.)
			<p>exhibited at least one of the following risk factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor school or college attendance • exclusion from school or college • low levels of attainment or progress at key stages 3 and 4 • known to the youth justice system • association with one or more vulnerable or disadvantaged groups that are over-represented among those young people who are NEET, including those with Special Education Needs or Disabilities, those in care or who are care experienced, teen parents and teenagers from some Black and minority ethnic communities. <p>These target groups are known to face significant barriers to post-16 progression that can only be overcome with dedicated support and a range of high quality interventions which will have a positive impact for this age group across the range of protected characteristics as well as deliver longer term benefits to the young people going through the programme..</p>
Disability	Neutral	-Select-	
Pregnancy/maternity	Neutral	-Select-	
Race	Neutral	-Select-	
Religion/belief	Neutral	-Select-	
Sex	Neutral	-Select-	
Sexual orientation	Neutral	-Select-	
Transgender	Neutral	-Select-	
Carers	Neutral	-Select-	
Voluntary, community & faith sector	Positive	-Select-	By providing match funding for the successful bid, the council will be enabling the drawing down of new external funding to support activity by a VCF organisation. The programme will also support a network of smaller providers of young people's services.
Financial inclusion, poverty, social justice:	Positive	-Select-	By delivering positive training, education and employment outcomes young people on the programme will build resilience to poor financial

Areas of possible impact	Impact	Impact level	Explanation and evidence (Details of data, reports, feedback or consultations. This should be proportionate to the impact.)
			outcomes.
Cohesion:	Neutral	-Select-	
Other/additional:	-Select-	-Select-	

Overall summary of possible impact (to be used on EMT, cabinet reports etc): The programme will deliver positive impacts for young people, specifically related to financial inclusion and poverty, and employment prospects.

If you have identified significant change, med or high negative outcomes or for example the impact is on specialist provision relating to the groups above, or there is cumulative impact you **must** complete the action plan.

Review date: March 2016 **Q Tier Ref**

Reference number:

Entered on Qtier: -Select-

Action plan needed: No

Approved (Lead Manager):

Date:

Approved (EIA Lead person for Portfolio):

Date:

Does the proposal/ decision impact on or relate to specialist provision: no

Risk rating: Low

Action plan

Area of impact	Action and mitigation	Lead, timescale and how it will be monitored/reviewed
-Select-		
-Select-		
-Select-		
-Select-		
-Select-		
-Select-		
-Select-		
-Select-		
-Select-		
-Select-		
-Select-		
-Select-		

Area of impact	Action and mitigation	Lead, timescale and how it will be monitored/reviewed
-Select-		

Approved (Lead Manager): **Date:**

Approved (EIA Lead Officer for Portfolio): **Date:**



Cabinet Report

Report of: Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 18th March 2015

Subject: Tackling Poverty Strategy

Author of Report: Anna Brook
07581 752 259
Anna.Brook@Sheffield.gov.uk

Key Decision: YES

Reason Key Decision: Affects 2 or more wards

Summary:

The Child Poverty Act (2010) places a statutory duty on local authorities and named partners to co-operate to assess need around child poverty and to formulate strategies in response to this need. We also need to meet the growing need in our city in the context of continuing difficult economic circumstances and reducing resources within the public sector. Our work to tackle child poverty was central to the city's Child & Household Poverty Strategy (2012-14). We are now building on this and taking it to a new level with the new Tackling Poverty Strategy (2015-18), which has been developed by partners from across the city. The development of the refreshed strategy has been overseen by the Tackling Poverty Partnership Reference Group, chaired by Dean Peter Bradley, with representatives from the City Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group, SY Police, Jobcentre Plus, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority and others drawn from the Sheffield Executive Board and the Voluntary, Community & Faith sector.

The Needs Assessment allows us to understand the challenges to which the new strategy must respond. The strategy sets out our vision of a Sheffield in which people can afford to meet their fundamental needs, establishes how we will work towards meeting this challenge over the next three years and describes the ambitious approaches that will be needed to make significant reductions in poverty in the longer-term.

Reasons for Recommendations:

Approving and implementing the Tackling Poverty Strategy will provide a clear city wide focus to reducing child poverty and household poverty and inequalities in the city, in line with the Council's Corporate Plan commitments and the recommendations set out in the Fairness Commission report. The strategy is a statutory document under the Child Poverty Act 2010.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended:

- to endorse the vision for tackling poverty in the City
 - to approve the Needs Assessment
 - to approve the City's Tackling Poverty Strategy, developed in partnership with other stakeholders in the city
 - to approve the Strategic Outcomes, noting that any activities or actions developed in future under the broad headings of the strategic programmes will need to be dealt with, case by case, as new decisions in their own right
 - to approve the actions in the strategic programmes to which the Council has committed, within existing resources
 - to endorse the strategy and refer it to the Sheffield Executive Board, the Local Enterprise Partnership, the Combined Authority and to the local Equality Hub Network for their consideration
 - to ask contributing partners to review and report on progress on an annual basis.
-

Background Papers: None

Category of Report: **OPEN**

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
NO Cleared by: Liz Gough
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Nadine Wynter
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES Cleared by: Adele Robinson
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
YES Cleared by: Jeremy Wight
Human Rights Implications
NO
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic Impact
YES Cleared by: Edward Highfield
Community Safety Implications
NO
Human Resources Implications
NO
Property Implications
NO
Area(s) Affected
All
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Lead
Cllr Jackie Drayton and Cllr Mazher Iqbal
Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Overview and Scrutiny Management
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press Release
YES

Tackling Poverty Strategy

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1

The Child Poverty Act (2010) places a statutory duty on local authorities and named partners to co-operate to assess need around child poverty and to formulate strategies in response to this need. We also need to meet the growing need in our city in the context of continuing difficult economic circumstances and reducing resources within the public sector. Our work to tackle child poverty was central to the city's Child & Household Poverty Strategy (2012-14). We are now building on this and taking it to a new level with the new Tackling Poverty Strategy (2015-18), which has been developed by partners from across the city.

1.2

The development of the refreshed strategy has been overseen by the Tackling Poverty Partnership Reference Group, chaired by Dean Peter Bradley, with representatives from the City Council, the Clinical Commissioning Group, SY Police, Jobcentre Plus, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority and others drawn from the Sheffield Executive Board and the Voluntary, Community & Faith sector.

1.3

Our vision and Strategy has been shaped and informed by our Needs Assessment, building on local, national and international research into poverty, by reviewing the outcomes in our previous plan and, most importantly, by listening to the voices of those people in Sheffield experiencing poverty.

1.4

The Needs Assessment allows us to understand the challenges to which we must respond in the strategy. The strategy sets out our vision of a Sheffield in which people can afford to meet their fundamental needs, establishes how we will work towards meeting this challenge over the next three years and describes the ambitious approaches that will be needed to make significant reductions in poverty in the longer-term.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE?

2.1

Our strategic programmes, set out in the Tackling Poverty Strategy, and the firm commitments set out in our action plan will help us work towards our vision and goals.

2.2

We know that we need to go further than the commitments that we have made so far as a city. So, working with our partners, we want to be more ambitious and far-reaching. We will use our vision and strategic framework as a guide and build on the commitments we have already

made. We will develop bolder and more ambitious actions, create opportunities and respond to changing needs and emerging evidence.

Critically, if we are to have a chance of achieving our aim to reduce poverty in the future, this continued work must include exploring ways to tackle the issues that are currently outside of our direct control as well as those that we influence more easily. We must also evaluate how effectively each of our actions reduces poverty.

- 2.3 Our vision is for all people in Sheffield to be able to afford to meet their fundamental needs.
- 2.4 Our goals are to make things better for people in Sheffield who are struggling and in poverty, to tackle some of the root causes of poverty and to give our children the best chance of a poverty-free future. We have set out what success would look like in more detail on pages 14-15 of the strategy document.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

- 3.1 The Tackling Poverty Strategy Partnership used the following to develop the strategic programmes and to shape the commitments and aspirations that are included in the strategy:
- the needs of people in poverty in Sheffield
 - the evidence available about the most effective ways to meet these needs
 - the responses to the consultation.

Our analysis of these things suggests that we need to maintain a balance between making things better for people who are in poverty and tackling some of the deep-rooted causes of poverty.

- 3.2 Our Action Plan, attached to our Strategy is a 'living' document and as such will be monitored reviewed and scrutinised, added to and amended throughout the lifetime of the new strategy.
- 3.4 We will use our vision and strategic framework to guide us in responding to changing needs and emerging evidence.
- 3.5 It is the intention of elected members and partners to explore further actions that might be taken in the context of the devolution negotiations with government. Any additional actions and activity that might emerge will need to be dealt with case by case as new decisions in their own right under the broad headings of the agreed strategic programmes.

Actions identified as firm commitments, for which the Council is identified as having responsibility, in the Action Plan attached to the strategy will need to be delivered within existing resources.

There are some actions in our strategy that are aspirational and are not

currently deliverable within existing resources, but the Council, working with the key agencies and our partners across the city, commit to seeking ways of doing differently and working to secure the additional funding that might be necessary.

Any additional commitments made in the future would need to be dealt with, case by case, as new decisions in their own right.

4.0 MAIN BODY OF THE REPORT

Including Legal, Financial and all other relevant implications (if any)

4.1 How the Strategy will be used?

The strategy sets out our vision and strategic programmes. As such it will be the key reference point for the further development of the ambitious approaches needed to make significant reductions in poverty in the longer-term. Progress will be monitored, with performance being formally reported to elected members, senior officers and partners.

4.2 Financial Implications

Actions identified as firm commitments, for which the Council is identified as having a responsibility in the strategy will need to be delivered within existing resources. Beyond this, the aspirations set out in the strategy which cannot be delivered within existing resources will be subject to joint working between the Council, key agencies and partners with a view to seeking ways of doing differently and of securing the additional funding that might be necessary. Any additional commitments made in the future would need to be dealt with, case by case, as new decisions in their own right.

4.3 Legal Implications

There are no immediate legal implications associated with this report. The Child Poverty Act (2010) places a statutory duty on local authorities and named partners to co-operate to assess need and formulate strategies in response to this need. The named partner authorities to whom the duty applies include the Police, the Youth Justice Service Probation, Health and Jobcentre Plus.

4.4 Equality of Opportunity Implications

External factors beyond the control of the city and the Council mean that poverty is expected to increase over the lifetime of the strategy. The strategy seeks to alleviate the impact of this trend. Health should also be less negatively affected than it would be without the strategy.

As a Public Authority, in accordance with Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and in discharge of the Public Sector Equality Duty, the Council has paid due regard to the needs of those who share protected characteristics under the Act and those in greatest need in formulating this strategy.

Some of the proposals in this report may involve the taking of action to assist persons sharing 'protected characteristics' within the meaning of the 2010 Act to overcome or minimise disadvantage, reduce barriers, or otherwise meet their needs. This is permitted by Section 158 of the Act 2010.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the strategy. All Council portfolios will be expected to produce appropriate Equality Impact Assessments for subsequent relevant decisions, or new policies, projects and actions, including the commitments and aspirations outlined in this strategy.

4.5 Tackling Health Inequalities Implications

Poverty is one of the wider determinants of health and wellbeing. Reducing poverty levels should have a positive impact on health. External factors mean poverty is expected to increase over the lifetime of the strategy. The strategy seeks to alleviate the impact of this. Supporting people to escape poverty should reduce the number of people in poor health and mitigating the worst effects of poverty should reduce the adverse impacts on the health of people in poverty.

4.6 Economic Impact

Poverty reduction boosts the economy through increased productivity and disposable income. It benefits household budgets and it saves government money through increased tax receipts and reduced benefit payments. The adoption of the living wage can play an important part in this. The Tackling Poverty Strategy is key to removing barriers and ensuring local residents are able to access economic opportunity. We must simultaneously create the conditions for economic growth and promote opportunities and inclusion for a sustainable and fair city economy.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 An alternative option would have been to develop a strategy just focused on children and young people. We took a conscious decision not to do that as we believe that we cannot tackle poverty for children without tackling poverty and building resilience in individuals, families and the communities in which they live. With this in mind, with increasing concerns over widening poverty in the city and in the light of the evidence set out by the Fairness Commission, we have therefore chosen to broaden our approach. Whilst the Tackling Poverty Strategy (2015-18) will incorporate the statutory Child Poverty Strategy it will be encompassed within a strategic approach and document designed to tackle all-age poverty.

6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement and approval, from Cabinet, for the Needs Assessment, the Tackling Poverty Strategy (which incorporates the Child Poverty Strategy) and the associated

Action Plan. In particular, this report seeks Cabinet endorsement for:

- the vision
- the strategic programmes
- the initial commitments made by the Council for the actions that fall within its areas of responsibility.

6.2 Approving and implementing the Tackling Poverty Strategy will provide a clear, city-wide focus on reducing Child Poverty and household poverty and inequalities, in line with the Council's Corporate Plan commitments, and the recommendations set out in the Fairness Commission report. The strategy is also a statutory document under the Child Poverty Act (2010).

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Cabinet is recommended:

- to endorse the vision for tackling poverty in the City
- to approve the Needs Assessment
- to approve the City's Tackling Poverty Strategy, developed in partnership with other stakeholders in the city
- to approve the Strategic Outcomes, noting that any activities or actions developed in future under the broad headings of the strategic programmes will need to be dealt with, case by case, as new decisions in their own right
- to approve the actions in the strategic programmes in the Action Plan to which the Council has committed, within existing resources
- to endorse the strategy and refer it to the Sheffield Executive Board, the Local Enterprise Partnership, the Combined Authority and to the local Equality Hub Network for their consideration
- to ask partners to review and report on progress on an annual basis.

Anna Brook
Policy & Strategy Officer
9th March 2015

Poverty in Sheffield – an assessment of need

Finding your way around this document

This is a big document providing detailed information about poverty in Sheffield. If you are particularly interested in a couple of sections or you only have time to look at some of it, you can use the table of contents below to find the bits you want.

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Summary – life spiral

Last time we did this piece of work, we drew a diagram plotting the lives of people in poverty against the rest. People told us that they found this helpful and so we've updated it. This might be a good place to start if you don't have much time.

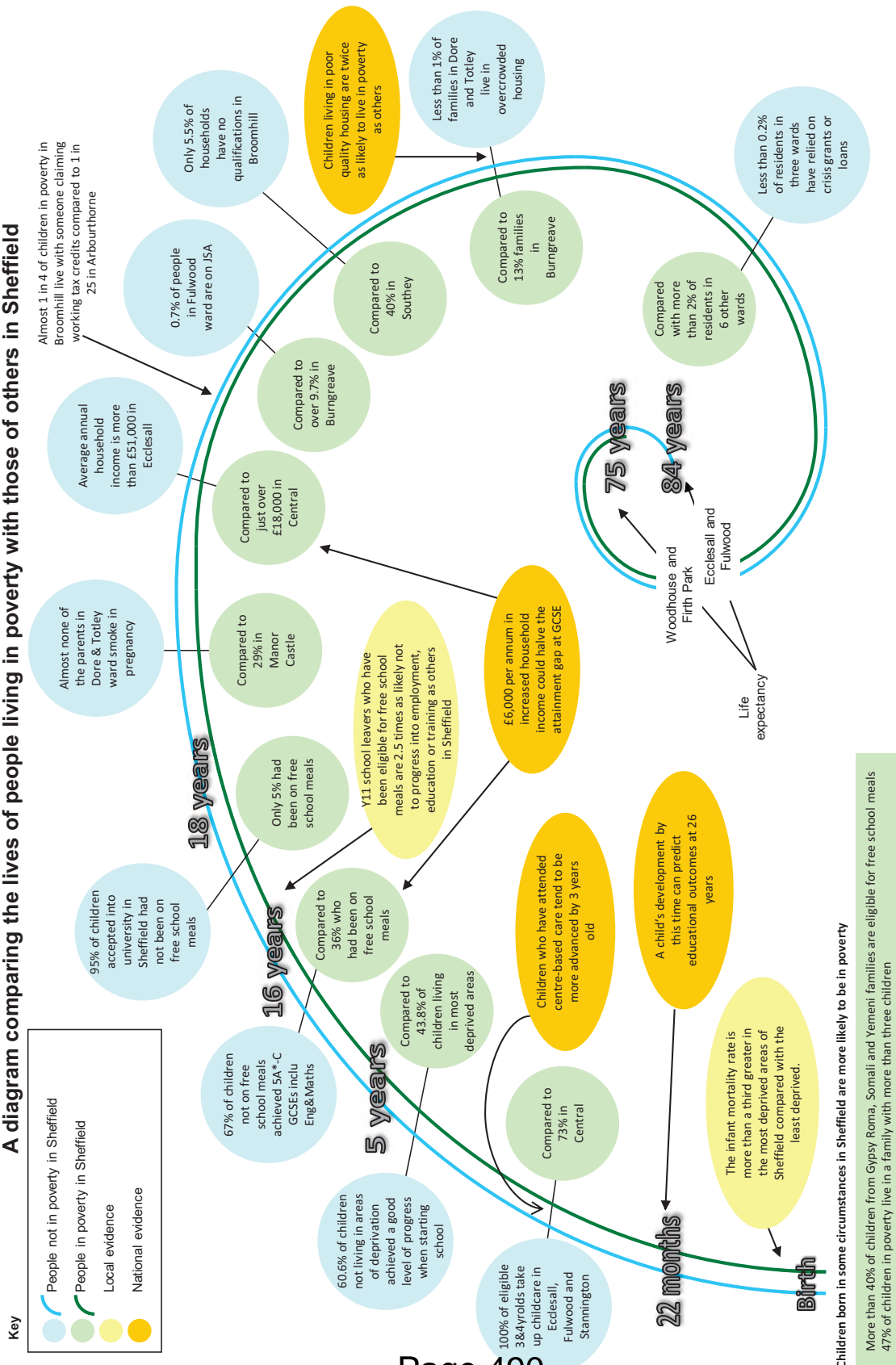
Just a few quick notes about it.

We wanted to give people a relatively simple and short explanation of poverty in Sheffield. In simplifying what is a very complicated issue, we've made some compromises.

We've sometimes used parts of Sheffield where most people are better or worse off to compare people's experiences and outcomes. We know that people who are in poverty can live anywhere in the city. Sometimes we can't get better data so we use areas as a bit of a short-hand. However, we know this is just an indication that people are more likely to be living in poverty, it's not the whole story and we need to be careful not to make assumptions about people based on where they live.

We are clear that the life chances of any individual or group are not pre-determined. It is possible, as many people's life histories demonstrate, for an individual or group to break free from the circumstances that they inherit, to overcome obstacles and to achieve their potential. This spiral does not show those examples where people have broken the trend, but it is important that we remember them and do not allow this to become deterministic. Partners working across Sheffield and individuals themselves help break the cycle of inequality and disadvantage at any number of points over an individual's life time and our strategy will be aimed at giving us the best chance of doing just that.

A diagram comparing the lives of people living in poverty with those of others in Sheffield



A note on the context and the limitation of sources

This needs assessment has been developed using a range of sources. The majority of the data has been developed using data provided by the Office of National Statistics and other government sources and in most cases is based on data from 2011 and 2012. Data used relates to the most recent period available.

Since 2012 the current government's welfare reforms have started to be introduced and it is important to note that as our data does not take into account the impact of welfare reforms, it is likely that the situation will have changed. Early indications from research are that in many cases the situation is worsening for individuals impacted by the reforms. Sheffield City Council has commissioned the Centre for Economic and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University to help us to understand more about the likely impact of welfare reform on people and groups in Sheffield. You can read more about this throughout this document and can read the [full report](#) on CRESR's website.

There are also limitations to the availability and granulation of available data in relation to some key poverty information. This has limited the extent to which we can fully understand the nature and geography of poverty in the city. We are unable to provide any meaningful analysis on material deprivation as the Family Resources Survey is not available at local authority level or below.

There is no local authority level data on before or after housing costs income.

Throughout the document there are charts showing data by ward. The x axis of all these charts shows wards by Indices of Multiple Deprivation ranking, from low (good) to high (bad).

Definitions – what do we mean by poverty?

In Sheffield, we are concerned about everyone who is struggling to make ends meet, whether or not they meet the official definitions of poverty. However, the definitions are also useful because we can use them to get a sense of how we compare to other cities and other countries.

What do people in Sheffield say?

"You don't live...you survive."

"It is a constant battle trying to keep everything going, it's like spinning plates and some days I don't do a good job."

What are the official definitions of poverty?

The JRF definition 'When a person's resources (mainly their material resources) are not sufficient to meet their minimum needs (including social participation)' (Goulden & D'Arcy, 2014) is helpful to understand the concept of poverty. Of course, it is difficult to measure at a large scale and in the UK, there are five measures used to assess whether someone is considered to live in poverty:

- **relative low income:** this measures whether the poorest families are keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the economy as a whole. This indicator measures the number of households below 60 per cent of contemporary median equivalised household income. Equivalisation means adjusting a household's income

"They can still call it poverty behind closed doors but you're not going to get people's attention if it's called that because it's like 'I'm not going to admit that I'm in poverty, I'm struggling but I'm not in poverty'. It's less of a label too: most people have struggled with something at some time. Poverty is something people can judge you on but, if you say struggling, people need to get to know you to find out what you're struggling with and how they can help."

for size and composition so that we can look at the incomes of all households on a comparable basis. This reflects the common-sense notion that a couple with dependent children will need a higher income than a single person with no children to achieve the same standard of living. Although the most commonly cited poverty definition, being relative to median income, it has the disadvantage that poverty levels can remain static or even fall because median income falls, whilst the number of people struggling increases.

- **absolute low income:** this indicator measures whether the poorest families are seeing their income rise in real terms. The level is fixed as equal to the relative low-income threshold for the baseline year of 1998-99 and updated in 2013 to be against a baseline year of 2010/11 expressed in today's prices;
- **material deprivation and low income combined:** this indicator provides a wider measure of people's living standards. This indicator measures the number of households that are both materially deprived and have an income below 70 per cent of contemporary median equivalised household income;
- **persistent poverty:** this means that a family has had its equivalised net income for the year at less than 60% of median equivalised net household income for the past 3 years.
- **Severe poverty:** this measures the depth of poverty that people experience. This indicator measures the number of households below 50 per cent of contemporary median equivalised household income.

Most of these measures are only available at regional or national level.

At a city level, we have the **revised local child poverty measure (formerly NI 116 and now known as Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure)** which is defined as the proportion of children living in families in receipt of tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent of median income or in receipt of out of work (means-tested) benefits. This data is published annually on the HM Revenue and Customs website and the latest data is for 2012.

Which other measures are important?

The amount of income a household has is only one measure of poverty, and does not fully explain what it means to be in poverty in Sheffield in 2014. The Government's Indices of Multiple Deprivation (now unfortunately several years out of date and scheduled to be reviewed in 2015) considers a wide range of domains including income; employment; health and disability; education, skills and training; barriers to services and housing; crime and living environment and ranks communities on the basis of these.

The Council has strategies in place to address most of the domains in the IMD and the Anti-Poverty Strategy which this needs assessment will inform will primarily address financial poverty and factors directly affecting and resulting from poverty. As a result, this needs assessment will also consider primarily the factors which cause and can alleviate financial poverty, and some of the worst implications of financial deprivation, but does not address all of the ways in which deprivation affects individuals and communities.

We think all of the following things are important in helping us to understand poverty in Sheffield, and how we might best focus our efforts to reduce it:

- How many people are in poverty
- How long people have been living in poverty
- Which people are more likely to experience poverty than others, and how they might experience poverty differently
- How much people are struggling and what sorts of things they are struggling with
- How many people are affected by the most negative impacts of poverty

- What helps people to escape poverty and reduce its negative effects

In each section, we have tried to get a balance between considering the things that affect everyone in the city or even in the country (structural measures) and those that are more to do with individual households or particular groups.

Each of these areas is taken in turn in the following sections of this report.

How many people are in poverty in Sheffield?

- 20% of the Sheffield population live in poverty, including 23% of children.
- Relative poverty has been decreasing, but fewer people have an income adequate for their needs
- Although income for the lowest 5th of the population nationally has risen slightly more than average, the bottom 5th of the working population still earn less than the living wage.

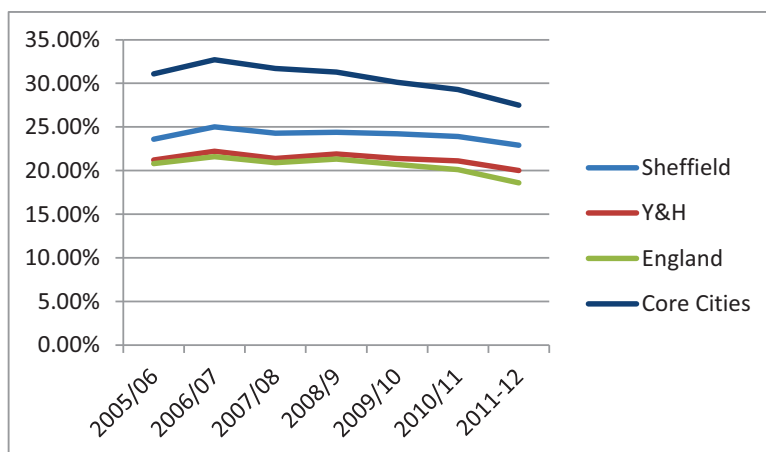
Relative poverty and variations in levels of household income

The last indices of multiple deprivation in 2010 provides the most up to date data on overall household poverty in Sheffield, although this is based on 2008 data. This found that 20% of households in Sheffield were living below 60% of the median income level (relative poverty measure). We also have more recent non-government data which estimated that 35.62% of households in Sheffield live below 60% of the median income level (relative poverty measure), compared with UK Mean rate of 28.83% (Experian Mosaic data 2012). As the methodology is unknown, and it is vastly different from the government statistics, we generally use the government statistics for the sake of consistency, but it is worth being aware of the possibility that the number of people in poverty may in fact be higher than the government data suggests.

We have more recent data on the number of children in poverty. 23% of children in Sheffield were living in relative poverty in 2012 (the latest available data), this number having reduced gradually from 25% in 2006/07. Based on this measure, there were 25,705 children living in relative poverty in Sheffield in 2012 or 22,865 for children under 16 (HMRC 2014 using data from 2012).

23% of children in Sheffield were living in relative poverty in 2011/12. This has reduced from 25% in 2006/07.

Compared to all other local authorities in England, Sheffield has relatively more deprivation, although it is not amongst the most deprived local authorities in the country. Compared to other nearby urban local authorities Sheffield is of a similar deprivation rank. We are ranked similar to Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham, and ranked more deprived than Bassetlaw. Out of the 8 Core Cities, Sheffield has the second lowest level of child poverty.



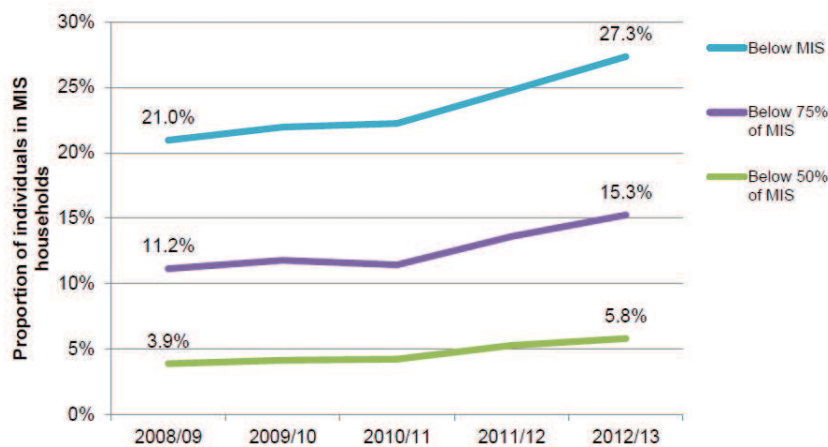
(HMRC 2014 using data from 2012)

It is worth noting here that because these are relative measures, they are impacted by the median income level. As the median income rises, the amount of money required to be above the poverty line rises. As median income falls, so does this threshold. Median incomes in the UK in 2012/13 were £374, in real terms, four per cent below what they were in 2002/03. From their 2007/08 peak, they have fallen 9 per cent (MacInnes *et al*, 2014).. This means that **many people are no better off, the poverty line has simply fallen from above their income level to below it** – the JRF noted in 2013 that if the 2007/8 poverty threshold were used there would be 2m more people living in poverty than using the most recent income levels, purely because incomes have fallen in general (MacInnes *et al*, 2013): this pattern has continued. The recent slight downward trend in relative poverty should be viewed in this context. **Nationally, income for the bottom 10 per cent of people in 2012/13 was 8 per cent lower in real terms than it was ten years before** (MacInnes *et al*, 2014).

There is evidence that low living standards may be better detected by looking at the income available after housing costs have been paid (AHC), because they more accurately represent the available income of a household.. Child material deprivation has been rising since the start of the recession, and it increased nationally by 300,000 children (2.1ppt) in 2012–13 alone. Over the same period, the rate of absolute income poverty among children rose when measured AHC but fell when measured BHC. **Measured after housing costs (AHC), 14.6 million (23.2%) were in absolute poverty nationally in 2012-13, an increase of 600,000 individuals (0.8ppt) since 2011-12. AHC, absolute poverty is at its highest point nationally since 2001-02** (Belfield *et al*, 2014).

The minimum income standard

Another approach to measuring poverty is considering **whether people have enough money to meet their basic needs**. In contrast to the measures above, the JRF research into the minimum income standard shows that the **proportion of people living in households with an income below the MIS increased by nearly a third between 2008/09 and 2012/13**. The proportion below this level has increased every year since 2008, but most of the increase occurred in the second half of this period (Padley *et al*, 2015).



(Padley *et al*, 2015)

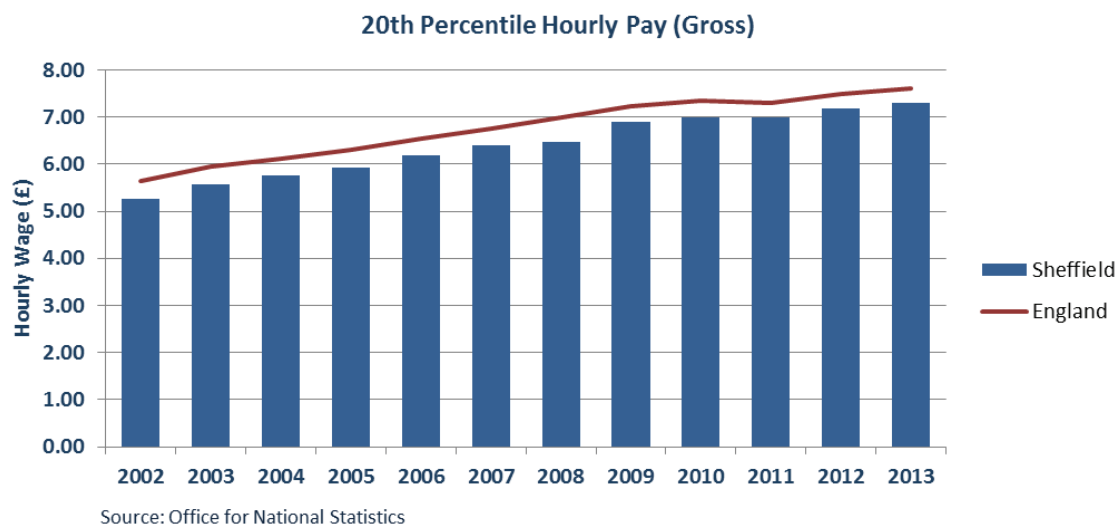
Levels of pay

We consider here the 20th Percentile hourly pay (gross), in other words, the amount of money that a fifth of employees are paid less than and four-fifths are paid more than. This is important because it shows how much people earning at the lower end of the population are earning and how this changes over time. It is important to

consider this in the context of both hourly pay for all workers (not just those earning at the lower end) and also policy such as national minimum wage and living wage campaigns.

The chart below shows us that those **people whose earnings are in the bottom fifth of the population have seen their average earnings increase by 5% between 2011 and 2013, this was a slightly larger increase than the average for England (4%)**. For comparison, in 2013 the 20th Percentile hourly rate was 68% of the median. However, the **average hourly rate of pay of those people in Sheffield earning in the bottom fifth of the population in 2013 (£7.31) was still lower than the living wage (£7.45 in 2013)**. The national minimum wage rate in 2013 was £6.31 for those aged 21 and over.

There is a variation in hourly pay between those working full-time and part-time. In Sheffield in 2013, **people working part-time earning in the bottom fifth of the population had an average hourly wage of £6.39, for those earning full-time this was £8.36**. This reflects a national trend. It is of particular relevance to consideration of people at high risk of poverty because of the high proportion of women, and particularly mothers, who work part-time. According to Census 2011 data, **women in Sheffield are more than three times as likely as men to be employed part-time**. Nationally, whilst men and women make up similar proportions of the employee workforce (men 51%, women 49%), 88 per cent of those men work full time compared to only 5 per cent of women. The national pay gap in 2013 was 19.7 which means that on average, women will earn 19.7% less per hour than men (analysis from [Secondary Analysis of the Gender Pay Gap](#), DCMS, March 2014, using data from Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings).



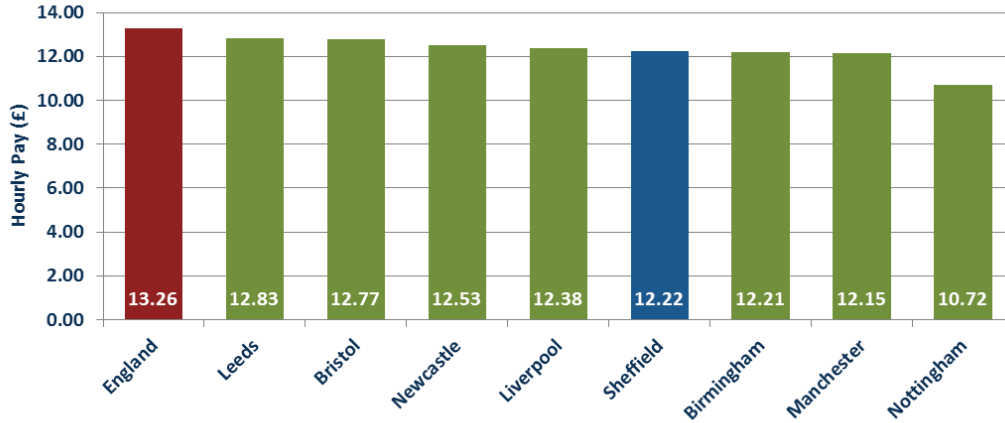
Notes:

Results for 2003 and earlier exclude supplementary surveys. In 2006 there were a number of methodological changes made. For further details go to : <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/341.aspx>

Estimates for 2011 and subsequent years use a weighting scheme based on occupations which have been coded according to Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2010 that replaced SOC 2000. Therefore care should be taken when making comparisons with earlier years.

Average income of full-time workers for Sheffield, England and the Core Cities is shown below.

Median Hourly Pay (Gross) Full Time Workers - 2013



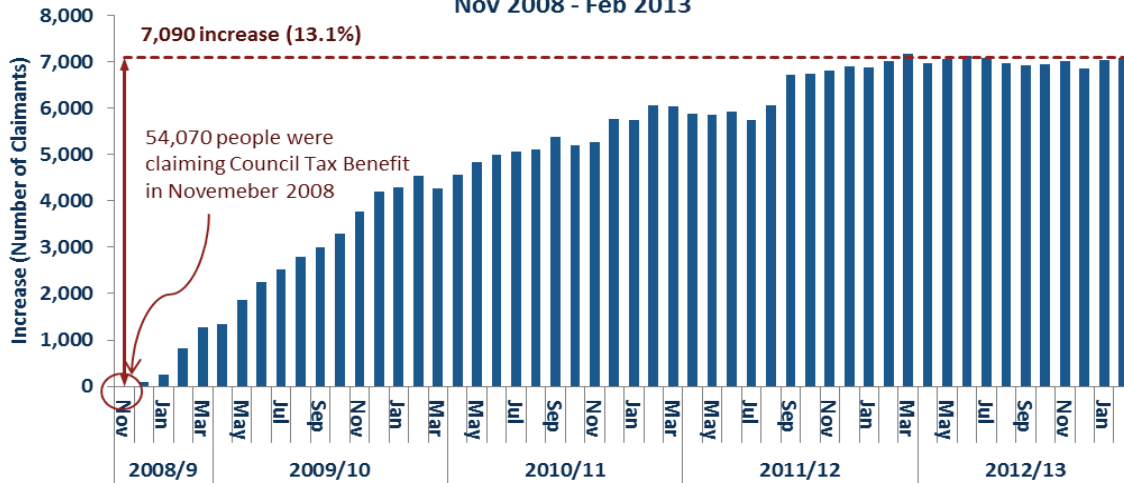
Source: Office for National Statistics

Council tax benefit / support

Council Tax Benefit was replaced with Council Tax Support in 2013. The number of people in receipt of Council Tax Benefit / Support has increased significantly since 2008. As the graph below shows, the most significant increases were in 2009-10. 3,770 more people were claiming in November 2010 than in November 2009. A further 1,500 were claiming by November 2011 and an additional 1,550 were claiming by November 2012. The rate of increase as slowed over the past year with an increase of 200 people between November 2012 and November 2013.

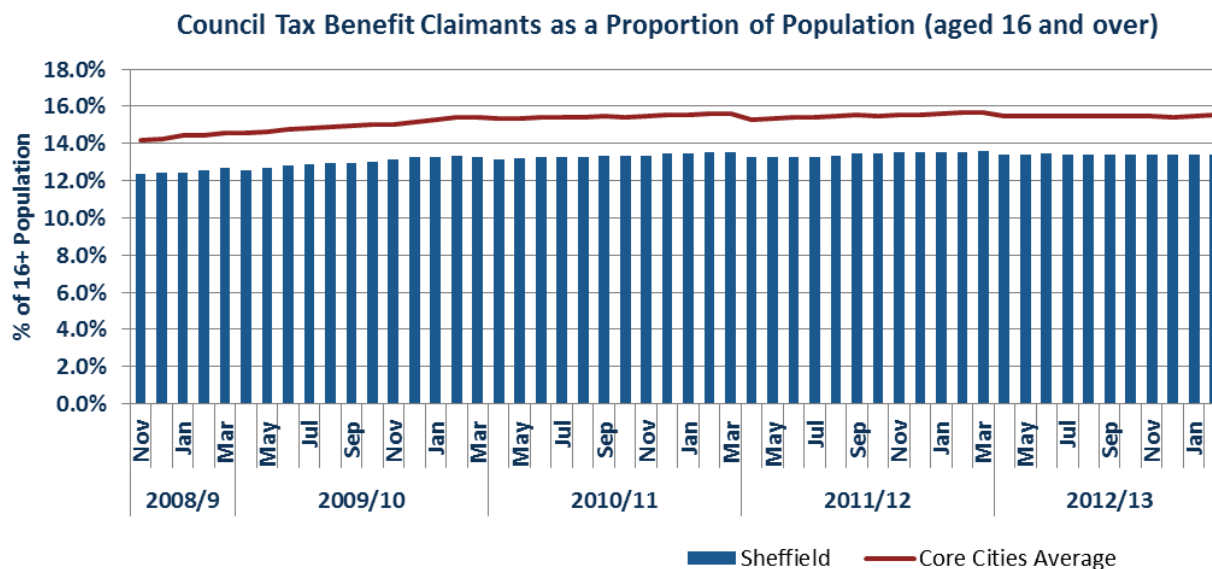
The number of people claiming council tax support in Sheffield in March 2014 was 57,575.

Change in Number of Council Tax Benefit Claimants in Sheffield: Nov 2008 - Feb 2013



Source: Office for National Statistics

As well as looking at how many people are claiming council tax support, we can also consider what proportion of the population is claiming. This is shown in the next graph. This has also been increasing slightly, (from 12.4% in November 2008 to 13.3% in Feb 2013), but Sheffield's rate remains below the average for the core cities.



In addition to showing the proportion of the population eligible for Council Tax Benefit / Support, we can also consider how many people are in arrears – we look at this at the end of the section on people hitting crisis point below.

How long people have been living in poverty

The length of time that people experience poverty is important for two reasons:

The longer people are in poverty the harder it is for them to get out of the situation, and the greater the impact is on their lives and prospects.

Dickerson & Popli, using evidence from the Millennium Cohort Study, find that children born into poverty have significantly lower test scores at 3, 5 and 7 and that **continuous poverty in the early years has a cumulative negative impact on cognitive functioning**. ‘For children who are persistently in poverty throughout their early years, their cognitive development test scores at age 7 are more than 10 percentile ranks lower than children who have never experienced poverty, even after controlling for a wide range of background characteristics and parenting investment.’ (Dickerson & Popli, 2011)

Far more people experience poverty than the statistics would indicate at first sight.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation commissioned a review of ‘poverty dynamics’ (Smith & Middleton, 2007), which looks at the same individuals or households over time and so is able to record stories of change. Most data is ‘point-in-time’ which means that it just shows a snap-shot of the population. As this review (and others) demonstrates, many more people dip in and out of poverty than are captured by the majority of statistics used. Using findings from the British Household Panel Survey, they show that **over the seven-year period analysed, between a quarter and a third of the population experienced income poverty at least once— about twice the average poverty rate for any fixed**

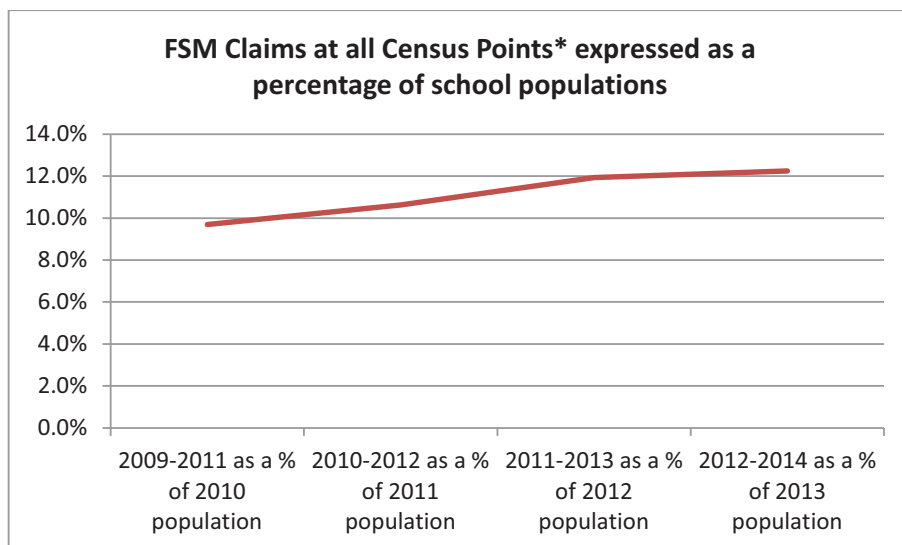
moment in time. This is important because, although persistent poverty is more problematic than transient poverty, it shows that income poverty isn't a problem just affecting a small majority.

Nationally, there is a measure of persistence of poverty but this is not available at a local level. Even nationally, because the method used to measure this has changed, the latest available data is 2005-2008 over which time 12% of children had been in relative poverty for three out of the four years (measure of persistent poverty).

To understand how long people have been in poverty In this section, we consider:

- The proportion of children on free school meals who have been eligible for 3 consecutive years
- Benefit claimant persistence

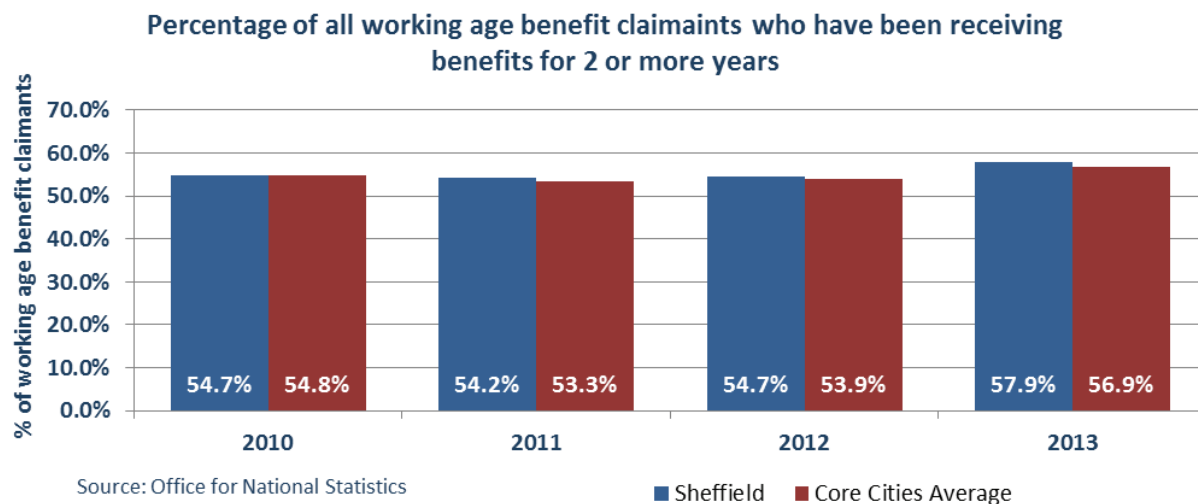
We have attempted to explore how many children in Sheffield experience poverty over time by using free school meals data. There are many ways in which this could be done but for the purposes of this initial assessment of need, we have compared numbers and proportions of children who were eligible and claiming free school meals at three consecutive January School Census points. Note that the pupil premium was introduced in 2011, and many schools have worked hard to increase free school meals registrations to support access to this additional funding support, so the increase may not represent an actual increase in persistent poverty.



School Census Data - Performance and Analysis Service (2014)

*FSM Claims at all Census points count total pupils who were eligible and claiming FSM at 3 consecutive January School Census points, for the 3 year periods quoted.

For adults, we have used the measure of working age people in Sheffield (compared with core cities) who have been receiving benefits for two or more years. The benefits that are included are Carers' Allowance, Disability Living Allowance, Incapacity Benefit or Employment Support Allowance, Income Support, Pension Credit, Jobseekers' Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance and Widows benefit. The rate was relatively static between 2010 and 2012 before rising in 2013. This matches the trend for the core cities.



Which people are more likely to experience poverty than others

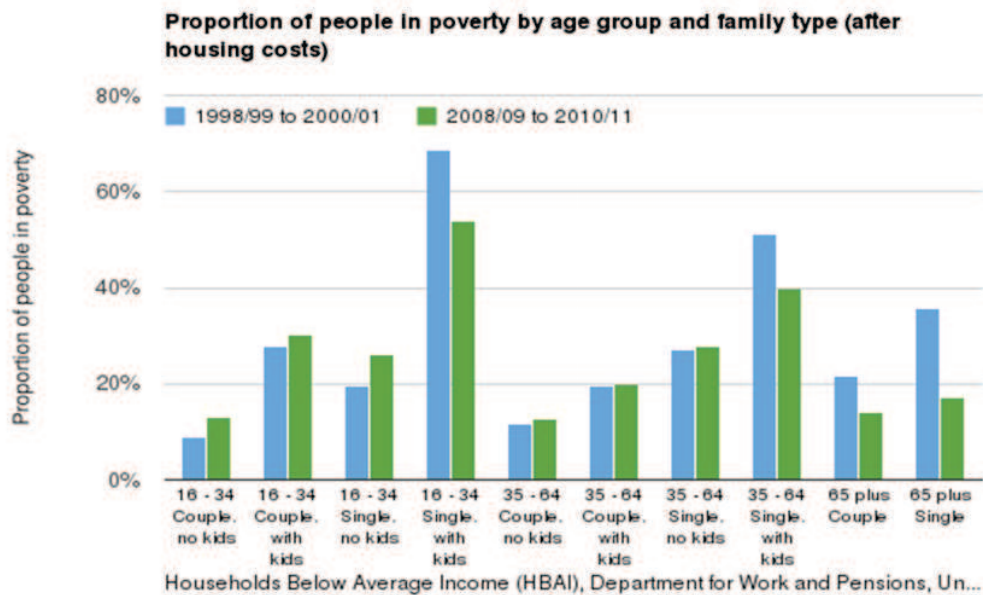
Some groups are likely to be at greater risk of poverty, often due to being affected by multiple disadvantage. In this section, we consider which groups nationally and in Sheffield are at greater risk of poverty including:

- Family size and type
- Women
- Ethnicity
- Disability
- Those with caring responsibilities
- People in work and in poverty
- People who are out of work
- Single people
- Older people
- Young people
- Care leavers

As might be expected, national research suggests that individuals and families who fall within more than one of the groups at greater risk are even more likely to be at risk of poverty, but we do not have the data available to understand this at a local level.

Poverty amongst many household types is increasing

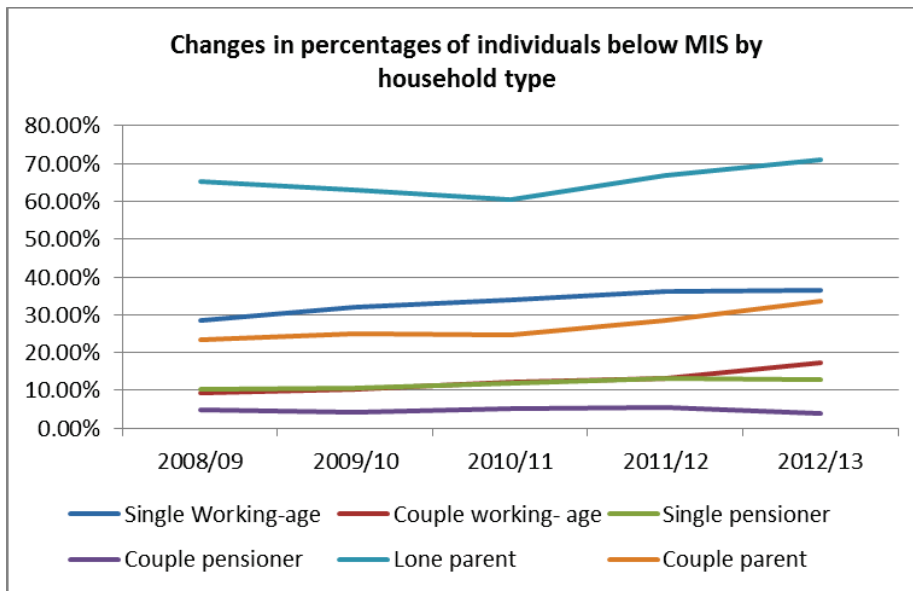
For households without children, although we do not have local data on poverty breakdowns by family type and age, the graph below produced by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation gives an indication of poverty levels, and how this has changed over time.



This shows that poverty increased for all household types except single parent families and 65 plus households. Moreover, although families are at greater risk of poverty than those of working age without children, this has reduced over the ten year period, whilst the proportion of younger single people and couples with no children who are in poverty has increased over the ten year period and is now the highest on record.

The proportion of families in poverty has also increased. The proportion of single people aged 65+ who are in poverty has reduced significantly over the ten year period. Older people have been relatively protected in welfare reform, this trend is likely to have continued, and to continue into the future. In contrast, although over this timeframe, the proportion of single parent families living in poverty reduced significantly over the ten year period, changes to welfare mean that single parent families are likely to be at increasing risk of poverty, as can be seen in the table below.

The JRF's work on the minimum income standard shows how the proportion of people in different types of household who do not have enough money to meet their basic needs has increased over the last five years. Again we see that pensioners are the only group who see an improvement, and we can also see the worsening situation for lone parent families. After the 2008 economic downturn, the most severe increase in the percentage unable to afford this minimum acceptable standard of living was initially among single people of working age. Since 2010, however, families with children have seen the greatest increases.



(using data from Padley et al, 2015 N.B. Due to a change in the ‘grossing’ factors used (see www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/321819/frs-grossing-methodology-review-2011-census-updates.pdf), change in risk rates between 2011/12 and 2012/13 for couples without children and for lone parents need to be interpreted with caution. The change in basis may overstate the increase in risk by around 2–3 percentage points for couples, but understate it for lone parents by 3–4 percentage points. For other groups, the change has negligible effect.)

Households with younger children, larger families and lone parents are at greater risk of poverty

The tables below show that Sheffield mirrors the national picture for households with children whereby **younger children, larger families and lone parents are more at risk of poverty**. This makes sense: families with younger children often cut back on work or are less likely to take on higher paid work when children are young. This is compounded by increased costs such as paying for childcare. Larger families have increased costs and lone parents are often unable to work as many hours as couple families (also see section on Underemployment, temporary employment and ‘zero-hours contracts’ below regarding earning potential for women and part-time workers).

Breakdown by age	0-4	5-10	11-15	16-19
Percentage of children in poverty in Sheffield in age range	32.72%	32.58%	23.65%	11.05%

Source: HMRC 2014 using data from 2012.

Breakdown by family size	1 child	2 children	3 children	4+ children
Percentage of children in poverty in Sheffield in a family with this number of children	22.60%	30.52%	22.54%	24.33%

Source: HMRC 2014 using data from 2012.

We cannot do a direct comparison with all children in Sheffield for this measure. The child benefit data shows us the proportions of families with different numbers of children, but child poverty figures are based on the proportions of children living in families of different sizes. These are shown below.

Breakdown by family size	1 child	2 children	3 children	4+ children
Percentage of <i>families</i> for whom child benefit is claimed in Sheffield with this number of children (same time period)	47.54%	36.64%	11.04%	4.79%

Source?

National breakdowns for family size are shown below, which shows that, as expected, that the proportions of children living in poverty in larger families is higher than the proportions of families.

Number of Dependent Children	Proportion of Families	Proportion of Children
One child	47%	30%
Two children	39%	45%
Three or more children	14%	25%

Source: HBAI 2011/12 and LFS 2013

We also know that 64% of children in Sheffield meeting the local low-income measure were in lone parent families (HMRC 2014 using data from 2012).

The JRF research into the Minimum Income Standard found that of the 3.2 million individuals living in lone parent households with between one and three children in the UK, 2.3 million lacked the income required for an adequate standard of living in 2012/13. This was 71 per cent of lone parent households, up from 65 per cent in 2008/09 (Padley et al, 2015).

Work reduces the risk of poverty, but in-work poverty is growing

People who are out of work are more likely to experience severe poverty than those who are in work. However, in work poverty has grown significantly over the last decade or so and 65% of the children in poverty in the UK are now in a family where someone works (HBAI, 2014). There are now as many people in poverty in the UK who are in work as are out of work (JRF, 2014, using data from HBAI, 2014). Recent research by the JRF found that three in five people leaving unemployment last year went into jobs that pay less than the living wage (MacInnes *et al*, 2014).

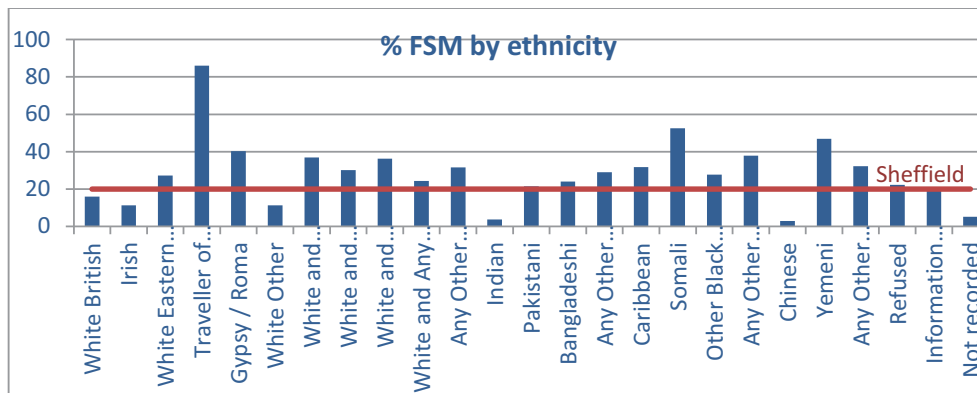
More local data is given on both of these elements in the section on [employment](#).

The risk of poverty is greater for people from some ethnic groups

The relationship between ethnicity and poverty is complex. Nationally, people from BME groups are significantly more likely to be in poverty than white British people, although research indicates that the levels of poverty within different groups differs geographically depending on migration patterns and labour markets.

We cannot get a breakdown of ethnicity within people in Sheffield who are in poverty. We have used free school meals data to explore this issue further for children, although we recognise that the proxy has limitations. This chart shows the proportion of children of each ethnic group who were eligible for free school meals in January 2014 and shows that children from almost all minority ethnic groups are more likely to be eligible for free school meals than

White British children (n.b. the actual number of children identified as Traveller of Irish Heritage is small and so the percentage should be treated with caution).



Source: January Schools Census 2014

We have also included a chart below, which shows how these figures have changed over time.

Percentage of pupils claiming free school meals (FSM) in Sheffield schools by ethnicity (2009/10 to current) - for children in Reception to year 11

Ethnicity	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Trend	2013 to 2014 trend
Any Other Asian Background	29.4	29.3	31.1	33.6	30.8		-2.8
Any Other Black Background	32	35.6	38.5	42.5	37.6		-4.9
Any Other Ethnic Background	31.3	29.1	32	38.2	35.1		-3.1
Any Other Mixed Background	28.6	30.3	29.6	32.6	33		0.4
Any Other White Background	11.5	10.7	12.1	13.4	12.3		-1.1
Bangladeshi	31.8	32.1	29.1	30.9	25.9		-5
Caribbean	27.8	29.4	30.5	35.7	34		-1.7
Chinese	9.8	6.6	4.5	4.7	3.9		-0.8
Indian	2.6	3.2	3	3.2	3.6		0.4
Information Not Yet Obtained	18.1	24.2	29.9	32.2	19.3		-12.9
Other Black African	24.2	24.5	25.8	32.2	32		-0.2
Pakistani	25	24.6	23.5	25.1	22.2		-2.9
Refused	22.4	21.8	21.2	28.6	22.2		-6.4
Somali	77.1	75.9	73.7	67.3	55.2		-12.1
White and Any Other Asian	24	24.3	25	26.4	25.4		-1
White and Asian Pakistani	32.4	34.9	35.8	39.9	38		-1.9
White and Black African	29.8	35.5	33	35.8	29.2		-6.6
White and Black Caribbean	33.9	37.3	37.8	40.7	39.3		-1.4
White British	14.7	15.7	16.5	18.3	16.8		-1.5
White East European	9.7	8.4	27.4	38.3	26.8		-11.5
White Gypsy/Roma	15	10.3	52.5	64.6	35.4		-29.2
White Irish	7.4	13.9	12.9	12.6	10.9		-1.7
White Traveller of Irish Heritage	84.6	93.9	81.4	84	87.2		3.2
Yemeni	61	59.8	55.4	59.9	50.2		-9.7
All pupils	18.7	19.7	20.7	23.2	20.9		-2.3

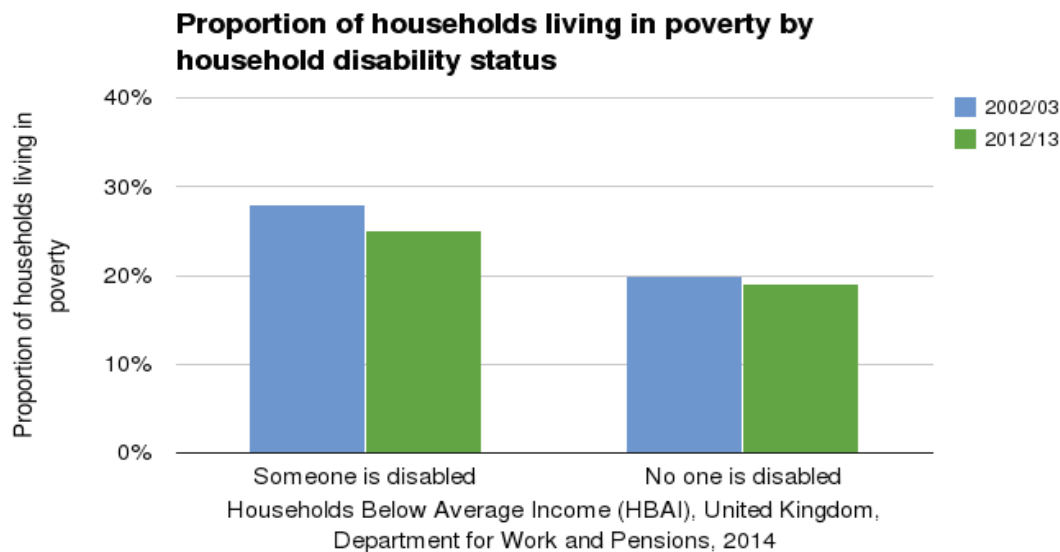
* 2009/10 - 2012/13 data from School census. 2013/14 data based on current claim rate (08/04/2014)

Over the last few years, the percentage of pupils claiming FSM rose steadily (from 18.7% in 2009/10 to 23.2% in 2012/13). However, this appears to have reversed sharply in the last academic year with the Sheffield rate standing at just 20.9% for the 2013/14 academic year. This has affected some ethnic groups more than others. In the school spring census of 2012/13, 15696 children were claiming FSM. This figure now stands at 14387 meaning that 1309 fewer children are receiving income and benefit linked FSM than in the previous year. This appears to have impacted on certain ethnic groups more than others with White Gypsy/Roma, White Eastern European, Somali and Yemeni pupils have larger reductions in terms of the proportions eligible.

We are currently looking to understand more about why this may be.

Households containing someone with a disability or long term health condition are more likely to be living in poverty

Disability is a major risk factor for poverty and households and **families in which an adult or child has a disability (including learning difficulties and mental health problems) are significantly more likely to be in poverty (nationally, as demonstrated in the graph below**



In Sheffield 19% of people feel that their day to day activity is limited by long term health problems or disability (Census, 2011), with 35% of households having someone with a long term health condition or disability and 33,430 people (6% of the population) claiming Disability Living Allowance and 23,580 people claiming Employment Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance.

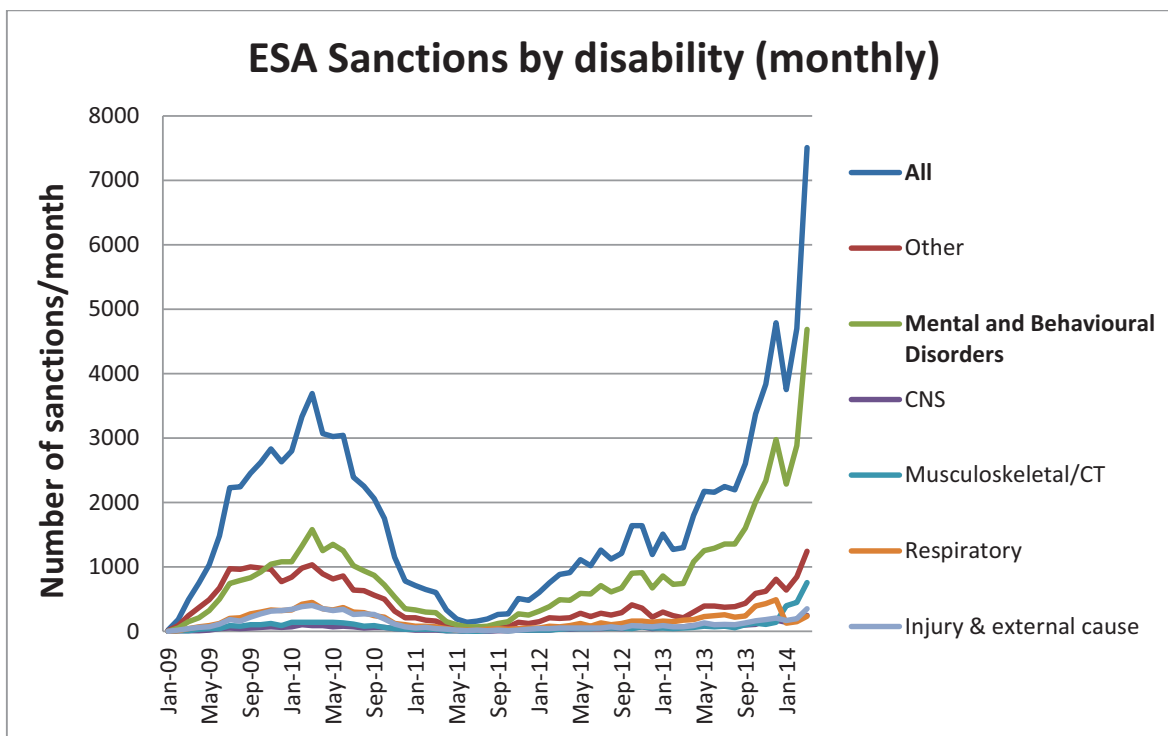
Disabled people are significantly less likely to be working than non-disabled people, with only 25% of males and 19% of females aged 16 and over with a disability or long term health problem economically active in Sheffield compared with 65% of the overall male 16+ population, and 55% of the overall female 16+ population (Census, 2011). The employment rates for adults with mental health problems or learning disabilities in Sheffield is particularly low, with only 3% of those with learning disabilities and 6% of adults receiving secondary mental health services in employment compared with 7% and 9% respectively in England (Local Child Poverty Basket of Indicators, 2014)..

Nationally, the poverty rate for adults with a disability has fallen over the decade to 2012 (30.01% to 24.41%) by more than the poverty rate for adults without a disability (from 20.87% 20.47%) (analysis by JRF using Households Below Average Income (HBAI), Great Britain for 2001/02 and the United Kingdom thereafter, Department for Work and Pensions 2013), although reforms to disability benefits are anticipated to have an impact on this and the most recent Households Below Average Income figures suggest that this is starting to have an impact, with small increases

to poverty rates for disabled people in 2012/13. Disabled people pay on average £550 per month on extra costs related to their disability. As a result of these extra costs, disabled people are twice as likely to have unsecured debt totalling more than half of their household income (Papworth Trust, 2015).

Sheffield Hallam University have modelled the likely impact of welfare reform on disabled people. They have found that Sheffield’s incapacity claimants can on average expect to lose £1,800 a year from this element of the reforms alone, and working-age DLA claimants can expect to lose an average of £750 a year. But within both groups the financial losses fall just on some claimants rather than everyone. Those losing out – generally the less severely ill or disabled if procedures are working properly – can expect to lose an average of £3,500 a year as a result of incapacity benefit reform and £1,600 a year as DLA is replaced by Personal Independence Payments. Furthermore, the same claimants can in addition often expect to lose financially as a result of other elements of the welfare reform package, such as changes to Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (Beatty and Fothergill, 2014).

In addition to the reduction in eligibility, recent research produced by the Methodist Church based on Freedom of Information requests shows that people with mental health problems, are disproportionately and increasingly being sanctioned, as can be seen below:



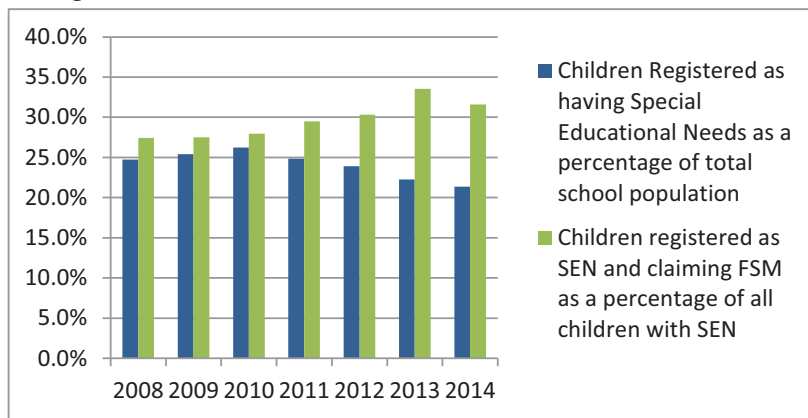
They found the people with mental health problems make up 50% of all claimants of ESA, but 60% of those sanctioned, and that this rate is increasing (Methodist Church, 2015).

Disabled children and poverty

The Children’s Society carried out analysis to estimate the number of disabled children living in poverty, and found that 36% of all disabled children lived in poverty, rising to 40% if DLA was excluded from the calculations. This compared with 30% of all children at the time (Children’s Society, 2011).

We have used free school meals data to further explore the number of disabled children in Sheffield who are also living in poverty. The chart below shows the proportion of the school population children registered as having

special educational needs (SEN) (blue bars, going down over time), compared with the proportion of all children who are registered with SEN who are also eligible for free school meals (green bars, going up over time). The overall proportion of children in receipt of free school meals had increased to 2013, in part due to increased efforts by schools and the council to increase take-up, but the proportion of children with SEN is significantly higher than the average for all children which was 20.9 in 2013/14.



School Census Data - Performance and Analysis Service (2014)

Disabled people often face additional barriers to escaping poverty. Many disabled people are either unable to work or face discrimination in finding work or progression in work (resulting in the high proportion of economic activity outlined above). At the same time, disabled people may be particularly negatively affected by poverty: families of children with disabilities or health impairments already face increased levels of stress, pressure, and financial costs, as compared to families with typically developing children, and limited mobility or other health problems may mean that inability to afford heating has more serious effects, or that an individual suffers a 'disability premium' because they cannot travel to cheaper shops.

Disability rights groups are campaigning for equivalisation to recognise the increased financial requirements that come with increased needs in a similar manner to family size. This has not been done and we have not found a way of doing this locally, but we want to acknowledge this. So when considering data about families with disabilities experiencing poverty we should keep this in mind.

People with caring responsibilities

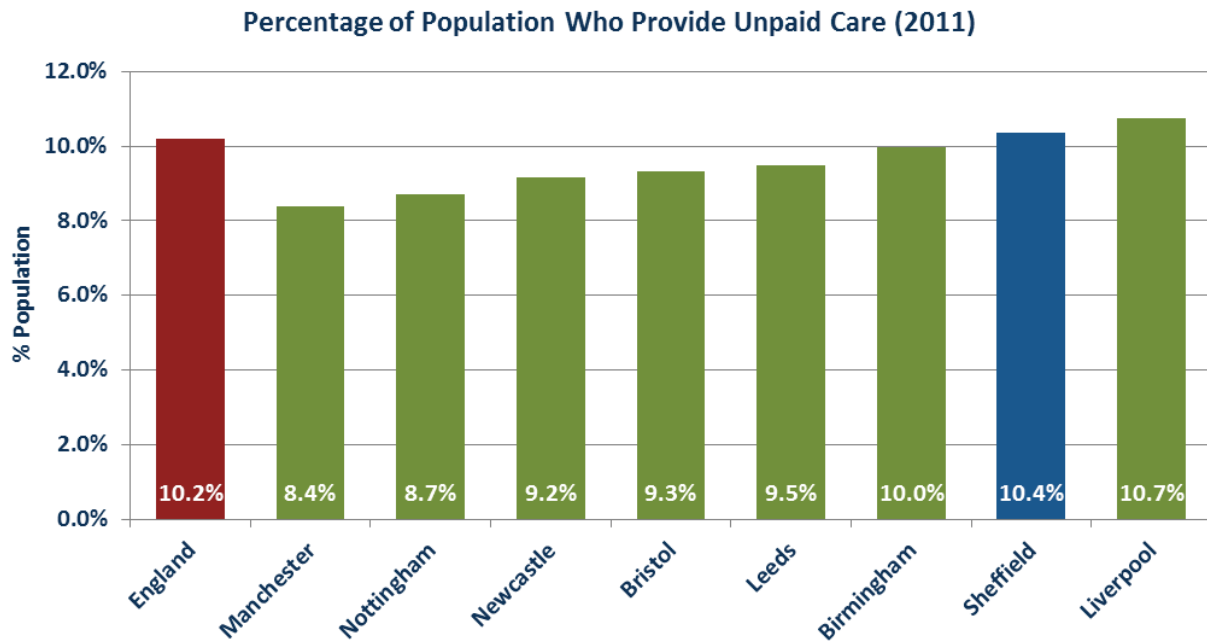
People undertaking unpaid caring roles have a decreased ability to earn income and potentially higher outgoings. In a survey carried out by the Carers' Society in 2010, 89% said that they were worse off because of their caring role, and 53% of those who worked earned less than £10,000 per year (Carer's Society, 2010).

We have not been able to compare data on caring in general with poverty data, but we know that the median family income for families including a young carer was £5000 less than families without a young carer; that young carers are over four times more likely to live in a household where no adults are in work and that young carers are 1.6 times more likely to have a mother who has no educational qualifications (Census, 2011). Whilst adult carers often have problems balancing work and caring responsibilities, young carers also have significantly lower educational attainment at GCSE level, the equivalent to nine grades lower overall than their peers e.g. the difference between nine B's and nine C's and are also more likely to become NEET (Children's Society, 2013).

Sheffield Young Carers note that 40% of the young carers that they support are caring for family members with mental health difficulties, that there are higher levels of young carers in the wards in the city with high levels of

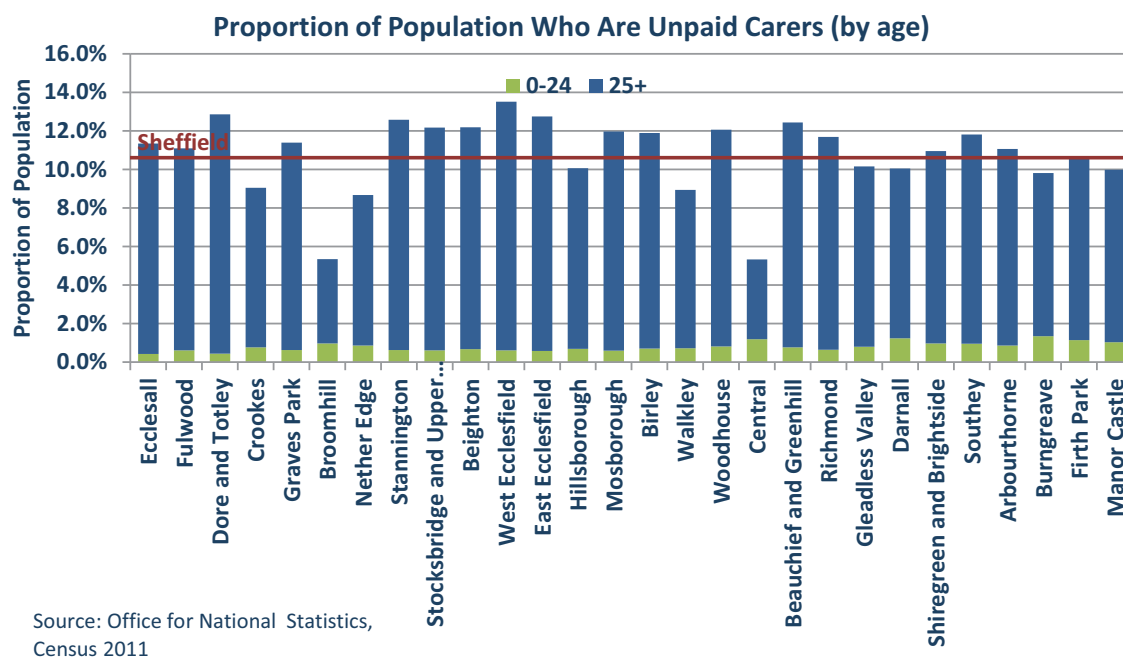
deprivation, and that children from ethnic minority backgrounds are over-represented, with 20% of their referrals are for young people from ethnic minority backgrounds (this is supported by research by the Children’s Society (2013).

In 2011 Sheffield had a higher proportion of its population undertaking unpaid care than England or most of the core cities.



Source: Office for National Statistics, Census 2011

Where people who deliver unpaid care live in Sheffield can be seen below.



Women

Women are often more impacted on poverty by men, both in terms of the numbers of women living in poverty (when measured at a household level more women are slightly more likely to be in poverty than men¹ and single elderly women and lone parents, often women, have an increased likelihood of being in poverty), and in terms of the impact on women in poverty. Within households, income is often not shared evenly and women are more likely to be in poverty as a result of their employment situation, while men are more usually in poverty as a result of family circumstances, including their partner’s employment. Women are also more likely to manage the household budget, going without to provide for other members of the family and with implications for their mental and physical health.

Women are heavily over-represented in both low pay and part-time work. This means that low-paid women are especially reliant on a partner’s earnings to lift them out of poverty, which makes them more vulnerable to poverty from family breakdown.

Older people

Nationally, policy over the past decade has aimed to reduce the number of pensioners in poverty, and pensioner poverty has reduced significantly, especially amongst single pensioners as can be seen earlier in this section. Although poverty amongst older people is still higher than we would like, over recent years, the incomes of pensioner households have continued to increase relative to those of working-age households (both BHC and AHC). Median AHC income among pensioner households overtook that of working-age households in 2009–10, for the first time since records began in 1961. By 2012–13, it was 5% higher, having been 5% lower in 2007–08 and 20% lower as recently as 1992 (Belfield et al, 2014). More recently, older people have been relatively protected from welfare reforms, and are likely to continue to be protected.

In 2010/11, 12 per cent of pensioners aged 65 and over (1.2 million individuals) were living on a low income nationally; a further seven per cent (600,000 individuals) were materially deprived; with only two per cent (200,000

¹ Material in this section is drawn from JRF, Reducing Poverty in the UK: A collection of evidence reviews, 2014.

individuals) being both materially deprived and living on a low income. The vast majority, around 80 per cent of pensioners, do not experience low income or material deprivation (Kotecha et al, 2013).

The Kotecha found that although **older people living in social housing were far more likely to be materially deprived than owner occupiers**, amongst materially deprived pensioners, **those living in social rented accommodation were less likely (40 per cent) to experience housing deprivation compared with those who owned their own homes (60 per cent)** suggesting social housing, to some extent, shields them from the full effects of material deprivation.

The higher likelihood of limited mobility and ill health amongst older people, as well as the lack of opportunity to work exacerbates poverty for older people and makes it more difficult to escape poverty. Older people may not be as able to access cheaper shops to allow them to shop around (although free bus passes are frequently cited in research as an important enabler), and there is a “strong and significant correlation” between income deprivation and loneliness (Age UK, 2010).

Locally, 24% (27,704) older people, receive pension credits in Sheffield, with 14% (10) MSOAs in the 5% most deprived in England on this ranking according to the IMD 2010 Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI).

Young people

Research by the Institute for Fiscal Studies shows that, nationally, **incomes for young people have fallen drastically**. Real incomes have fallen across the working-age spectrum since the recession, and particularly sharply for young adults. Comparing 22- to 30-year-olds in 2012–13 with 22- to 30-year-olds in 2007–08, median household income (RPI-deflated) fell by 13% BHC and 20% AHC. This compares with falls of 7% and 11% respectively for those aged 31–59 (Belfield, et al, 2014).

The earnings falls among young workers are partly due to **lower hours of work** (including more part-time work) – some of which looks involuntary, as indicators of ‘under-employment’ have risen. However, their **hourly wages have also fallen particularly sharply**. Median hourly wages fell by 11% in real terms for employees aged 22–30 between 2007–08 and 2012–13, and by just 3% for those aged 31–59 (Belfield et al, 2014). Unemployment amongst young people has also increased as can be seen in the section on [access to employment](#).

Care leavers

Although we do not have data for the numbers of care leavers in poverty in Sheffield, care leavers nationally are at high risk of homelessness, unemployment, mental health problems. For 2013/14, only 41% of Sheffield care leavers aged 19-21 were in employment or training. This compares with 45% nationally.

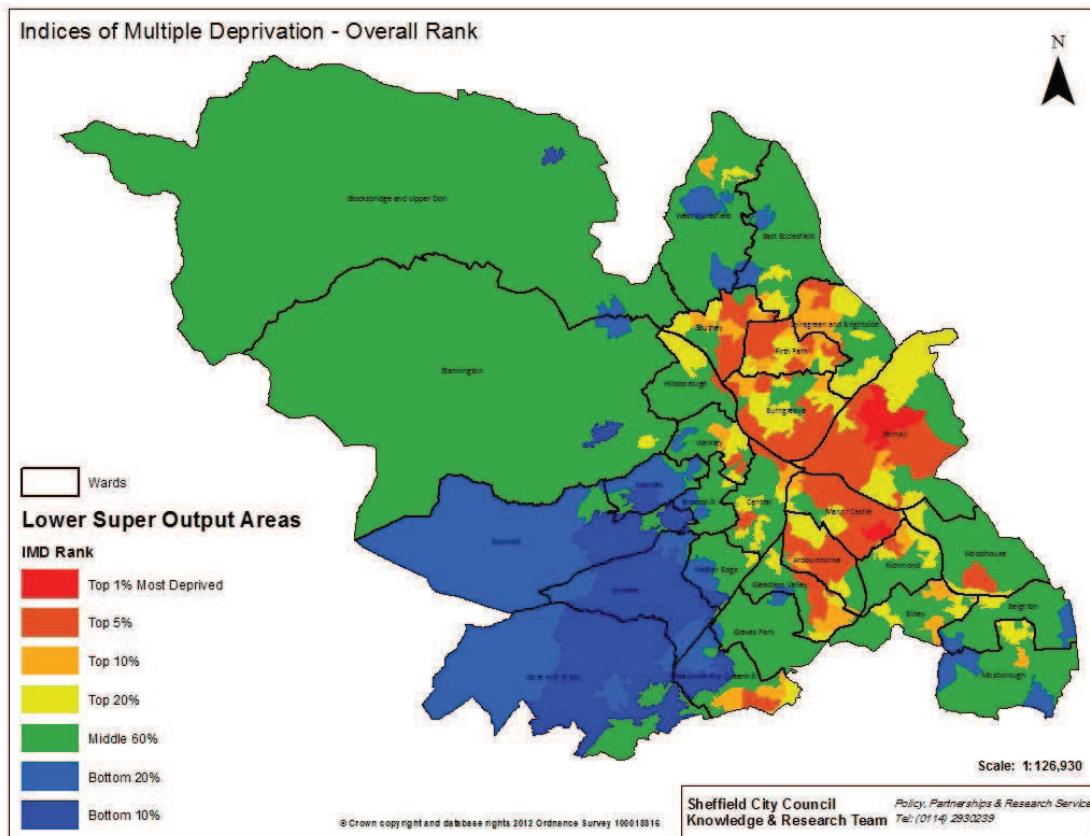
Which communities are more likely to experience poverty than others?

There is a great inequality in deprivation across Sheffield, and most of the city’s population live within relatively more deprived areas. Using the Indices of Multiple Deprivation data, there are 125,000 [22%] Sheffield people living within most deprived areas ranked as being in the worst tenth of areas nationally, and 47,000 [8%] living within least deprived areas ranked as being in the best tenth nationally (Sheffield Hallam constituency is one of only two

constituencies in the whole of the UK to have after housing cost child poverty levels of less than 10%). The series of maps and data presented below and throughout this document show the variation in need across the city.

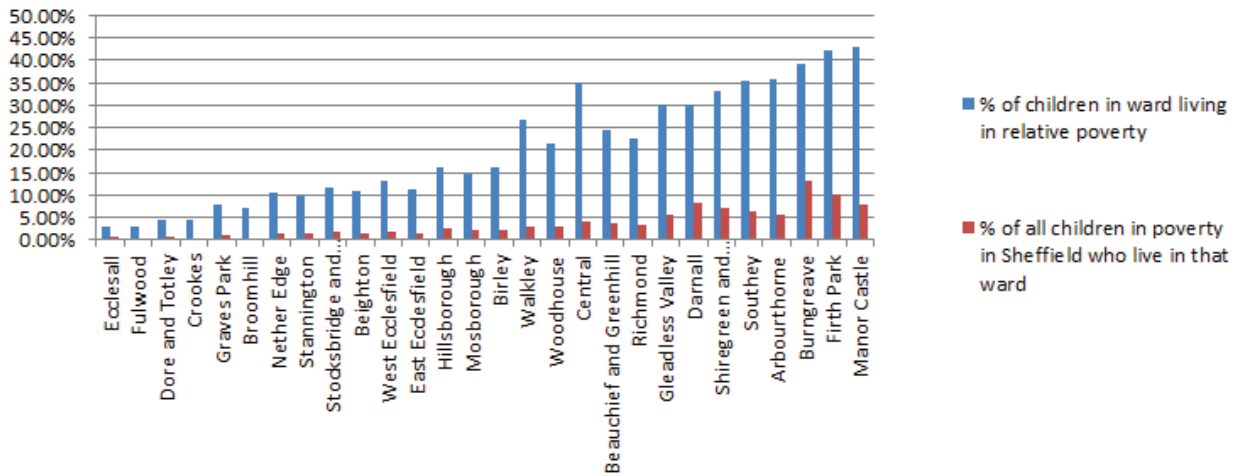
Where there are charts by ward, the chart shows wards as ranked by Indices of Multiple Deprivation from low (less deprivation) to high (worse deprivation).

The map below shows the levels of deprivation as ranked by the IMD.



We have a breakdown of where children who are in households in relative poverty are living. This is shown in the below using data from 2012. The figures in the table show two percentages for each ward. The first shows the proportion of all children in that ward who are living in poverty. The second shows the proportion of all the children living in poverty in Sheffield who are based in that ward. Both these figures are important because, taken together; they give a picture of the depth of deprivation in that ward as well as the amount.

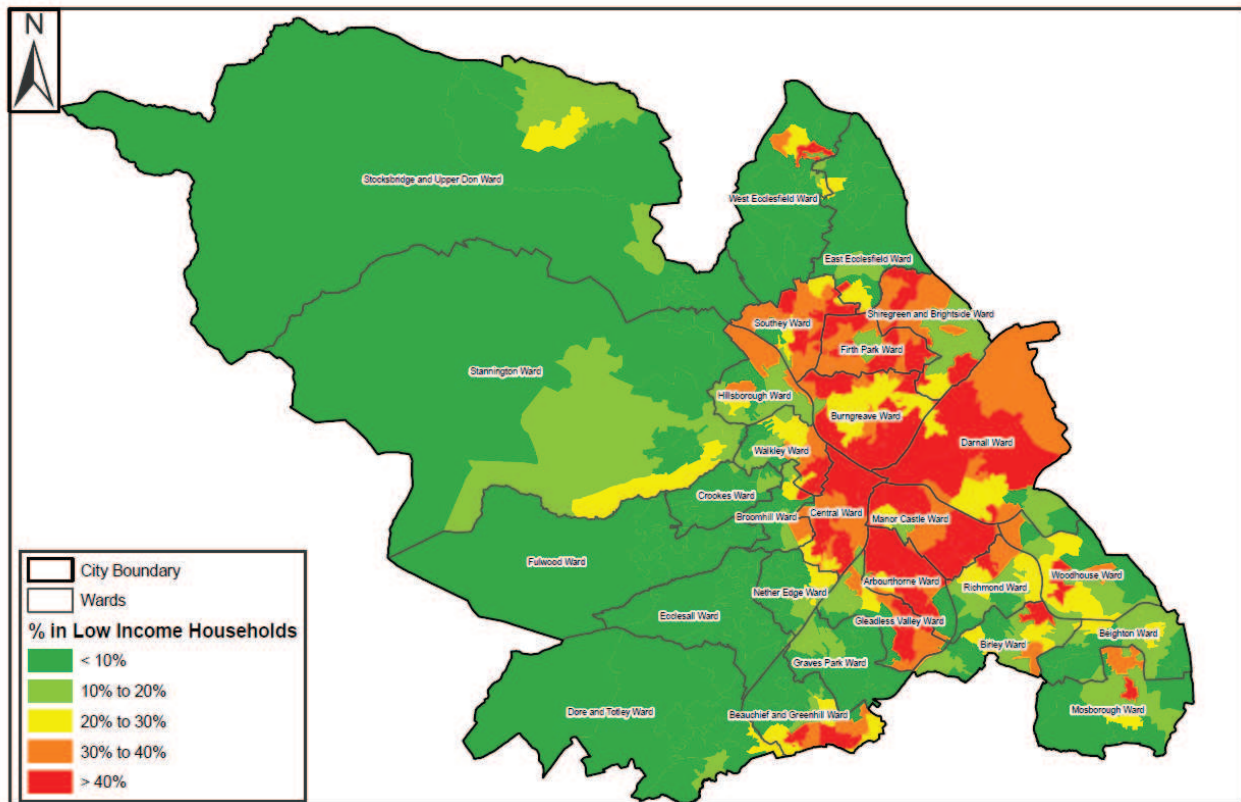
Children living in relative poverty, Sheffield, 2012



(HMRC 2014 using data from 2012)

The map below (based on 2011 data) shows that the ward level data disguises areas within wards of higher deprivation. East Ecclesfield, for example, has only 13% of children living in deprivation, but in one LSOA over 40% of children live in poverty.

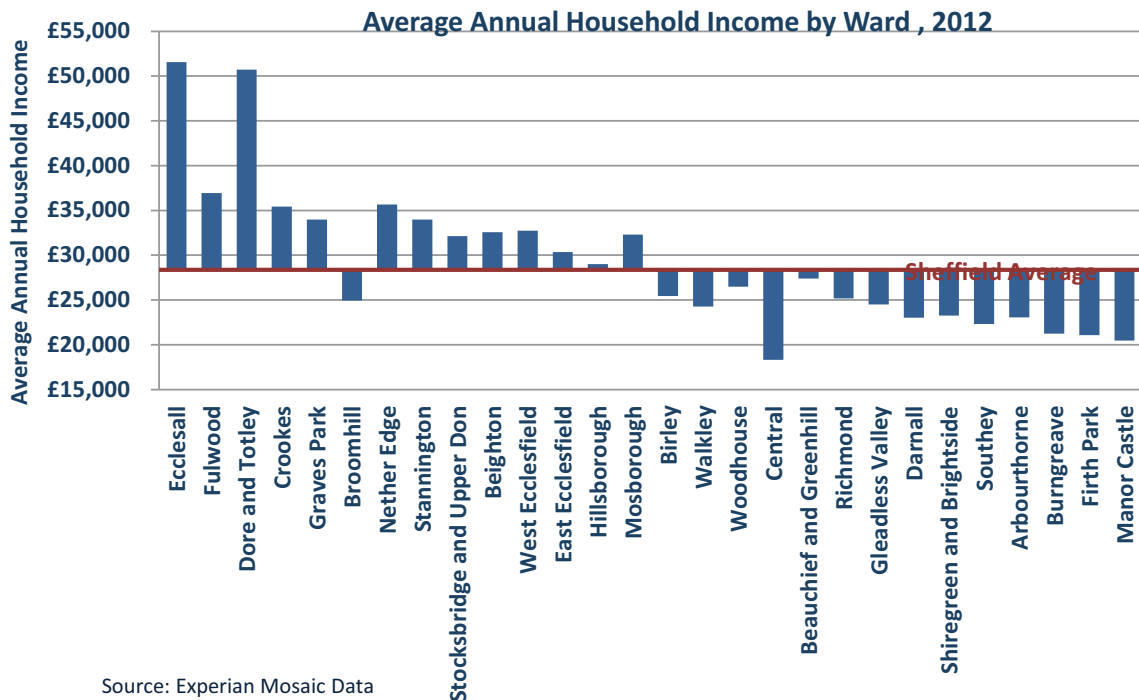
Percentage of Children in Low Income Households (Aged 0-19) - HMRC 2011



Produced by: Roland Lovatt, Performance & Analysis; Children, Young People and Families; Tel: 0114 2053410.
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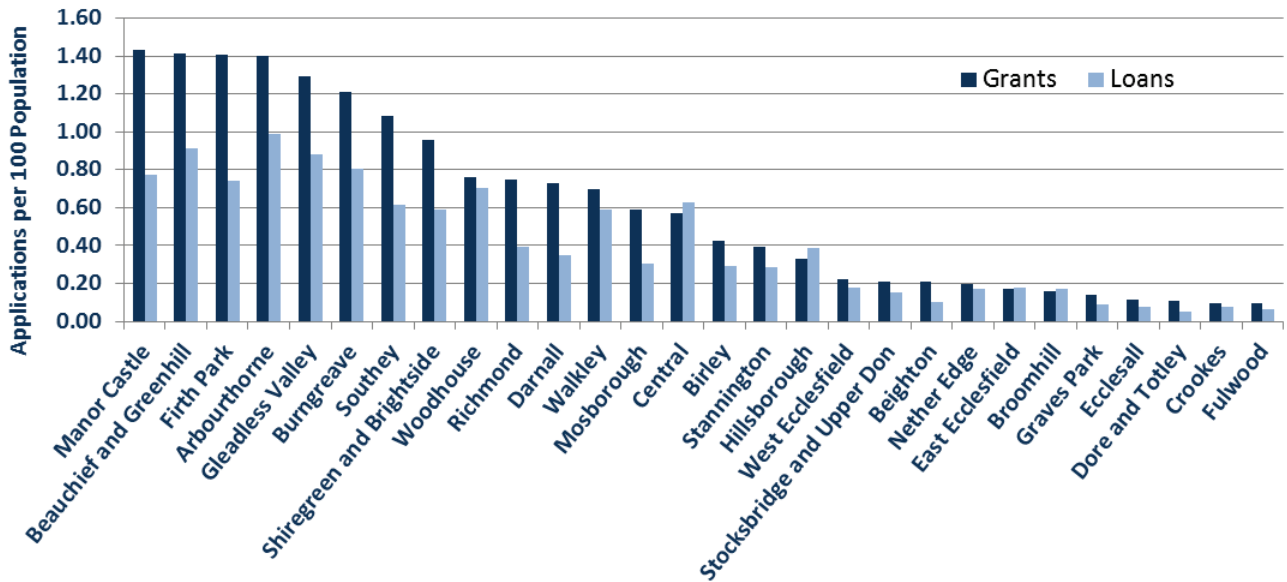
The map and chart below show the variations in annual household income within Sheffield. It is worth noting that some of this variation may be driven in part by population characteristics such as prevalence of student or pensioner households. Nonetheless, in some wards of the city average household incomes are more than 2.5 times as high as in others. This holds even when we count household income per number of adults in the household. Again, ward averages hide variations in wealth across wards, as can be seen on the map below.



The percentage of people in Sheffield who live within the 10% and 20% most and least deprived areas of England and Wales is shown below, along with the areas of Sheffield that are included within the 10% and 20% most and least deprived areas.

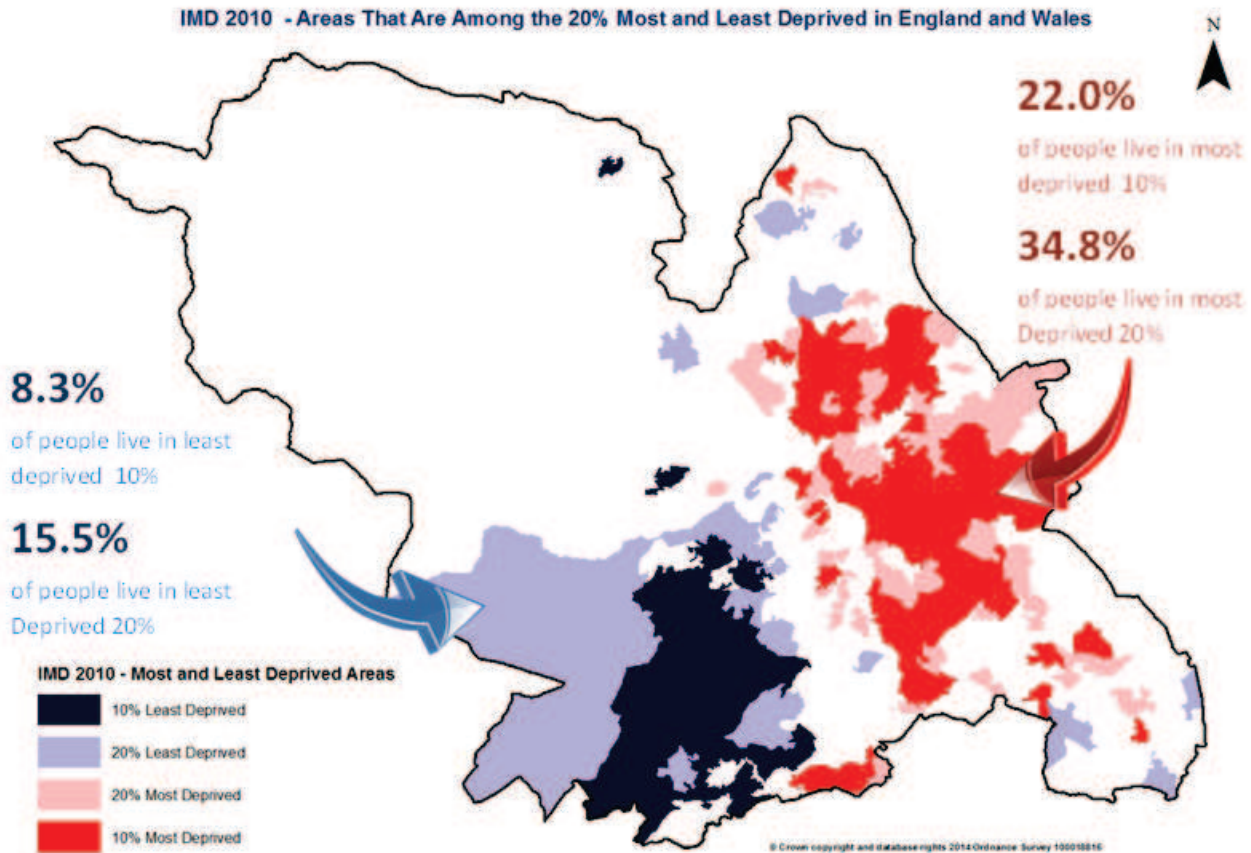
The chart below shows the percentage of people in each ward who have had to apply to the Local Assistance scheme (which began in 2013) for support.

Loan and Grant Applications to Local Assistance Scheme - 2013/14



Source: Sheffield City Council, Local Assistance Scheme

IMD 2010 - Areas That Are Among the 20% Most and Least Deprived in England and Wales



Source: IMD and NHS Sheffield Public Health Register

We know that welfare reform will impact on different parts of Sheffield vastly differently. Beatty and Fothergill (2014) have modelled the cumulative loss to households in different parts of the city and established that the financial loss per working age adult by 2018 will be five times greater in Firth Park (£800) than in Broomhill (£160). Whilst there is potential for some of this lost income to be replaced by earnings, it is highly likely that there will be a net financial reduction in income in many of the harder hit wards and to many of the hardest hit families.

The impact of living in areas of high deprivation, and community resilience

The level of income an individual or household has is important, but evidence indicates that being poor and living in an area of high deprivation can have more negative effects than being poor and living in an area without high levels of deprivation (see, for example, Stafford and Marmot, 2003). Rae (2011) considered the spatial dynamics of poverty in Sheffield and found that deprived areas in Sheffield are nearly all surrounded by similar areas. This is not the case in many other English or British cities and it is important since arguments relating to the negative impacts of ‘neighbourhood effects’ (frequently used as a rationale for policy intervention) may have greater significance in Sheffield.

Although there may be negative impacts to living in areas of high deprivation, and these may be influenced by isolation from less deprived areas and connectivity, it is important to recognise that deprived communities have assets which can be drawn upon, and that protecting those assets can be important in improving outcomes for residents of the communities. We know that some areas prove more resilient to stress than others. Research commissioned by Sheffield City Council and carried out by Sheffield Hallam University (Platts-Fowler & Robinson, 2013) considered the concept of community and neighbourhood resilience.

Neighbourhood resilience was defined as ‘the existence, development and engagement of local resources by community members to thrive in an environment characterised by change, uncertainty, unpredictability, and surprise. Different places have different bundles of resources that inform how resilient they are in the face of different stresses and pressures. Different bundles of resources are likely to promote resilience to different stresses. A community might therefore be more resilient to certain forms of change and less resilient to others.’

This report identified some areas in the city that were ‘outliers’ which were ‘doing better than might be expected given the level of stress being endured.’ It will be important to consider the features of these areas as identified in the report and follow-up work in terms of developing responses to the needs identified.

The Sheffield Cubed team leading on the Best Start Sheffield lottery bid engaged with communities in three wards in Sheffield to map and understand the assets and gaps in those areas. The common themes emerging from this consultation included concerns around the environment (places and spaces) and groups for people to attend (for example toddler groups and parent support groups).

Financial vulnerability

Financial vulnerability is a term used to describe the extent to which adverse monetary pressures can trigger financial distress for any given household. This can be determined by factors such as debt and credit, income, financial stability and security. As one participant in the Listen Up project (Sheffield Diocese, 2014) stated, for the financially vulnerable “there is a very thin line between coping and going under.” Two specific communities within the city are affected by such high levels of financial vulnerability. One is the established residential communities on the east of the city, such as Parson Cross, Fir Vale and Arbourthorne, the other, and perhaps surprisingly, are populations living in the west of the city around Crookes, Endcliffe and Broomhill, which have high populations of

students. Smaller pockets of households with high financial vulnerability can also be identified in areas such as Lowedges and Darnall. Areas often have a high a proportion of households renting from social landlords, below average household incomes and limited employment opportunities. The State of Sheffield 2015 provides further information on financial vulnerability.

Austerity means that there is reduced capacity to provide support and services

Things have changed substantially in Sheffield since we wrote our last action plan and strategy. There have been significant budget cuts already for many public sector organisations and there are more to come. This has made it more difficult for those organisations (and organisations dependant on public sector funding, such as the voluntary and community sector) to provide support to the most vulnerable people in the city. In this context, we think it is important that we highlight reducing capacity and infrastructure as an area of need.

What does poverty mean? How much people are struggling and what sorts of things they are struggling with

Sara was employed until late 2012. She claimed Employment and Support Allowance initially, due to health problems and then, since the beginning of May she has been claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. Sara receives £71 per week contributory JSA. Her partner is working as a chef but his hours have been reduced. He earns £7 per hour and works 14 -15 hours per week. He earns between £90 and £100 per week. They live in a 3-bedroomed housing association property. Their rent is £500 per month. The couple's disposable income is not sufficient for them to eat properly.

Sara's partner is on a professional cookery course at a local college. Payments towards his course will cost him £1286 this year. He is investigating opportunities to get grants.

At present Sara's partner's income is not taken into account when her JSA is calculated. Sara has been informed that her partner's income will be taken into account when she has been claiming JSA for 6 months. At this point her claim will be changed to income based JSA. This will result in a big drop in their income, only some of which will be offset by increases in Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support.

The main reason that Sara and her partner have so little disposable income is because they are subject to Bedroom Tax at 25% and live in a high rent property. They have asked for a move to a one-bedroomed flat but none have become available.

The couple have been referred to a food bank for short-term help.

In this section we look at how many people are at crisis point, and what that means to the people affected; how much debt people are in and what it costs to pay it back; whether benefit payments are on time (including when people are subject to sanctions) and what happens when people have additional needs that result in additional costs.

We know that income and cash flow is not the only thing that affects how hard up people are. The cost of living is increasing, and income levels, and particularly benefit levels have not been keeping pace. We look in this section at how much people have to spend on their homes (rent, heat, other bills), to feed themselves and their families, to get around to work, school, shopping and other places.

Increasing numbers of people in Sheffield are hitting crisis point

The data and qualitative evidence that follows, taken together, indicates that increasing numbers of people in Sheffield are hitting crisis point in terms of their money.

Urgent financial distress

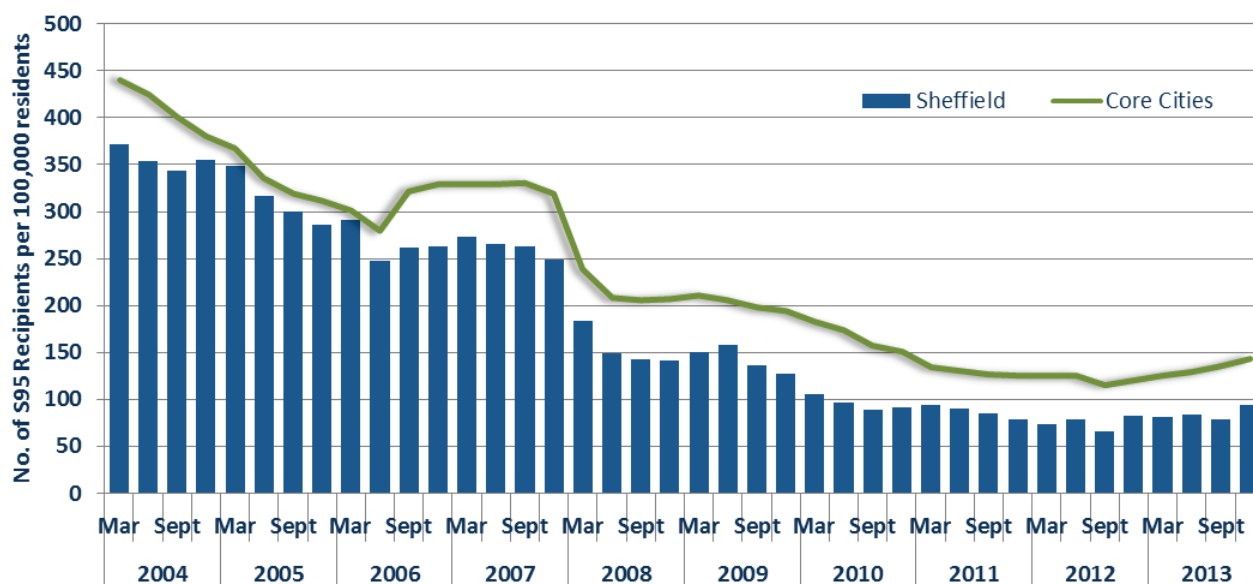
The Local Assistance Scheme started in Sheffield and replaced the centrally administered Social Fund discretionary loans and grants in 2013. Because the scheme is quite different from the scheme it replaced we cannot draw comparisons yet, but between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014, the Council received:

- 6,292 applications for assistance and 14,532 phone calls to its dedicated team;
- 2,470 applications for loans, of which 1,286 (52%) were awarded (the average loan award was £62.76); and
- 3,822 applications for grants, of which 1,961 (51%) were awarded (the average grant award was £597.97).

A high number of applications were from customers who either were not in receipt of qualifying benefits or needed assistance for an ineligible purpose – for example an advance on benefits or because benefit was sanctioned. This has been discussed with the DWP. The Government has announced that there will be no funding for the Local Assistance Scheme from April 2015 but the Council has committed to continuing a Local Assistance Scheme during 2015/16.

This next chart shows how many asylum seekers were in receipt of section 95 support (support which is available to asylum seekers who are destitute. i.e. who do not have adequate accommodation or enough money to meet living expenses for themselves and any dependants now or within the next 14 days). This figure has reduced dramatically over the past decade, partly because the decision-making process has been shortened, although there are also a relatively small number of refused asylum seekers who are either without recourse to funds or who qualify for section 4 support for those who are temporarily prevented from returning to their country of origin (as at December 2015 there were 109 people receiving s4 support in Sheffield, and an unknown number of unsupported refused asylum seekers). Those asylum seekers living on section 95 support receive benefits that are around half the cash value of income support.

Asylum Seekers in Receipt of Section 95 Support



Source: Home Office

Hunger

Based on **national** figures it is estimated that approximately 40,000 people in Sheffield are currently experiencing food poverty (Sheffield Food Strategy, 2013). The initial report from the early community engagement work undertaken recently as part of the development work for the Best Start Sheffield lottery bid identified food as the most frequently cited issue for people. Responses to our consultation also saw access to affordable food coming through as a strong theme across all groups with many respondents saying that they struggled to find enough money to eat, and raising concerns that food banks were helpful, but did not meet the need as they often only provided food for a short period of time and they do not have coverage across the city.

The Involve Yorkshire & Humber Rapid Review of Food Banks in Sheffield (2013) identified that:

- Use of food banks in Sheffield is growing and the rate of use has increased since April 2013
- Lack of income is driving use of food banks (including low wages, unemployment, changes to benefits and delays and sanctions)
- There were 16 food banks operating in Sheffield.
- Although food banks typically provide short term support, some food banks were concerned that the number of people who required more long term support was increasing.

Research by Perry et al (2014) reviewed food bank usage across a range of locations, including the Burngreave foodbank in Sheffield. Their findings replicated those found by the Involve research, and also found that only half (or less) of the users they spoke to knew they could seek support from the Local Welfare Assistance Scheme; very few of those potentially eligible had been awarded short-term benefit advances or hardship payments (n.b. there is no analysis of this question for Sheffield).

For families, hunger is often particularly acute (and money particularly short) during school holidays when children are at home and not receiving free school meals.

Debt, access to affordable credit and bank accounts

We know that debts, high cost credit and lack of access to a bank account all cause additional financial strain for people, which in turn often impacts on their wellbeing.

The two Advocacy Workers in the Southey area who are funded through HCP are now spending all their time dealing with debt advice and associated problems. They are reporting a “dramatic deterioration” in the mental health of clients and an increase in suicides. There is evidence of individuals having to make the choice between eating or heating. There are reported cases of people looking in skips for wood to burn and if unable to find anything, resorting to burning their own furniture. The advocacy workers are liaising with utility providers and other organisations to which clients owe money and are signposting on to the relevant agencies. They are working with the people who are “falling through the cracks” in terms of receiving insufficient income to cover their basic needs. Wherever possible in these cases the staff providing support look at what went wrong and what can be done to prevent reoccurrence.

Mini case-study as part of Scrutiny report on welfare reform 2014



7.3%

17,392 households in Sheffield
don't have access to a direct
payment account

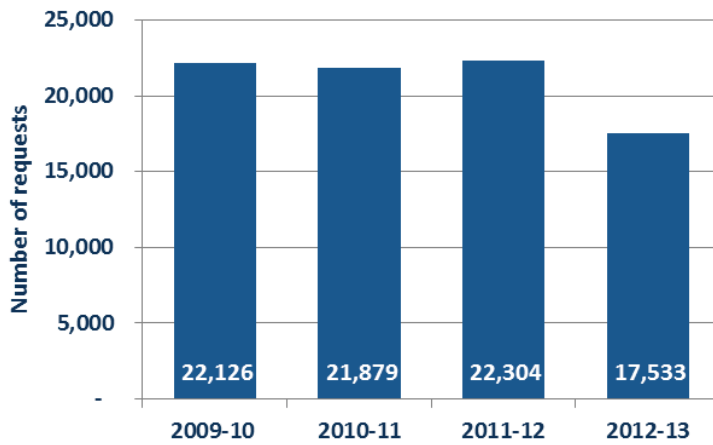
Source: Experian 2012

Lack of access to a current account increases the cost of goods and services because paying by direct debit is often a cheaper option than paying periodically without direct debit, and also makes it difficult for people to access affordable credit.

A recent report on affordable credit in Sheffield has estimated that around 34,000 people in Sheffield use payday loans each year, and around 20,000 doorstep borrowers each borrowing an average of £650. In total, the report estimates that around **12% of the Sheffield population rely on non-standard (i.e. high cost) credit**. Debt advisers report doorstep lending as remaining a big issue, and payday lending as a growing problem. **Crucially, the biggest problems involve people who have taken several loans from different sources, who often have spiralling loan debt on top of ‘straight’ debt such as council tax, rent and fuel** (Jeffries and Truin, 2013).

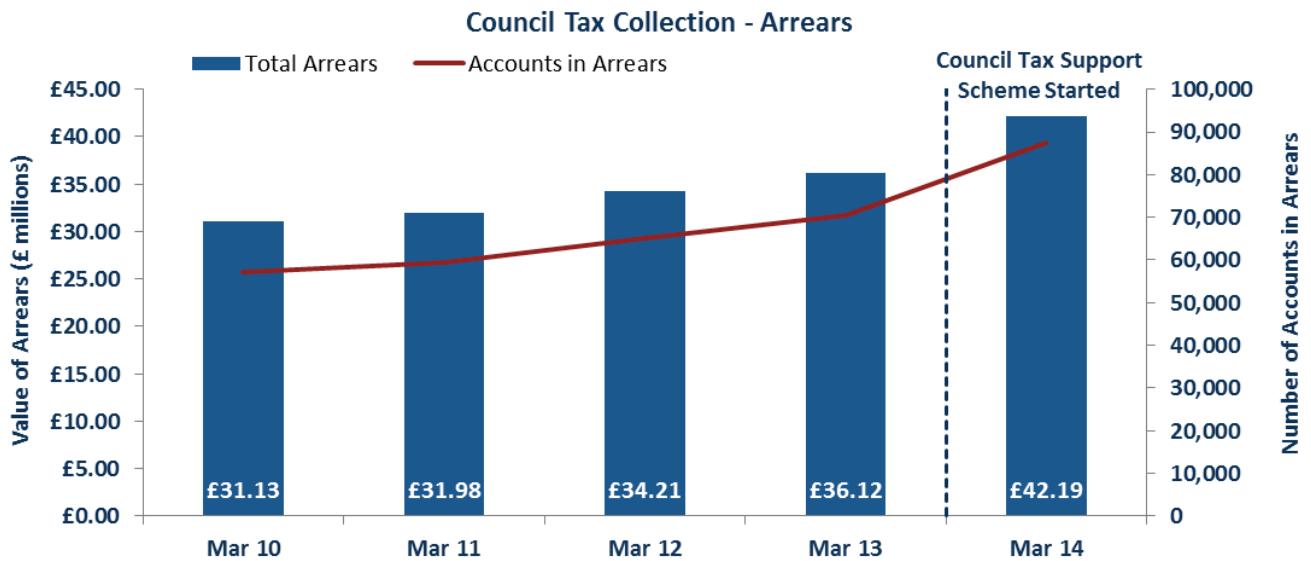
Advice providers in the city report that problem debt is becoming increasingly problematic for clients. This next chart shows the number of requests processed by advice centres marked as debt advice. The drop-off in requests in 2012-13 reflects reduced capacity in the advice sector along with reduced information monitoring (due to reductions in funding) rather than a reduced demand for services.

Advice Centre Requests: Debt Advice



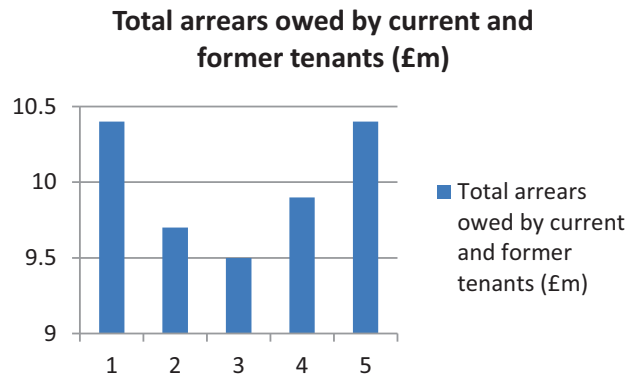
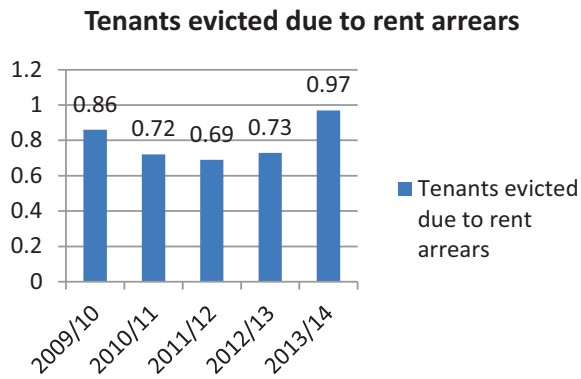
Source: Sheffield City Council, Voluntary Sector Liaison Team

The chart below shows the significant increase in council tax arrears following the implementation of the Council Tax Support Scheme which coincided with the commencement of charging all working age people in Sheffield at least 23% of their Council Tax (where before they may have been eligible for full support).



Source: CAPITA Local Government Services

Rent arrears have also increased amongst council housing tenants (we do not currently have figures for private sector tenants or tenants of RSLs).



Source: Sheffield City Council

Homelessness and housing issues

Homelessness in Sheffield has reduced significantly in recent years. The graph below shows homeless acceptances per thousand households in Sheffield compared with the core cities average over time (note that for two years as shown data is unavailable for both Birmingham and Manchester so the average is of core cities minus these two). There has been a national reduction in homeless presentations over the last decade until 2010, when the rate of both presentations and acceptances has started increasing. To date, Sheffield is not seeing an increase, although the future impact of the welfare cuts may have an impact on homelessness.



Source: Department for Communities and Local Govt. and Sheffield City Council, Care and Support

a. Birmingham data unavailable
b. Manchester data unavailable

It is also important to look at some of the other housing problems people living in and at risk of poverty face. Frequent housing moves are problematic: they are expensive and especially unsettling for children who may either find it more difficult to attend school or may need to move school. Below we have shown the percentage of council

housing properties that were quit within two years for the calendar year 2013 broken down by area. We don't yet have an area breakdown for more recent data but in 2013-14 fiscal year, the Sheffield figure was 30% and to end of May 2014, the figure is running at 25.4%. There has been focused effort on reducing this to below 30%.

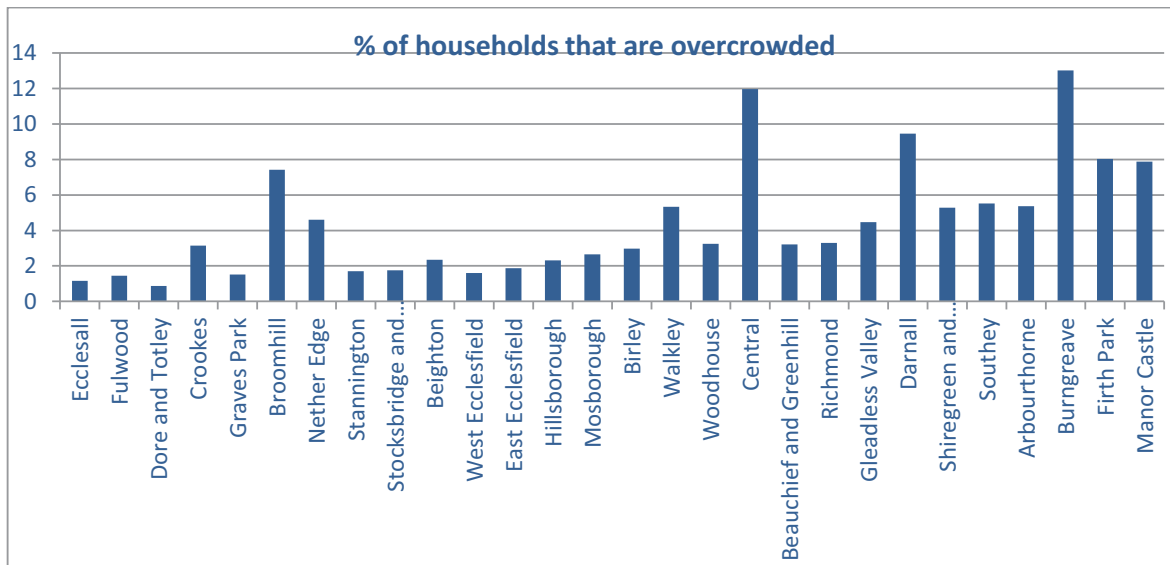


Next we have looked at overcrowding within homes by ward in Sheffield. Overcrowding harms family relationships, negatively affect children's education and cause depression, stress and anxiety (Reynolds, 2005). 'Overcrowded' is defined here as those dwellings having a bedroom occupancy rating of -1 or less.

The Occupancy Rating provides a measure of under-occupancy and over-crowding. For example a value of -1 implies that there is one room too few and that there is overcrowding in the household. It relates the actual number of rooms to the number of rooms 'required' by the members of the household (based on an assessment of the relationship between household members, their ages and gender).

More from ONS on occupancy calculation can be found here:

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadMetadataDownloadPDF.do?downloadId=188>



Source: Census 2011

Fuel poverty

The definition of fuel poverty has changed recently. Under the new definition of fuel poverty (Low Income High Cost definition), a household is considered to be fuel poor where they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level), and were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line. Previously a household was said to be fuel poor if it needs to spend more than 10 per cent of its income on fuel to maintain an adequate level of warmth.

The estimated number of households who were living in fuel poverty (using the new definition) in Sheffield in 2012 was 26,604 or 11.3% of households (DECC 2012 sub-regional fuel poverty data: low income high costs indicator). This represents a slight increase from 2011 using the same measure (25,899 households or 11% households).

Using the old methodology and definition, the figures for the same year were 41,591 or 17.7% (DECC 2012 sub-regional fuel poverty data: 10% indicator). Using the old measure, this is a slight increase from 2011 (17.6%) and a decrease from 2010 (18.3%).

DECC recently undertook a review of the methodology used to produce sub-regional estimates of fuel poverty, in conjunction with the ONS Methodology Advisory Service. This work found that estimates of fuel poverty were robust at local authority level, but were not robust at very low level geographies.

At a national level, the latest fuel poverty statistics show that the following groups are more likely to experience fuel poverty:

- Those in the private rented sector (around twice the proportion of private rented households are in fuel poverty, compared with owner occupiers and social renters).
- Lone parents are the group most likely to be fuel poor, with approximately one in five being so in 2012. However, they tend to have smaller fuel poverty gaps, on average, than most other household types.
- Households containing children and young people - where the youngest person in the household was under 24 are much more likely to be fuel poor than those containing only older people, also where the oldest person in the household was aged 16-24 they were more likely to be fuel poor

- Older households - where the youngest person in the household was aged 75 or over tend to have the highest average fuel poverty gaps, also as the age of the oldest person increases so does the fuel poverty gap (the frailty and lack of mobility of many older people means that fuel poverty is also particularly dangerous to their health and wellbeing).
- Larger households (5 or more) tend to both be more likely to be fuel poor, and in deeper fuel poverty (with larger fuel poverty gaps)
- Households where the HRP is unemployed tend to be much more likely to be fuel poor (nearly a third are) than those where the HRP is working, but have smaller average fuel poverty gaps.
- Vulnerable households tend to be more likely to be fuel poor than non-vulnerable ones, and have larger fuel poverty gaps on average.
- Households paying for their electricity or gas by pre-payment meter are more likely to be fuel poor than those paying by other methods, with direct debit customers being least likely to be fuel poor.
- Households living in purpose-built flats are much less likely to be fuel poor (only 3% are) than those in other types of dwelling, and have the smallest average fuel poverty gaps.

Lack of access to opportunity

Lack of money frequently costs people the opportunity to lift themselves from poverty, and even to stop their poverty from getting worse. This can be acute (not having money to get to a job interview, or to get to the Job Centre, resulting in being sanctioned) or chronic (for example children not being able to study courses requiring equipment costs).

We live very close to the edge... we don't have many things. My 17 year old needed a passport to get a part time job and I had to say no. My youngest, who's 14, has never been on a school trip, and I can't supply the art supplies my other son needs for his course.

(Emergency Use Only)

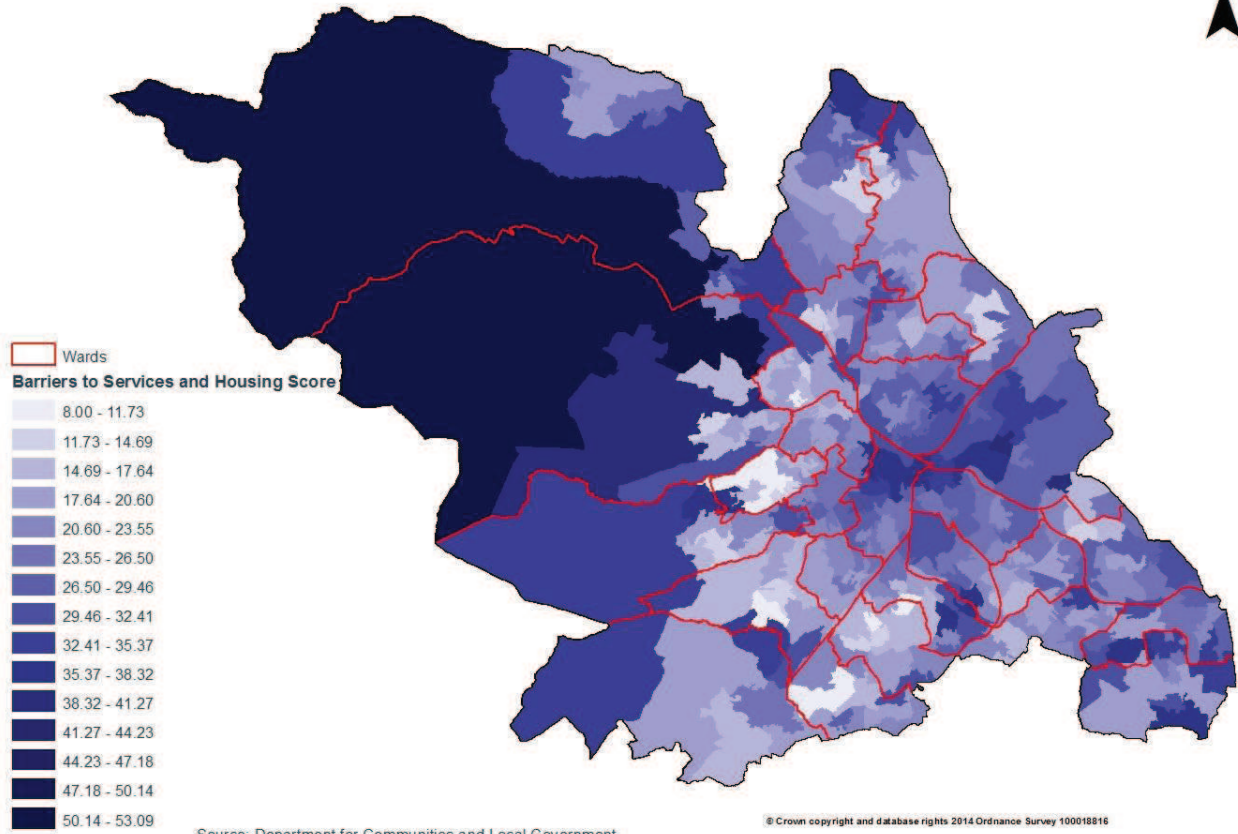
Access to services

The Barriers to Housing and Services domain makes up 9.3% of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation score. The domain is comprised of the following indicators:

- **Household overcrowding:** The proportion of all households in an LSOA which are judged to have insufficient space to meet the household's needs.
- **Homelessness:** The rate of acceptances for housing assistance under the homelessness provisions of housing legislation.
- **Housing affordability:** The difficulty of access to owner-occupation, expressed as a proportion of households aged under 35 whose income means that they are unable to afford to enter owner occupation.
- **Road distance to a GP surgery:** A measure of the mean distance to the closest GP surgery for people living in the LSOA.
- **Road distance to a food shop:** A measure of the mean distance to the closest supermarket or general store for people living in the LSOA.
- **Road distance to a primary school:** A measure of the mean distance to the closest primary school for people living in the LSOA.
- **Road distance to a Post Office:** A measure of the mean distance to the closest Post Office for people living in the LSOA.

The map below shows the proportions of people who are identified as having greater or lower barriers to services.

Indices of Multiple Deprivation: Barriers to Housing and Services

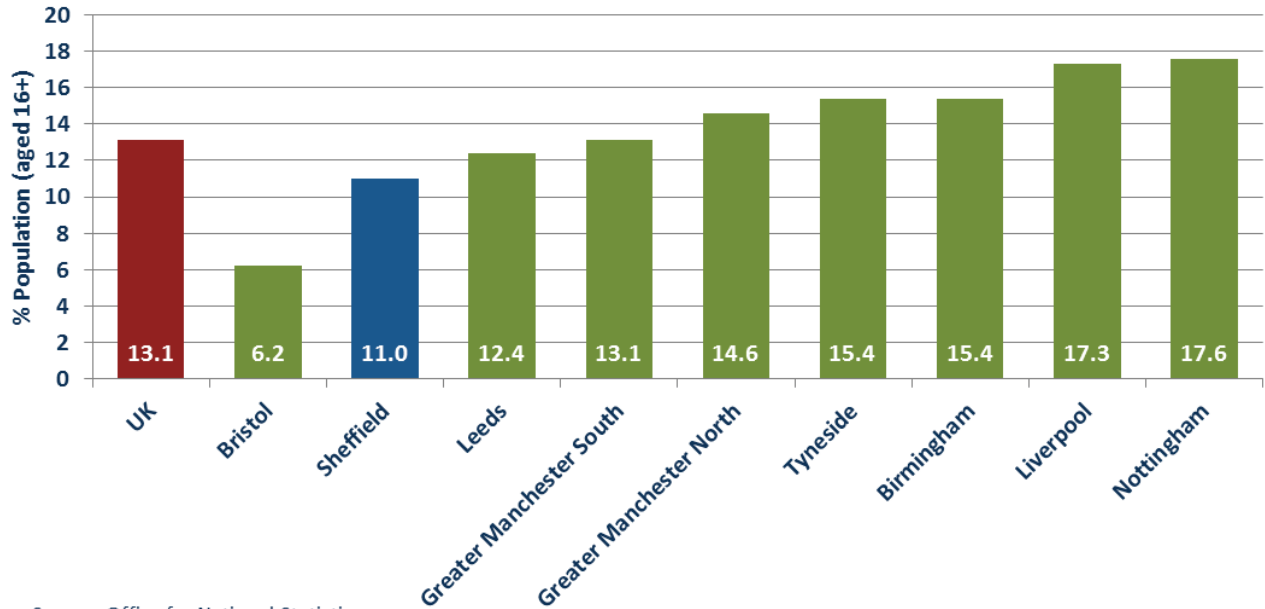


Internet

Increasingly, jobs, services and discounted rates are available online, and those who do not have easy access to the internet are disadvantaged in these areas. Research published by the JRF this year found that, for the first time, pensioners considered internet access to be a necessity because of the need to buy cheap goods and services and to communicate with children and grandchildren. Most UK children access the internet either at home or at school: just 13% go online less than once a week and only 3% are non-users (Livingstone and Helsper, 2007). Low socio-economic status children are disproportionately represented in that category. A number of studies seem to show that digital inclusion can lead to better educational attainment, and research by the Child Poverty Commission found that students were often penalised and disbelieved by teachers if they were unable to complete work because of a lack of IT facilities at home (Holloway et al, 2014).

The following chart shows how many people in Sheffield have never used the internet.

Percentage of Population (aged 16 and over) who have never used the internet



Source: Office for National Statistics

The 11% increases to 35% amongst Sheffield Homes tenants, and the seemingly high levels of usage hide narrow usage (those who use social media and similar sites only) and low levels of usage amongst different demographic groups. We do not have a good measure to suggest how many people do not have regular access to the internet. Libraries provide access to free internet across the city, and smart phones also provide opportunities for those who are able to afford them.

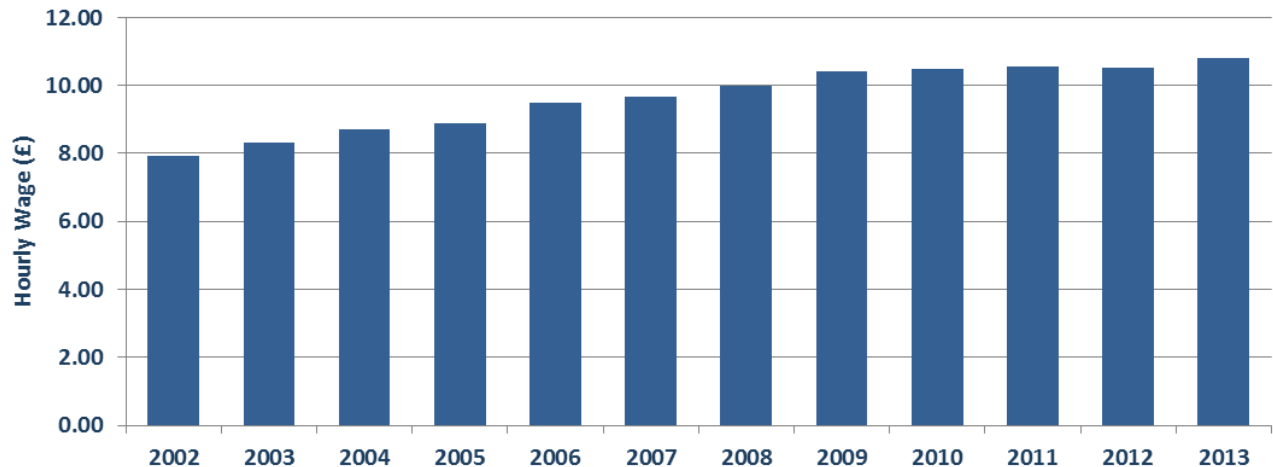
Physical access to online services is not the only barrier to access: 78% of Sheffield Homes tenants asked by the Income Management Team stated that they would need support with online communication.

Cost of living

It's helpful to understand how much things cost in Sheffield because increasing costs also cause people financial hardship. Data on the cost of living is largely not readily available below national level, so we have used Sheffield data where available, and national data otherwise. We have tried to include data on the main basic costs of living. The following sections show that costs have been increasing with sharper increases in recent years – each element has a slightly different pattern as shown below.

We have started by showing the average (median) gross hourly pay in Sheffield over time so that we can set the increasing cost of living in the context of changes in levels of average earned income. Although average income has increased, as the graph below shows, the rate of increase has slowed since 2009.

Median Gross Hourly Pay in Sheffield



Source: Office for National Statistics

Housing

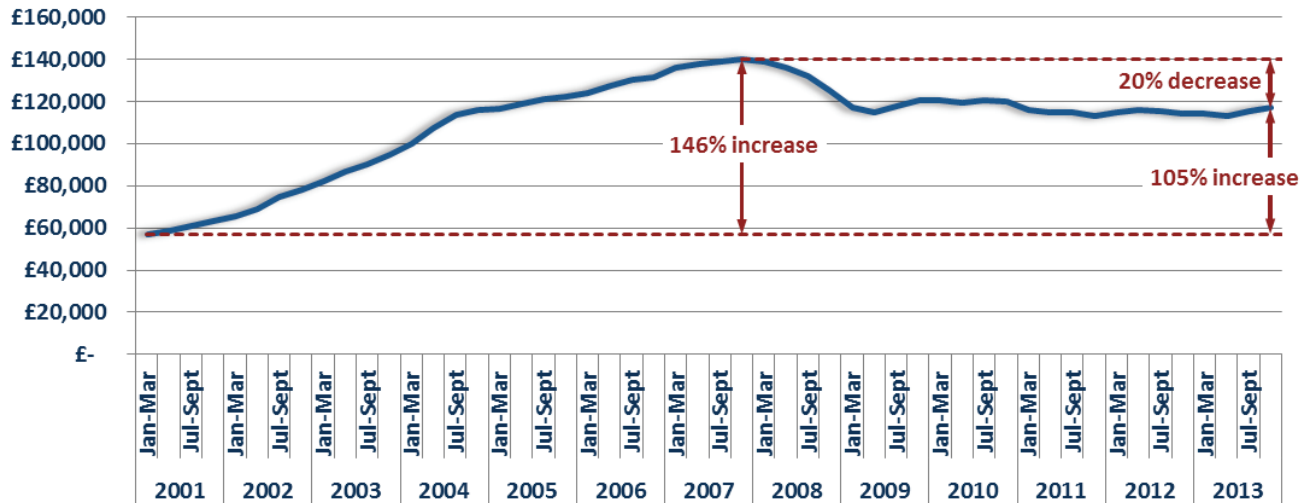
"I would say rents are quite high...so if I can't do overtime I can't buy extra things that I probably would...I just cut back on certain things to be able to afford to pay for the next rent and everything" (North east, social rented, White British, 36) Sheffield SHMA Annex 1: Home Truths II p.34.

"I know I wouldn't be able to afford a mortgage. Even if I could save I wouldn't be able to afford it when I lived there, I'm trained to work with children and it's just minimum wage...I can't even afford to rent privately because that's too expensive as it is" (North east, social rented, White British, 23).

Although house prices have fallen in recent years this has had only a relatively marginal impact on affordability in the city. The average price to income ratio in Sheffield remains high at 4.88, although this represents an improvement since 2007 when the average ratio was 6.62.

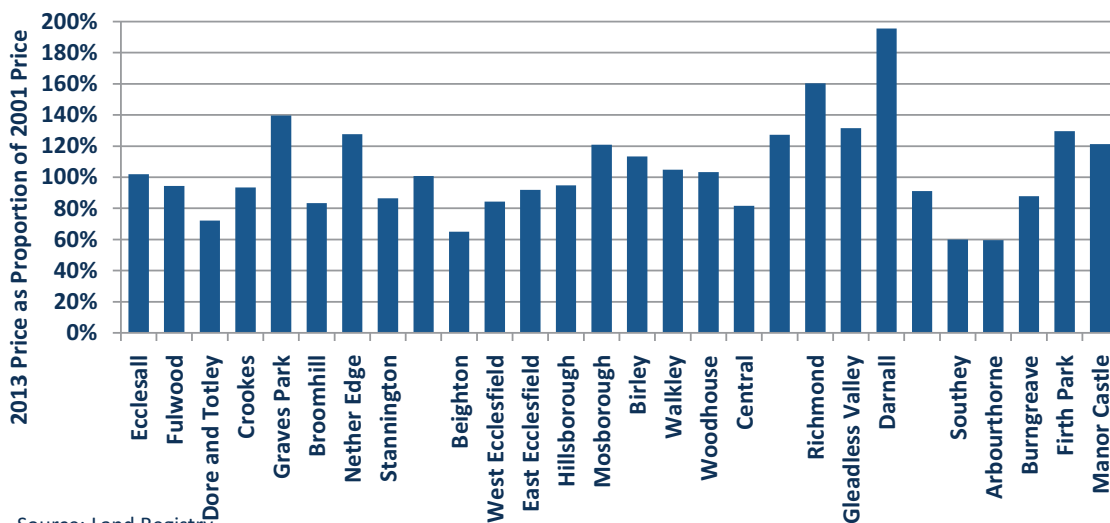
The charts below show the costs of housing (both home ownership and rental), transport, fuel and food. We have been able to look at ownership and rental prices by ward and whilst there are variations in prices and price change, there does not appear to be an association between changing housing costs and deprivation or affluence: it is notable that both the largest increase and decrease in house price are experienced by two of Sheffield's poorest wards.

Average House Prices in Sheffield



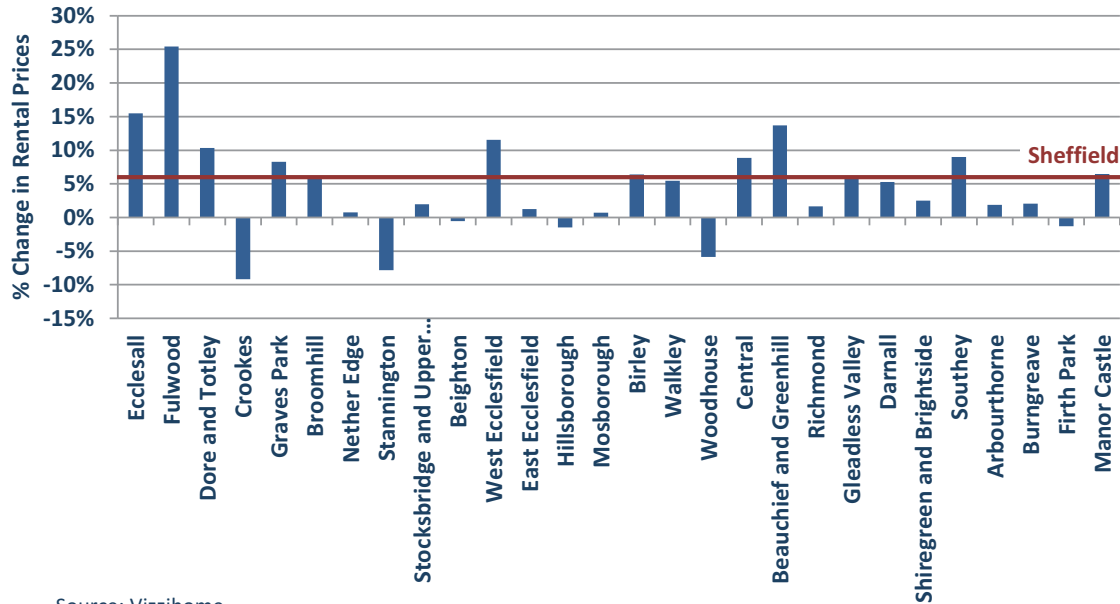
Source: Land Registry

Increase in Average House Prices by Ward from 2001 to 2013



Source: Land Registry

Change in Average House Rental Prices between 2010 and 2013



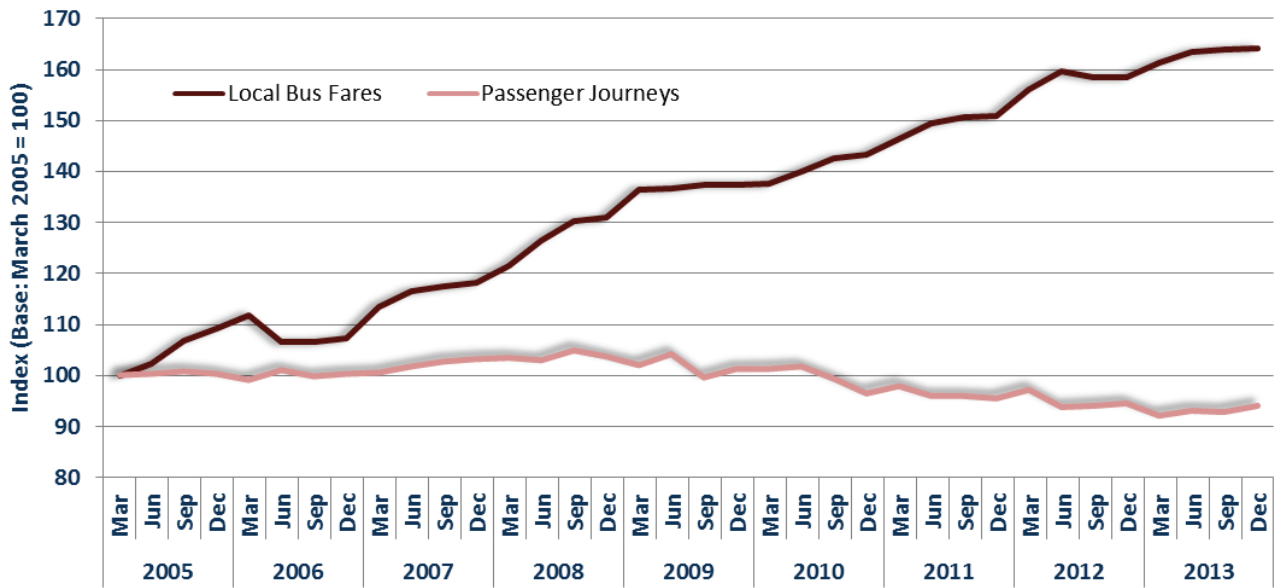
Source: Vizzihome

Transport

We don't have local data on transport costs. This is something we would like to explore further. What we can see from the national figures is that there has been an increase in transport costs of all types, although motor vehicle costs have flattened in the last couple of years for which we have data. Just about all households with above-average incomes have a car but half of low-income households do not (National Travel Survey July 2010 using data from 2009). Access to public transport is therefore even more critical for those with low incomes, in terms of access to essential services and for getting to work. Although the over 65s have free bus travel, this only starts at 9.30 which has been reported to cause difficulties for older people accessing hospital appointments.

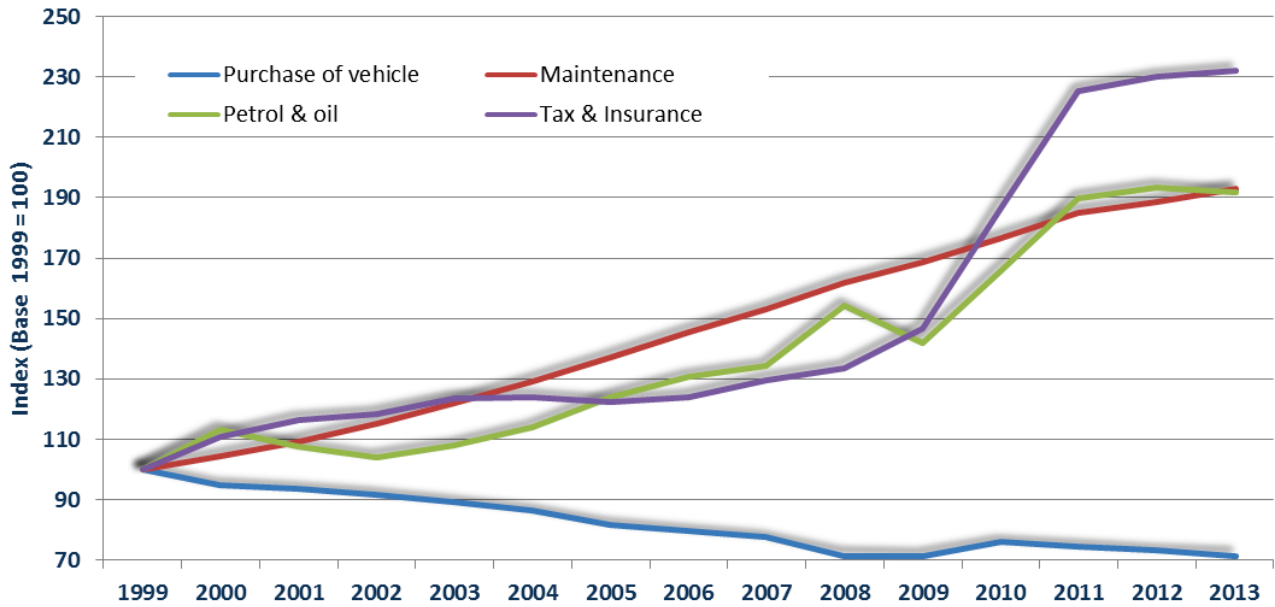
The JRF report on living standards (Davis et al, 2014) found that transport costs have increased not only in terms of increased fuel and fare costs but also because fewer public transport links mean that people have to supplement more with taxis.

Changes in Fares and Number of Passenger Journeys on Local Buses in English Metropolitan Areas



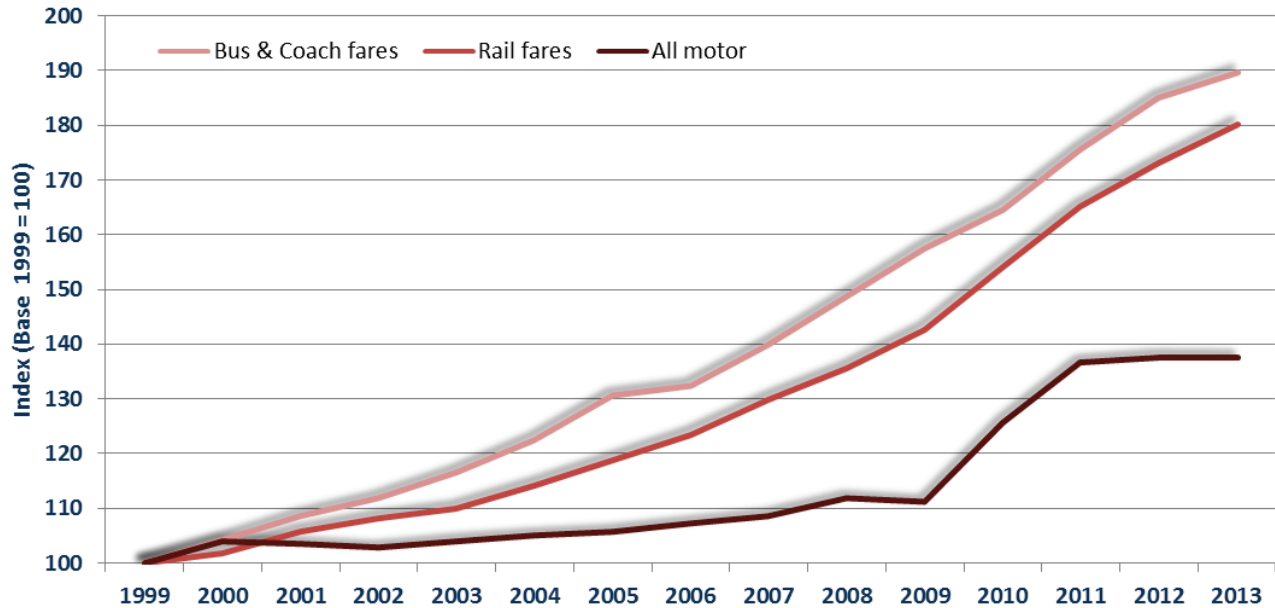
Source: Department for Transport

Retail Prices Index: Motor Vehicles Components: 1999-2013



Source: Office for National Statistics, Consumer Prices and Inflation Division

Retail Prices Index: Transport Components: 1999-2013

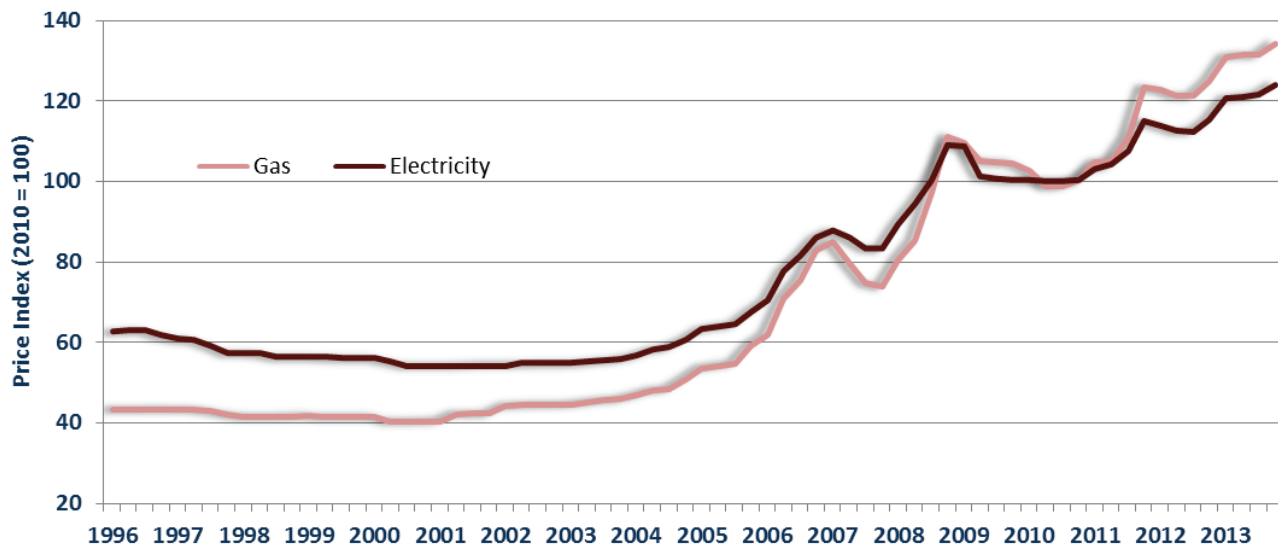


Source: Office for National Statistics, Consumer Prices and Inflation Division

Fuel costs

The chart below shows the significant overall increase in fuel costs over the past 6-7 years.

Retail Price Index: Gas and Electricity - Base Year = 2010



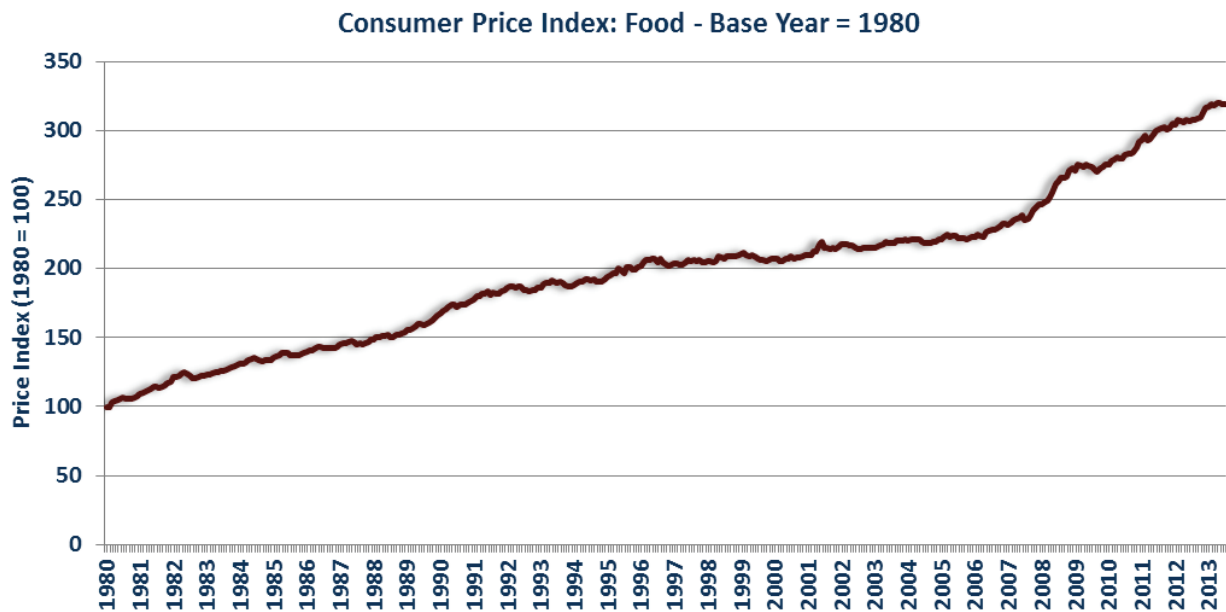
Source: Office for National Statistics, Consumer Prices and Inflation Division

Fuel costs are particularly high for people living in private rented housing where the state of repair and fuel efficiency tends to be of a lower standard than social rented housing.

Food costs

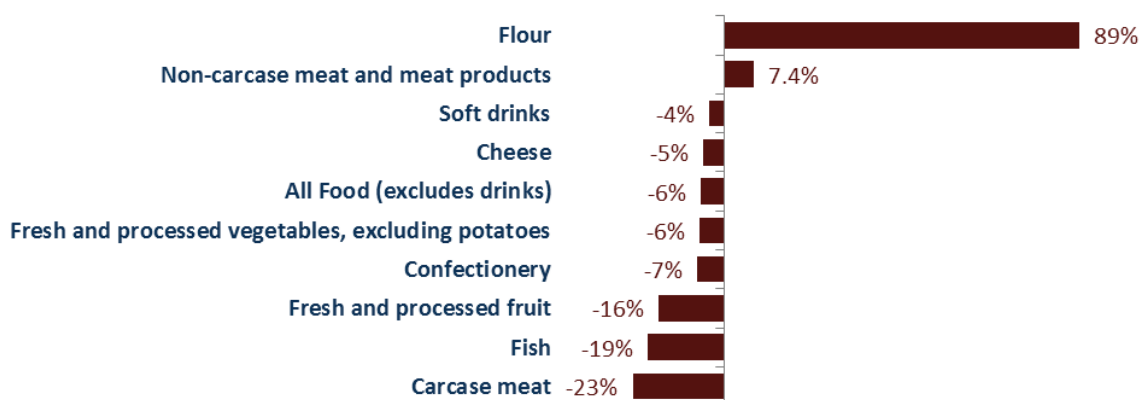
The two charts below show national information about food costs and spending patterns. The first chart shows the increase in cost of food over time, rising more steeply in recent years. The second chart shows the percentage change in spending on different food types by low income households between 2007 and 2012. Research carried out by the JRF into living standards in the UK for that the cost of a minimum food shopping basket has increased faster than general food inflation. This appears to be associated with prices of lower cost food rising more than the average food basket, so people who are reliant on basic food lines are feeling the pinch more than better off people (Davis et al, 2014).

In the UK an average 11.6 per cent of all household spend went on food in 2012. For the lowest 20 per cent of households by equivalised income it was 16.6 per cent, 1.4 percentage points above the 2007 level. Food is the largest item of household expenditure for low income households, after housing, fuel and power costs. On average, UK households purchased 4.7 per cent less food in 2012 than in 2007 while spending 17 per cent more. They saved 5.6 per cent by trading down to cheaper products. Households in income decile 1 (lowest income group) spent 22 per cent more on food in 2012 than in 2007 and purchased 5.7 per cent less. Trading down saved these households 1.0 per cent. (DEFRA, 2013).



Source: Office for National Statistics, Consumer Price Index

Percentage Change in Food Purchases 2007-2012, in Low Income Households (UK)



Source: Family Food in 2012, Defra, December 2013

Free school meals for all infant children is anticipated to increase access to free school meals to children living in poverty who would not have been eligible for pasported Free School Meals, although the knock on impact on pupil premium (which is payable to schools for every child who is claiming free school meals based on income, and used to support their achievement) is uncertain.

Education

For families with children, the cost of education can be very challenging. Recent research carried out by the Child Poverty Commission found that on average, they spend £800 a year on school costs (Holloway et al, 2014). The £800 total includes £168 on school meals, £159 on school uniform and sports kit, £82 on travel costs and £167 on school trips.

More than two-thirds (70%) of parents say they have struggled with the cost of school. This rises to 95% of parents who live in families that are 'not well off at all'. At the same time, more than half (52%) of parents said they had cut back on either clothing, food or heating to afford the cost of school. Nearly half (47%) cut back on clothing, 28% on food and 29% on heating.

A quarter (25%) of parents (and more than half of those in families which were 'not well off at all') said they had borrowed money in order to afford the cost of school. This impacts on children's choices and opportunities, and also on their emotional well-being. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of children in families who are 'not well off at all' said they had been embarrassed because they couldn't afford a cost of school. More than a quarter (27%) said they had been bullied as a result.

Computers and an internet connection at home are increasingly necessary for children to complete their homework. Three in ten children whose family is "not well off at all" said they had fallen behind at school because their family could not afford the necessary computer or internet facilities at home.

Poverty premium

It is broadly accepted that poorer people often pay more for goods and services than better off people. Whilst no research has been carried out to quantify the total cost of the poverty premium or how many it affects, Hirsch (2013) considers the poverty premium in relation to utilities, and finds evidence of the existence of a premium as a result of

the high cost of credit in purchasing white goods and the lesser tendency amongst poorer families to shop around for utilities. At the same time, there is less conclusive evidence of a poverty premium for food (Europe Economics and NPI, 2010).

How many people are affected by the most negative impacts of poverty?

A recent review of research carried out by the JRF found that, as with children, the amount of money that a person has impact on their outcomes, with increased income improving mental health and happiness, as well as reducing the incidence of domestic violence (Cooper and Stewart, 2015).

In this section we consider what the impact of poverty is for people and for Sheffield, and how many people are affected by the most negative aspects of poverty including:

- the relationship between poverty and health
- the impacts of childhood poverty on people's lives
- links between poverty and the criminal justice system.

Individuals pay the highest price for poverty, but poverty and inequality also have costs for the community and city as a whole. In this section we also look at estimates of the financial impact for Sheffield of child poverty.

Health conditions associated with poverty

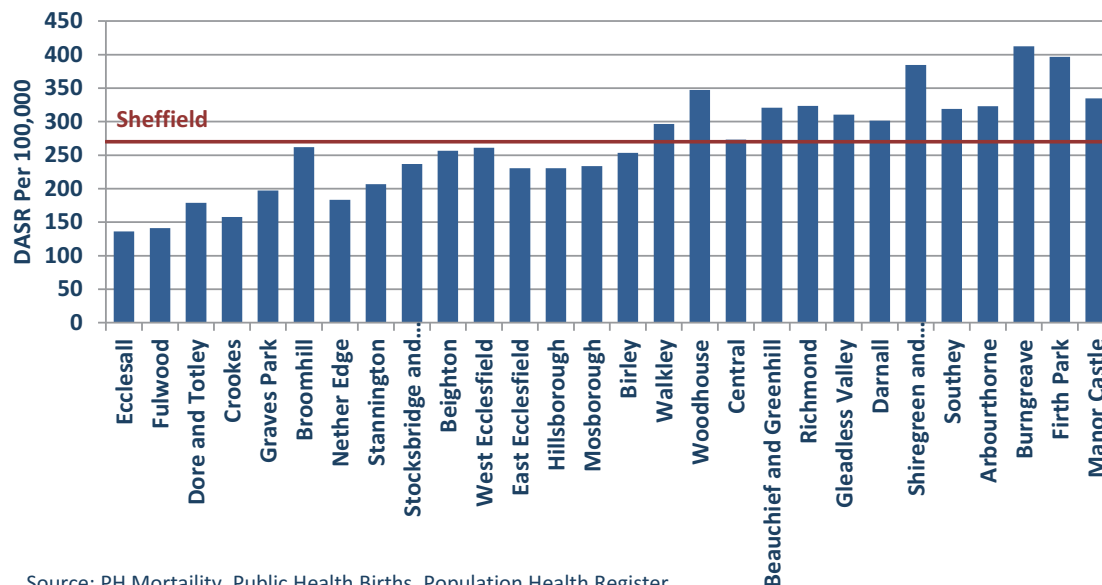
Relationships between health and poverty are complex, with health conditions frequently playing a part in reducing people's income, but **many conditions are also caused and worsened by poverty.**

Despite huge improvements in health over the years, **the burden of ill health, disability and early death remains greater among the most deprived in our society.** Indeed the gap in health and wellbeing between the most and least deprived has, in some cases, widened.

Premature mortality

For example, if we consider the pattern of deprivation and premature mortality (deaths in people under the age of 75 years) across Sheffield's wards it can be seen that those **areas that experience most deprivation continue to experience a greater level of premature mortality than the less deprived.**

Mortality of People Under the Age of 75, 2010-2012



Source: PH Mortality, Public Health Births, Population Health Register

The graph above shows that **the rate of premature mortality from all causes of death is almost three times greater in Burngreave than it is in Ecclesall**. Premature mortality includes infant mortality and this is also greater among more deprived communities. Specifically, the **infant mortality rate is more than a third greater in the most deprived areas of Sheffield compared with the least deprived**.

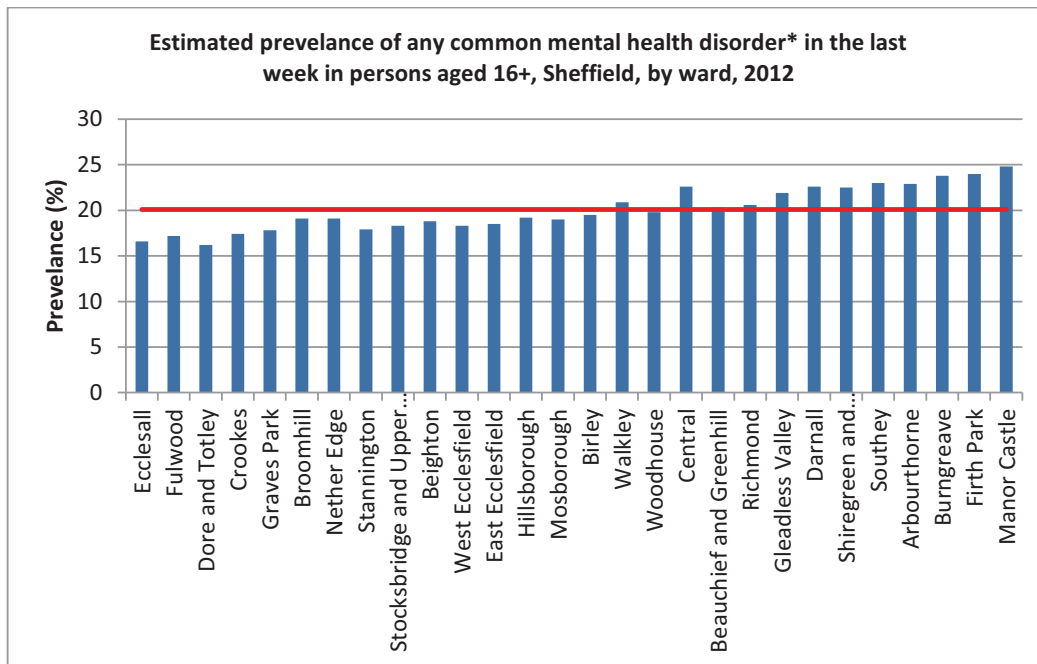
Disability free life expectancy

We are sadly, all too familiar with the variation in premature mortality across the different communities in the City, but differences in *disability free life expectancy* are significantly greater.

Disability free life expectancy at age 16 is the number of years that a person of that age can expect to live without disability (which for this purpose is defined as living without illness or disability that limits their daily activity, as self-reported). Whereas the gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived men in Sheffield is 8.7 years and 7.4 years for women, the gap in disability free life expectancy between the most and least deprived is nearly twice as much. This means that **not only do people from disadvantaged communities die earlier than those from better off backgrounds, but they live for a longer period with disability before dying**.

Mental health

Mental health problems are more prevalent in deprived areas, and money shortages are known to be a clear cause of stress. The below graph shows the prevalence of mental health disorders by ward, and we can, again, see the correlation with deprivation.



Source: Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey 2007 with iAPT workforce capacity tool deprivation adjustment, PHR populations by age/sex

*Includes mixed anxiety and depression, generalised anxiety disorder, depressive episode, all phobias, obsessive compulsive disorder, panic disorder

Health trainers are reporting an increase in clients seeking support for mental health problems – e.g. depression and anxiety, connected with financial worries. There are also reports that the anticipation of future changes to income is causing increased stress and anxiety for many people – i.e. for those people whose income has not yet been affected, stress and anxiety levels are still increasing as they are living with the worry of how they will cope in the future if their income decreases.

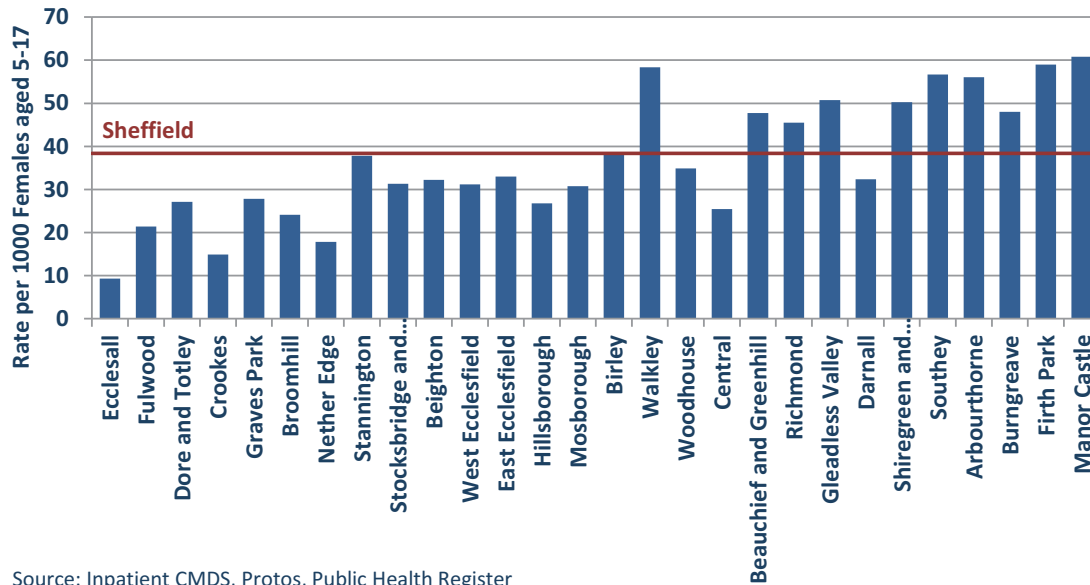
Evidence given as part of Scrutiny report on welfare reform 2014

Child and maternal health

Some health issues, such as the health benefits of breastfeeding or the damaging effects of smoking in pregnancy, remain as important today as they always did; more so in the context of a rising birth trend. Child and maternal health is a key indicator of the overall health of a population not least because a good start in life provides the foundation for a healthy adult life.

When we consider child and maternal health in the context of poverty however, it becomes clear that early experiences of deprivation, disadvantage and poor health can have significant and long-lasting adverse consequences for people’s longer term health and their life chances more broadly. As the following graphs show, the variation in maternal and child health across Sheffield’s wards reflects the variation in deprivation that we have previously charted.

Teenage Conceptions (Age <18), 2009-2011

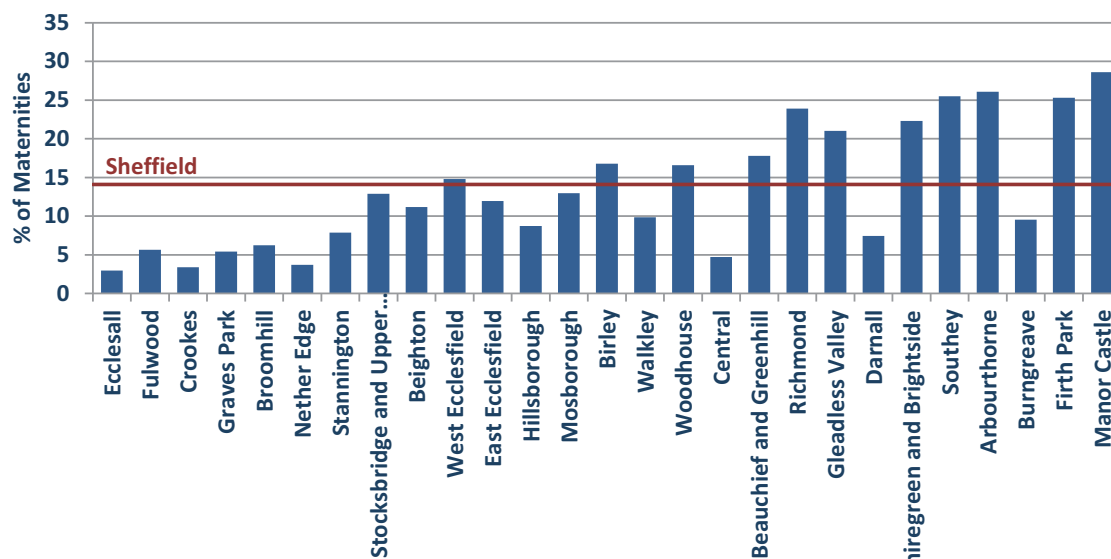


Source: Inpatient CMDS, Protos, Public Health Register

Although teenage conceptions are falling in Sheffield (in all wards) the graph shows that there are still significant differences between Sheffield’s communities with the **teenage conception rate being around 6 times greater in Manor Castle than it is in Ecclesall**. Teenage pregnancy is strongly associated with low birth weight, poor neonatal outcomes and reduced life chances for the mother.

Smoking in pregnancy is strongly related to socio-economic status and is a major driver of health inequality in the City. At any one time, there are approximately 600 pregnant women in Sheffield who smoke, and when we consider the difference in the proportion of mothers recorded as being smokers at the birth of their baby, we see that the gap is even greater than teenage conceptions, with the proportion of **mothers who are recorded as being smokers at the time of delivery in Manor Castle being around 10 times greater than that in Ecclesall**.

Mothers Recorded as Smokers at Delivery, 2013



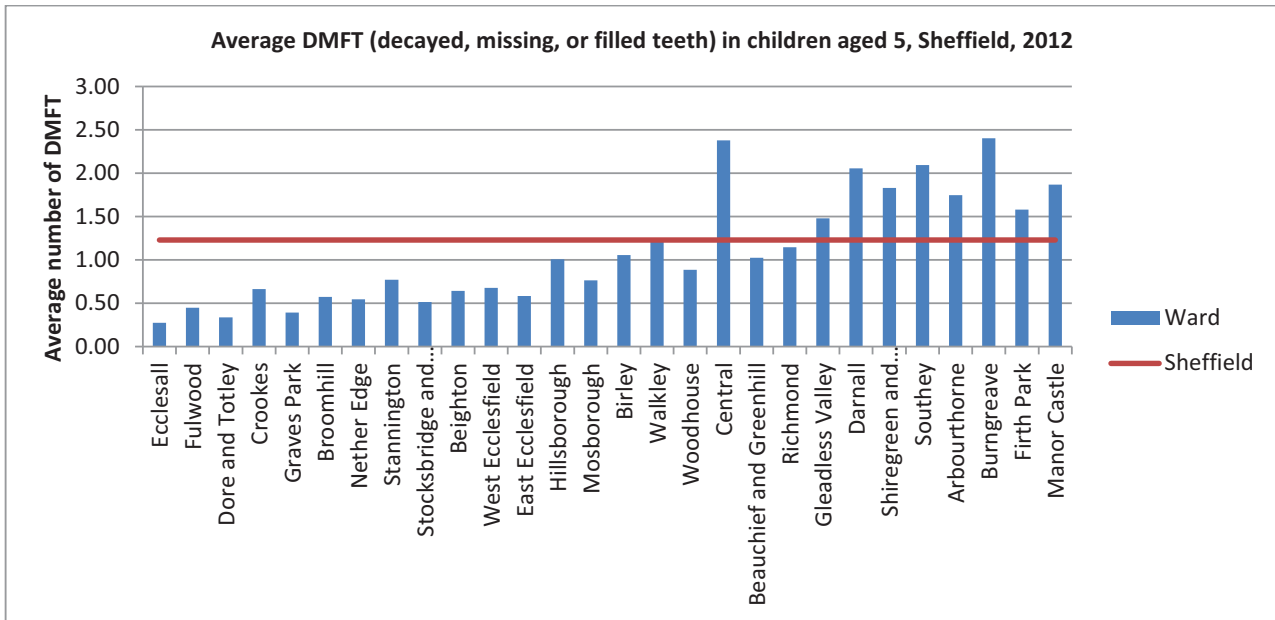
Source: Protos

Dore and Totley data suppressed due to low numbers

Pregnant women who smoke are more likely to have a premature baby, or a baby with a low or very low birth weight. Such babies are at higher risk of asthma and bronchitis and other diseases. Passive smoking is also harmful to the foetus and the newborn.

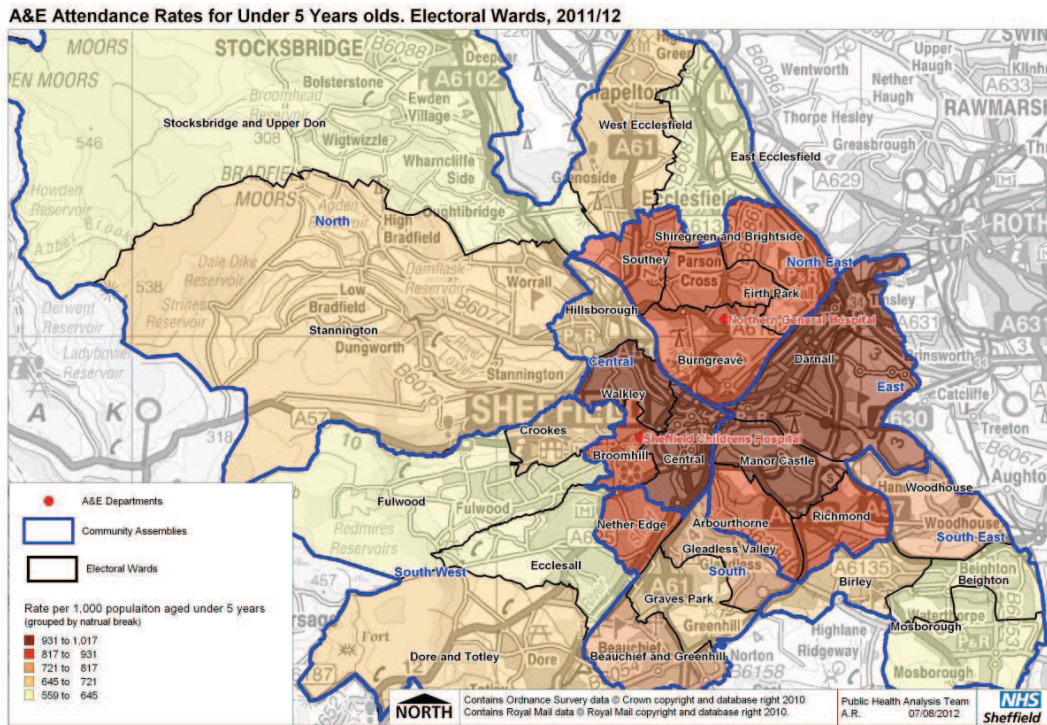
Parental mental health and emotional wellbeing are also significant factors for children’s outcomes and there appears to be a two-way relationship between poverty and stress. Increased stress can be caused by poverty and this in turn can have an impact on parenting capacity. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation commissioned a systematic review in October 2013 entitled ‘Does money affect children’s outcomes?’ (Cooper & Stewart, 2013) which demonstrates how **lack of money can act through stress and impaired parenting capacity to result in worse cognitive, social-behavioural and health outcomes for children** and the Sutton Trust’s Baby Bonds report (Moullin, Waldfogel, & Washbrook, 2014) finds that ‘insecurely attached children are less resilient to poverty, family instability, and parental stress and depression.’

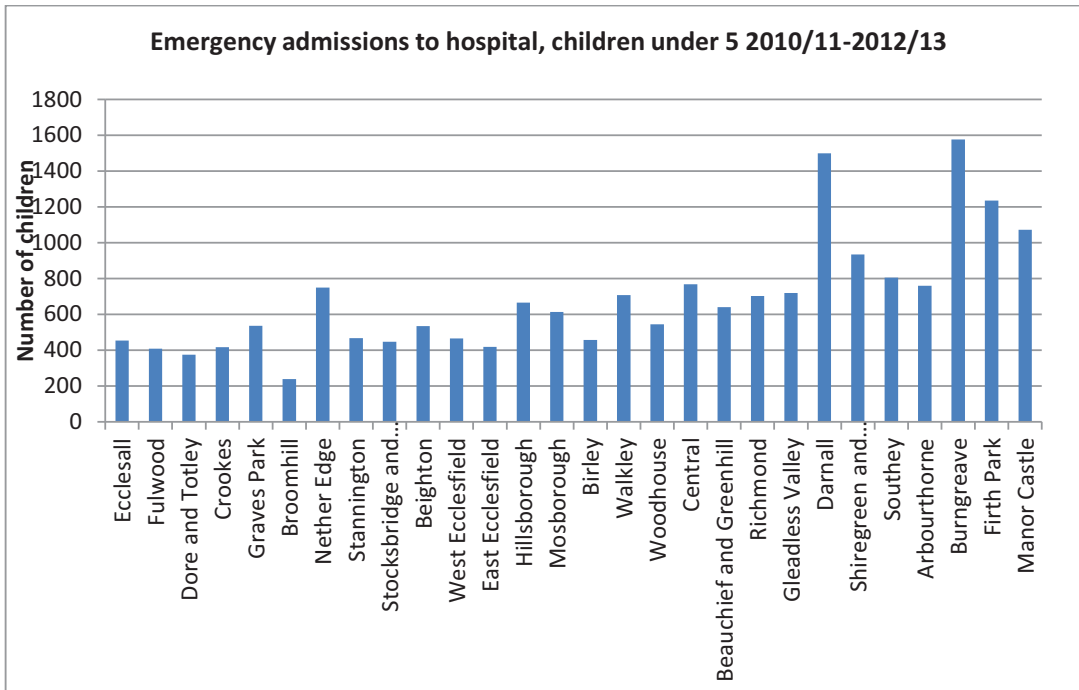
The prevalence of **decayed, missing or filled teeth in children aged 5** is closely correlated with deprivation, and is also an indicator of poor nutrition levels. These levels can be seen in the graph below.



(Source: Public Health England)

Accident and Emergency (A&E) usage by under 5 year olds across Sheffield also varies by ward. The highest rates of A&E attendances by 5 year olds are in Darnall and Manor/Castle as well as in wards close to the Children’s Hospital (i.e. Walkley and Central). The high rates in areas of greater deprivation will reflect a mix of causes, including usage of A&E facilities rather than primary health care, but figures for emergency *admissions* to hospital also show a similar pattern, indicating that children in more deprived areas are at greater risk of requiring emergency care.





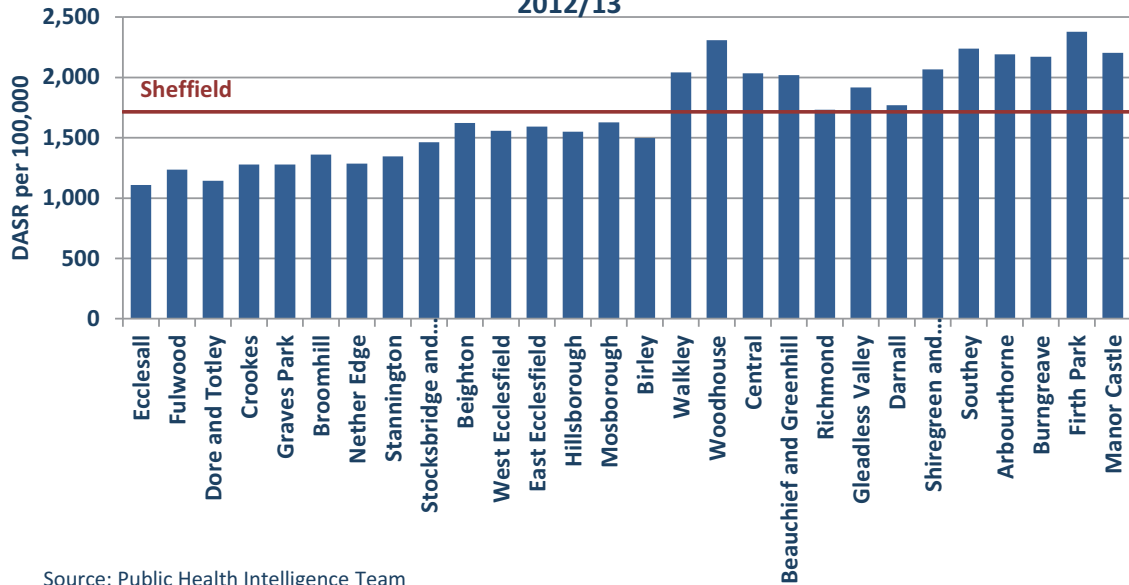
Source: Public Health Intelligence Team, 2014

By and large, whichever measure of health we choose to use, be it mortality (e.g. premature deaths), morbidity (e.g. level of ill health) or behaviours that can damage health (e.g. smoking or alcohol abuse), we will see the same pattern whereby areas that experience greater levels of deprivation also experience worse health. Moreover, this cycle of disadvantage, poor health and further disadvantage is reinforced from one generation to the next.

Alcohol and substance misuse

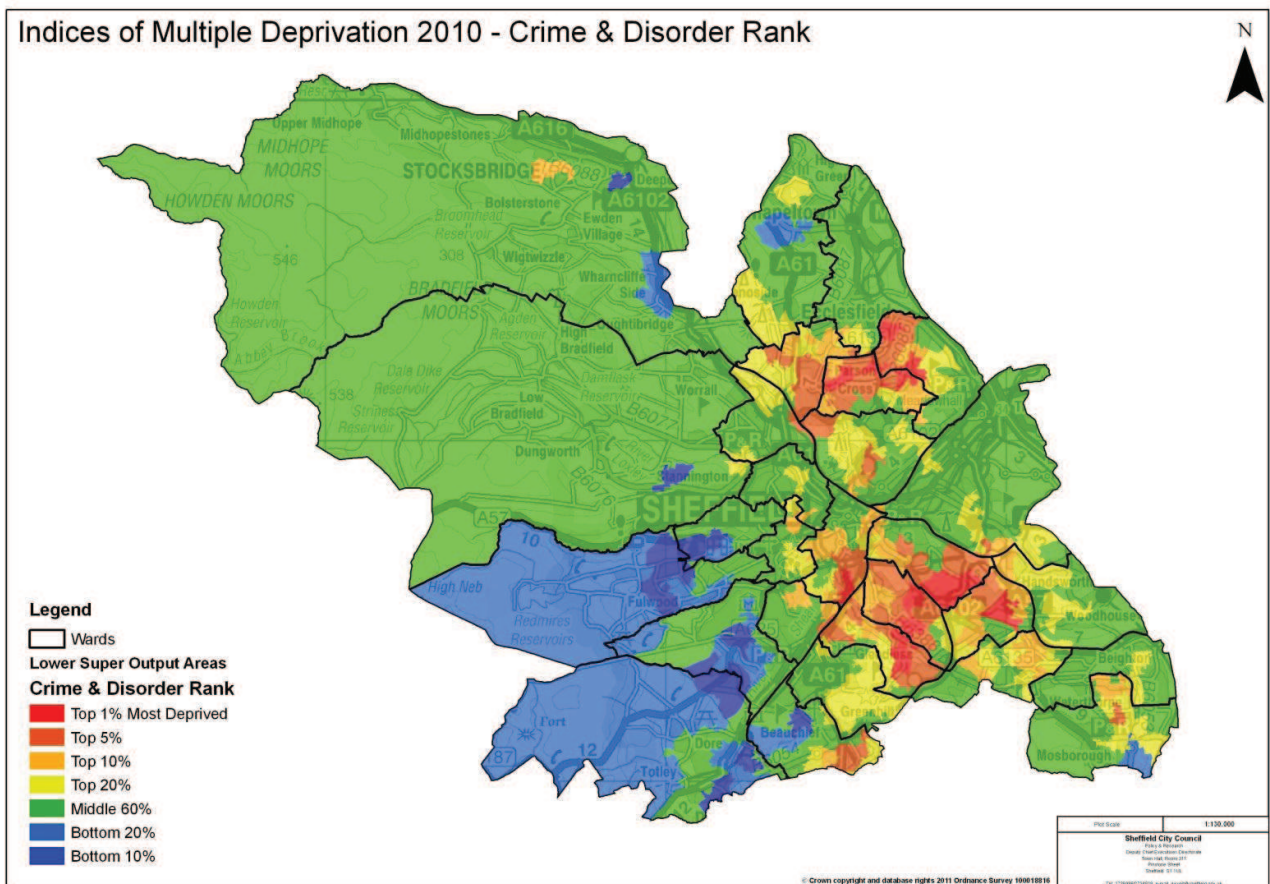
Best estimates nationally suggest that only around 4.7% of the population nationally are problematic drug users or dependent on alcohol. With the number of households in poverty hovering around 20%, it is clear that drug and alcohol dependency are not a major cause of poverty, although they clearly have negative implications for those affected, and the graph below shows higher rates for hospital admissions for alcohol-attributable conditions in more deprived wards.

Admissions for Alcohol-Attributable Conditions (All Ages), 2010/11-2012/13



Poverty and the criminal justice system

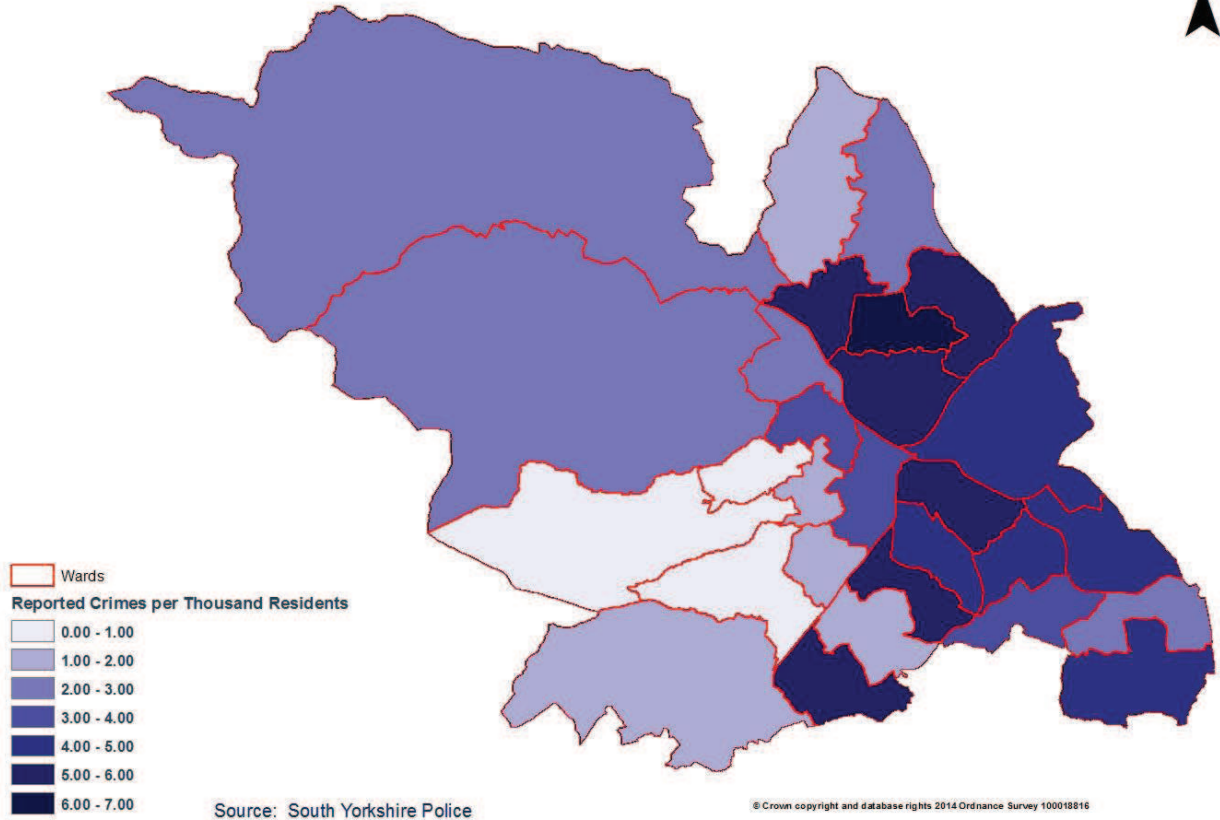
Sheffield is one of the safest cities in the country. However, crime rates are not uniform across the city. Nationally, research shows that people living in deprived areas are more likely than the general population to be a victim of crime or antisocial behaviour (Dorling, 2006), and the below map of the 2010 IMD Crime and Disorder rankings demonstrates the variation across the city which, again, reflects the deprivation levels to some extent.



Domestic Violence

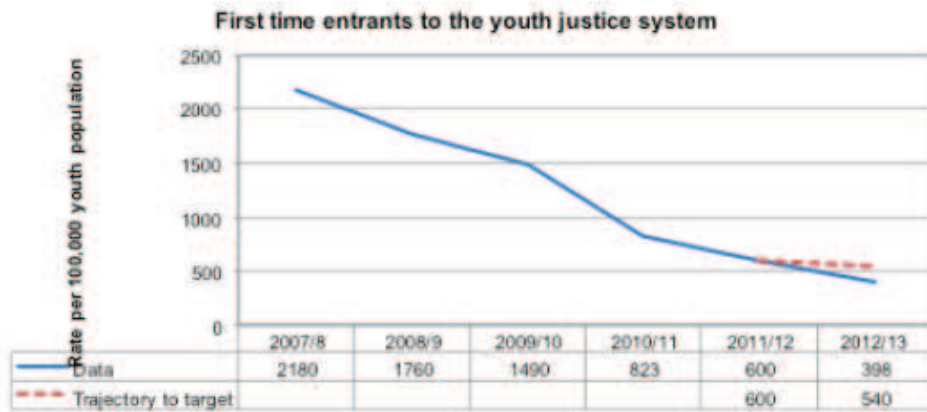
Economic dependency has been linked to domestic violence, which is in itself linked to an increased likelihood of poverty for example (Walby, 2004). Women in households that were poor, and those under financial stress, were much more likely to have suffered domestic violence than those that were better off. The rate of domestic violence against women who would find it impossible to find £100 was 10% as compared to 3% against women who would not find it a problem; and the rate of domestic violence against women in households with an income of less than £10,000 was 8.9%, as compared with 2.6% against women in households that earned over £20,000. The map below shows the rate of reported domestic abuse by ward in Sheffield and correlates broadly with deprivation.

Domesitic Violence: Rate of Reported Crimes, per Thousand Population, 2013-14



Young offenders

Youth offending can create a risk of future poverty due to the negative impacts that a criminal record can have on job prospects. Poverty may also be a reason behind some offending. In Sheffield, we have seen the rate drop significantly over time and we had a lower rate than any of the core cities in 11-12.



The above graph indicates what the number of FTEs to the youth justice system would be if there were 100,000 young people aged 10-17 in Sheffield.

Societal costs of poverty

It is not only the individuals directly affected by poverty who are impacted upon by poverty: it has a negative impact on the whole city.

There are both short and long term costs to deal with consequences of child poverty, such as increased NHS and school costs; lost tax receipts from people earning less as a result of having grown up in poverty and the costs of benefits for people spending more time out of work as a result of having grown up in poverty, as well as loss of earnings to individuals. Research commissioned by the Child Poverty Action Group has estimated that each child living below the poverty line costs around £10,861.42 annually. **For Sheffield the cost of child poverty is estimated at an annual cost of £265m** (Farthing, 2013).

Recent research by the OECD has considered inequality (rather than poverty) and found that income inequality has a negative and statistically significant impact on economic growth, with nine percentage points knocked off UK growth between 1990 and 2010 as a result of growing income inequality. A key reason for this is that income disparities depress skills development among individuals with poorer parental education background, both in terms of the quantity of education attained (e.g. years of schooling), and in terms of its quality (i.e. skill proficiency) (Cingano, 2014).

What helps people to escape poverty and reduce its negative effects?

In this section, we look at some of the things that we know can help people to escape poverty:

- Employment
- Childcare
- Education, learning and skills
- Take-up of benefits
- Resilience

There are other protective factors that can help people to escape poverty, and we will consider these in more detail in our evidence review and action plan. In this document we are focusing on the deficit of these things – the level of need. We have used data about gaps at both an individual level and at a city level - for example as well as looking at how many people are out of work, we also consider how many jobs are available.

Employment

Adult employment and unemployment have a direct effect on household income for working-age adults and any children living with them. People who are out of work are more likely to be in poverty than those who are working. However, employment, although a very significant factor, is not sufficient to help people to escape poverty. Too often, work is low paid, low skilled, fragile, casual and/or part-time, all of which increase the risk of poverty.

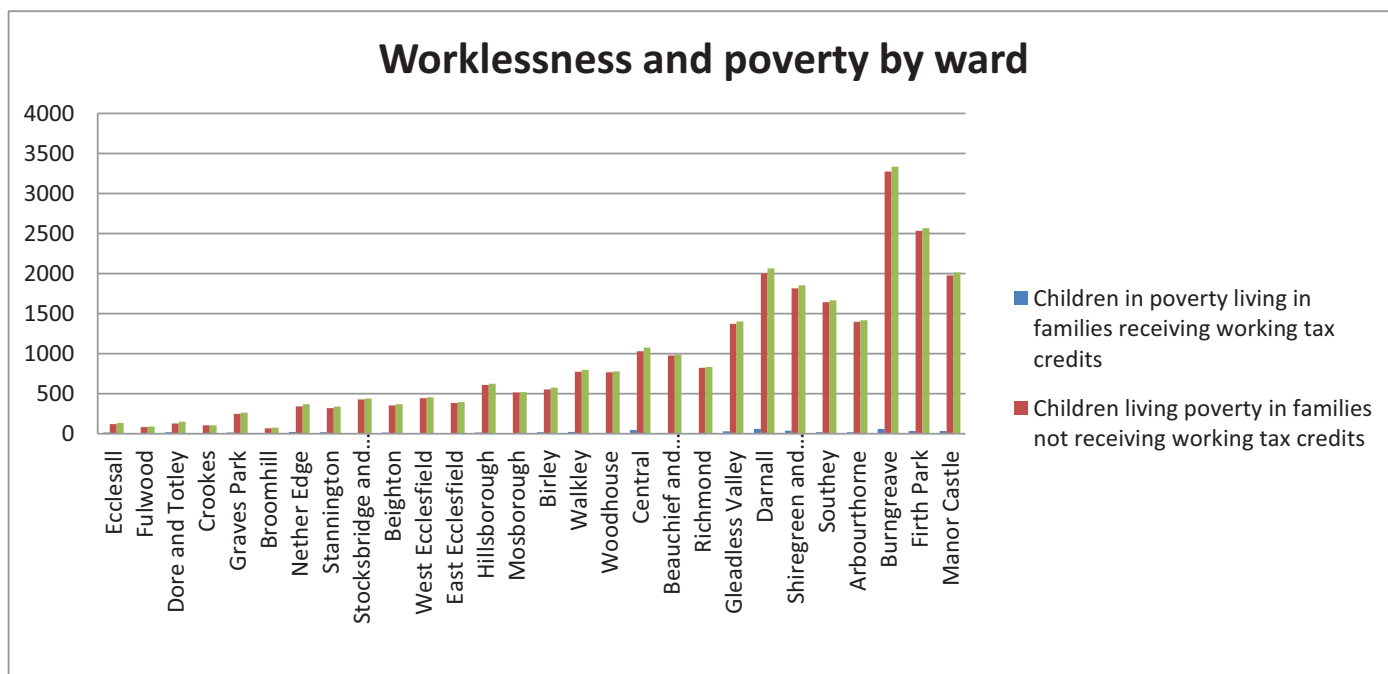
In-work poverty

We don't have good statistics about how many people in Sheffield are working and still in poverty. However, nationally, we know that almost two-thirds of children in (both relative and absolute low income) poverty were living in a household where someone works at least some of the time in 2011-12. For combined low income and material deprivation, almost half of the children were living in families where at least one adult was in work (DWP, 2013).

Hours of employment, pay rates and job security all affect poverty risk. In the UK, part-time workers are twice as likely, and the low paid three to four times as likely, to be in poverty as all workers. Hospitality and catering, personal services, retail and the residential care sectors are most closely associated with both in-work poverty and (persistent) low pay. (JRF, 2014).

Recent analysis commissioned by the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission (Reed & Portes, June 2014) demonstrates that increasing employment alone will not achieve the targets set out in the Child Poverty Act. There is more detailed information about children in poverty because of the statutory duty to tackle it. As far as we are aware similar analysis has not been conducted for people of other age groups / family types.

The data that we do have locally allows us to see how many children in poverty are living in families claiming working tax credits (i.e. how many children in poverty are living in families where at least one parent works for 16 hours or more). This leaves out families who are not eligible, for example due to the number of hours they are working, and it is likely that the percentage of children living in poverty where someone works at least some of the time is similar to the national level.

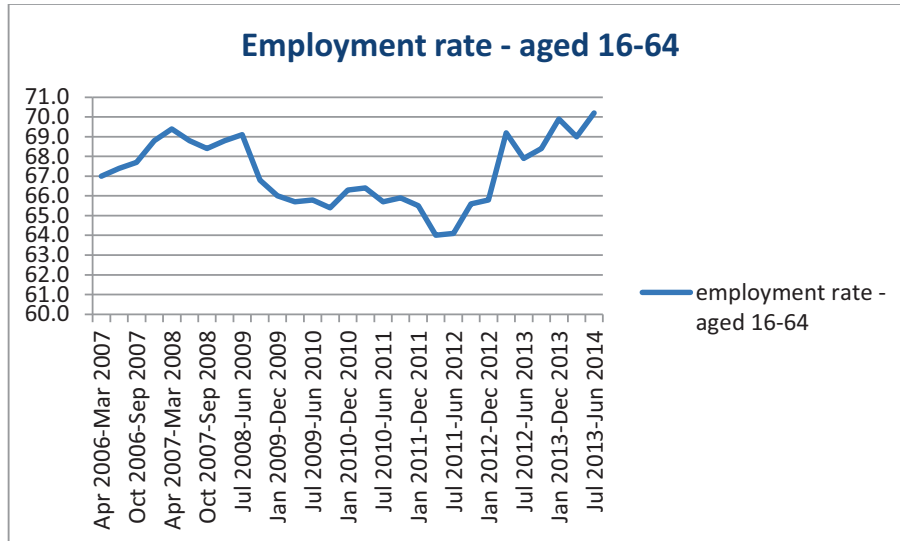


Source: HMRC 2014 using data from 2012.

We also know that although JSA claimants have been reducing recently, housing benefit claims in Sheffield have remained static, indicating that people are not finding (or sustaining) employment which brings their income to a level which does not entitle them to Housing Benefit. The proportion of Housing Benefit claimants in employment has doubled in England and Wales over the past five years, with employed claimants now comprising 21% of total claimants compared to 11% five years ago. That increase in working claimants accounted for more than three-quarters (79%) of new housing benefit claims made over that time (National Housing Federation, 2013). This suggests that although more people have entered employment during this period many of them still need to claim Housing Benefit in order to meet their living costs. Research carried out into usage of the Trussell Trust food bank in Burngreave in 2014 found that 11% of users cited low income as their reason for seeking support (Perry, 2014: 102).

Employment rates

Employment rates in Sheffield have been improving, as can be seen in the graph below. The proportion of workless households in Sheffield has reduced significantly, as has Sheffield's worklessness ranking: in 2013 Sheffield was ranked 76/134 areas in Great Britain, from 39/134 in 2012 and 27/134 in 2011.

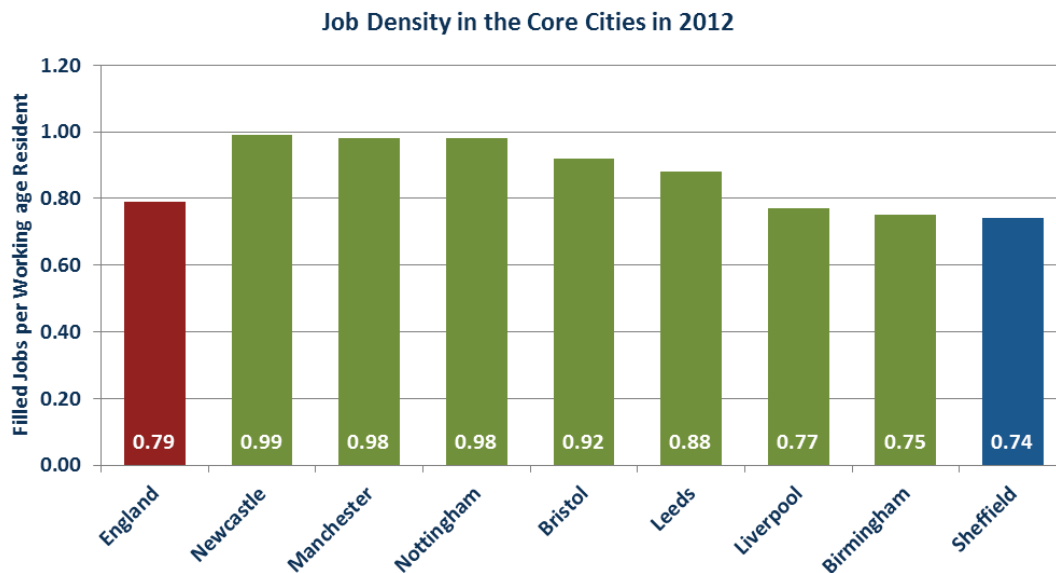


Source: Office for National Statistics, Nomis, Nov 2014.

Job availability

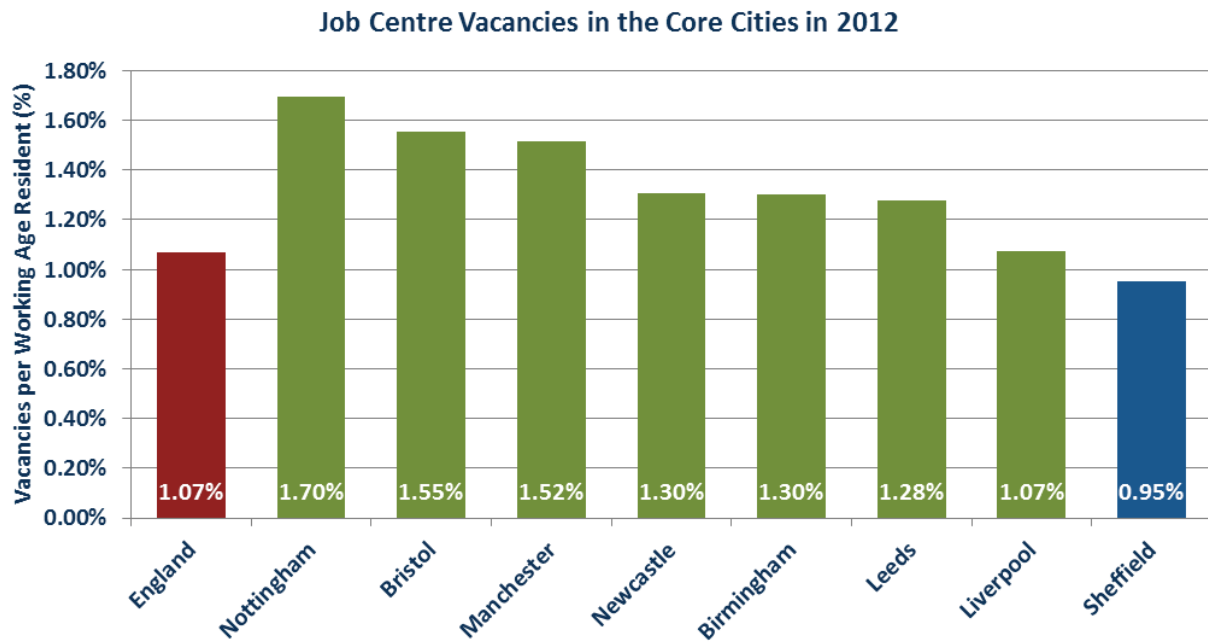
The next two graphs use older data (from 2012) and it is important to note that employment statistics fluctuate a lot more than some other statistics we've used.

The first graph (job density) shows how many jobs are filled for every working age resident. Sheffield has a **lower job density than England or any of the core cities.**



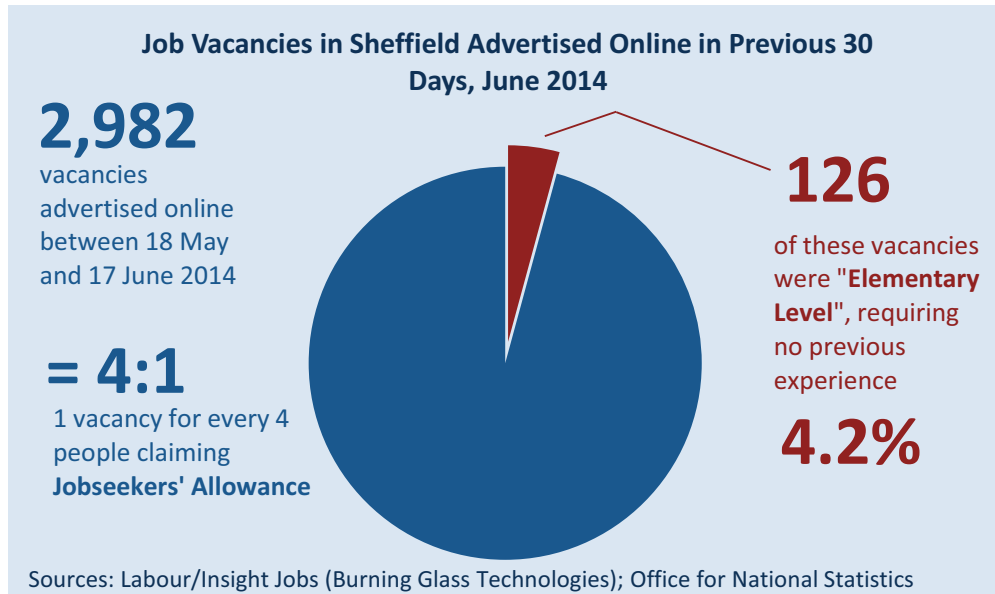
Source: Office for National Statistics

This second graph shows how many vacancies there are for every working-age resident. We can see that Sheffield had **fewer vacancies per resident** than other core cities or the England average. This is clearly an important area for consideration.



Source: Office for National Statistics

We have included more up to date figures below.



Underemployment, temporary employment and 'zero-hours contracts'

We don't have information about how many people in Sheffield are 'underemployed' (working fewer hours or at a lower skill level than they would like to and are qualified for), but the latest Poverty & Social Exclusion Monitoring bulletin from Joseph Rowntree Foundation (MacInnes, 2014) shows that **although underemployment fell slightly in**

2013/14 for the second consecutive year, 'it remains above 2008 levels. The number in part-time work wanting full-time work fell for the first time in 2013/14.'

We also don't have local data about how many people are on 'zero-hours contracts'. However, recent national research (Office for National Statistics, April 2014) looks for the first time at employers' perceptions of numbers of contracts without guaranteed hours of work as well as at employees' perspectives.

Estimates based on employer feedback suggest that there were around 1.4 million employee contracts that do not guarantee a minimum number of hours (January to February 2014).

Estimates based on employee feedback suggests that there were 583,000 individuals employed on 'zero-hours contracts' in their primary employment for the period October to December 2013.

The employee section of this research also gives us some information about which types of people are more likely to be employed in this way:

- **women** make up a bigger proportion of those reporting working on zero-hours contracts (55%) compared with those employed who are not on zero-hours contracts (46%)
- 18% of people on zero-hours contracts are **in full-time education** compared to 3% of those employed who are not on zero-hours contracts
- 64% of people on zero-hours contracts reported that they worked **part time**, compared with a quarter (27%) of those employed who are not on zero-hours contracts
- people who report being on a zero-hours contract are more likely to be younger or older. 36% of people on zero-hours contracts are **aged 16 to 24** and 7% are **aged 65 and over** (compared with 12% and 4% respectively for those employed who are not on zero-hours contracts).

These patterns may partly reflect the groups most likely to find the flexibility an advantage. For example, young people who combine flexible working with their studies or people working beyond state pension age. However, **about a third (35%) of people on zero-hours contracts want more hours compared to 12% of those not on zero-hours contracts.**

Access to employment

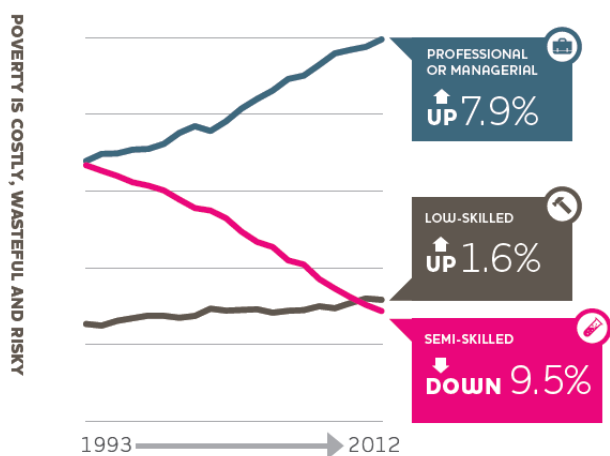
Some groups of people find it difficult to access employment, or are under-represented in employment. **Disabled people and people with long term health conditions in particular are less likely to be employed than the general population.** Some disabled people will be too unwell or disabled to be able to work, but there are many who unable to find work or who work below their ability. The percentage gap in employment rate between those with a **long term health condition** and the overall employment rate is 8.9% (Sheffield), worse than the gap for England as a whole. The percentage gap in employment rate between those those with a **learning disability** and the overall employment rate is 59% (Sheffield) and 63.2% (England): although Sheffield performs well on this compared with the England average, it ranks 5th out of the eight Core Cities and so people with learning disabilities in Sheffield are less likely to be employed than in other large cities. People with severe mental health illness are even less likely to be employed, with the percentage gap in employment rate between those with a **serious mental illness** and the overall employment rate standing at 62.9% (Sheffield) and 62.3% (England). **Sheffield ranks lowest of all Core Cities on the percentage of people with severe mental health illness who are employed.**

Nationally there has been a significant increase in the level of unemployment amongst young people since the recession, with 764,000 (16.9%) young people aged 16-24 unemployed in September to November 2014, up 30,000 (0.9%) on the previous quarter and down 171,000 (3.2%) on the previous year (House of Commons, 2015). The

number of 16-18 years olds not in education, employment or training increased slightly in Sheffield during the recession, but this is starting to improve (see the section on [education](#)).

Changing employment market

It is important to consider not only the current employment market, but changing trends. The employment profile is becoming increasingly polarised, with an increase in highly skilled work (professional, managerial and technical jobs) and a slower rate of increase in the low skilled service industry (care and leisure work and other elementary occupations). Total employment is projected to fall for administrative and secretarial occupations, skilled trades and process, plant and machine operatives. It is predicted that there will be an increasing shift in employment from the public to the private sector. Skills levels are also forecast to increase, but despite this, modelled forecasts based on trends in employment indicate greater inequality and so greater relative poverty 2020, although absolute poverty may decrease slightly (Brewer et al, 2012).



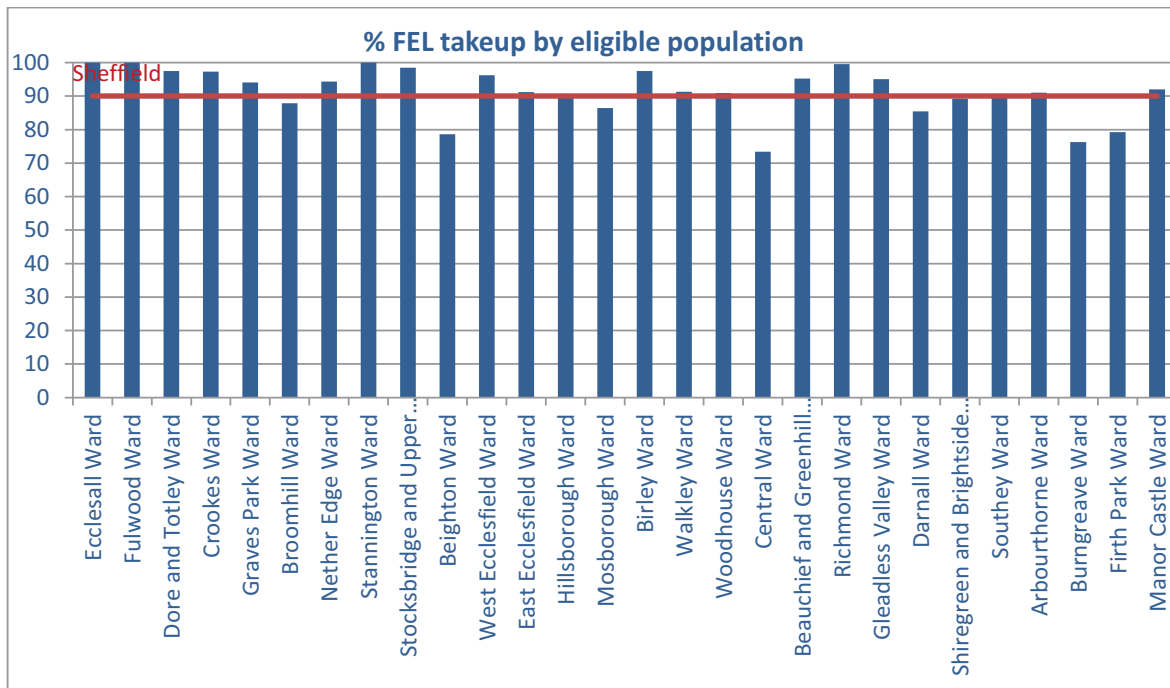
Source: Schmuecker, K. (2014) *Future of the UK labour market*

Childcare

Affordable, flexible childcare can support reductions in poverty for families with children by enabling parents and carers to work and improve their skills. High-quality childcare can also play a role in breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty through a link to improved educational outcomes.

Take-up

The government funds free childcare for all three and four year olds, and also funds childcare for the 40% most deprived two year olds (this has increased from the 20% most deprived two year olds since September 2014). Take-up of formal childcare by low income working families is slightly lower in Sheffield than nationally (14% compared with 15%). The chart below shows the proportion of eligible children in each ward who are taking up some of their free entitlement to childcare at 3 and 4 years old. It shows that take-up levels are lower than average in many of the more deprived wards.



Early Years Census, SCC 2014

Quality and supply

Sheffield’s Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2013 states that, at the time of writing, almost three quarters (71%) of childcare provision in Sheffield was rated by Ofsted as Good (65%) or Outstanding (6%). Providers rated Satisfactory made up 24% of the market. Less than 1% of all providers were rated as Inadequate.

Affordability

The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2013 also considers cost. Almost 1200 parents responded to the childcare section of the Sheffield Parent’s Survey in 2012. Of the 45% of parents that did not use childcare, 20% of them said this was due to the cost of childcare.

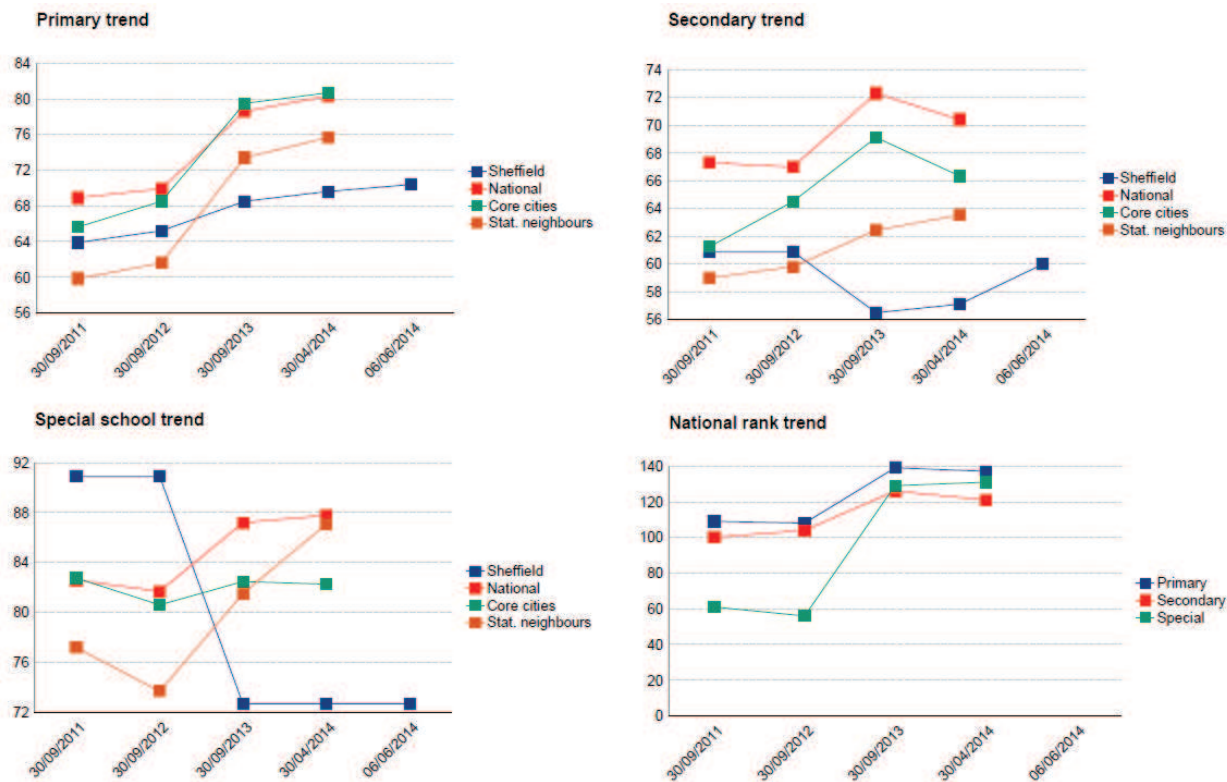
The way that the government provides financial support for childcare is changing and more families are eligible for financial assistance for children aged two since September this year.

Education, learning and skills

Education, learning and skills help people to escape poverty through improved access to jobs and better wages. Adult learning and skills benefit both the adults themselves and any children they care for. Children’s education and both cognitive and non-cognitive skills improve their future job prospects. Educational attainment has the largest impact on the likelihood of being in poverty and severely materially deprived as an adult, both in the UK and the other EU countries studied. Holding all else equal, in the UK, those with a low level of educational attainment are almost five times as likely to be in poverty now and 11 times as likely to be severely materially deprived as those with a high level of education (Serafino and Tonkin, 2014).

Quality of schools

It is Sheffield's ambition that all children should be able to attend a school that is rated Good or better. The first three charts show percentage of schools that are good or outstanding, the fourth shows how our national ranking for each type of school has changed over time.

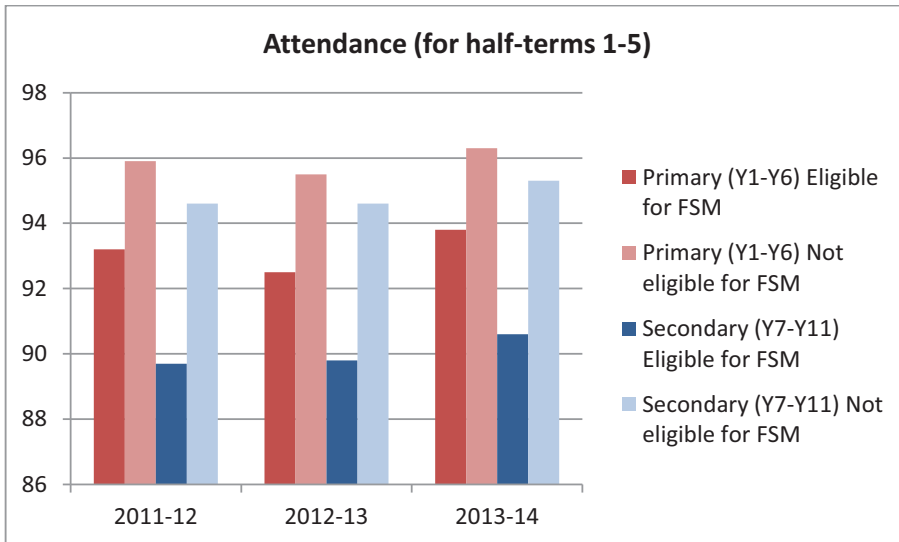


Source: Ofsted monthly management information June 2014

Although primary and secondary schools in Sheffield are improving, we still have a long way to go. In particular, children on free school meals are less likely than those not on free school meals to go to a school which is ranked good or outstanding by Ofsted, with this being particularly the case at Secondary level.

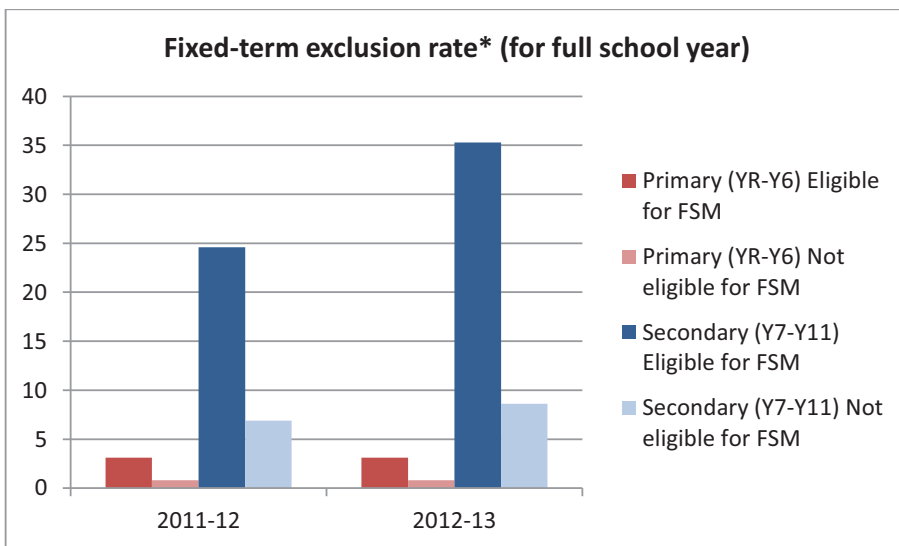
School attendance and exclusions

In the chart below we have compared attendance rates for children eligible for free school meals (FSM) with those who are not eligible over time. We have shown rates for primary (from Y1 when compulsory education starts) and secondary. In both primary (red bars) and secondary (blue bars), the rate of attendance is worse for children eligible for free school meals (darker shaded bars in each case). Attendance for all children at secondary is lower than primary and the gap at secondary is wider as well. However, attendance for both groups has improved at secondary over time and the gap has narrowed slightly with the improvement in attendance.



SCC 2014

We have also looked at fixed-term exclusions for children eligible for free school meals (FSM) with those who are not eligible over time. The fixed-term exclusion rate is the number of incidents of fixed-term exclusions expressed as a percentage of the school population. This is shown below using the same colour scheme as the previous chart. The fixed-term exclusion rate is between 3.5 and 4 times higher for children eligible for free school meals than for those who are not and it was worse in 2012-13 than in 2011-12.



SCC 2014

Children's attainment

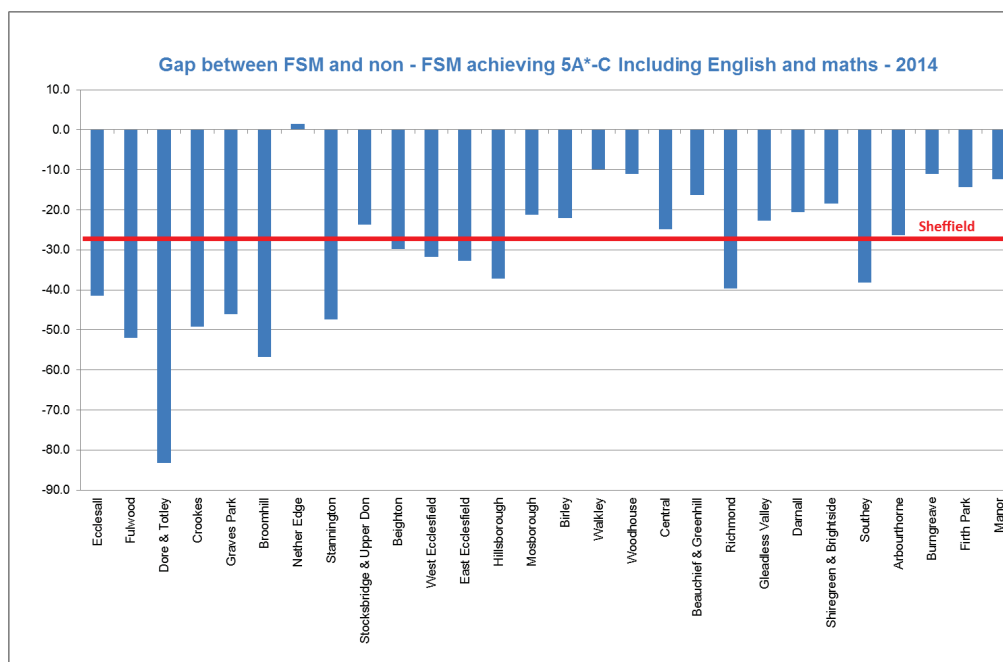
We have chosen to consider three key points in children's attainment: how well they do at the end of their first year at school, at GCSE and progression to university. University progression has been chosen an indicator of social mobility.

At **Foundation Stage**, a lower proportion of children in more deprived areas of the city achieved a 'good' level of development by the end of the year than those in less deprived areas. The figures for 2013 (Performance & Analysis Service, SCC 2014) are:

- Sheffield average = 51.8%
- 30% most deprived areas (by IMD 2010) = 43.8%
- Children living outside the 30% most deprived areas = 60.6%

Because of the changes to the Foundation Stage Profile, we cannot provide useful comparators over time.

At **GCSE**, we have shown the ward breakdown of the gaps between children eligible for free school meals achieving 5A*-C GCSEs including English & Maths and those not eligible. This is not a straightforward picture and perhaps warrants some further exploration (n.b. numbers of children on FSM in some wards are very low).



(Performance and Analysis Service, 2015)

The **absolute attainment for children eligible for free school meals (FSM) has improved over the past 5 years**, but the **gap between children eligible for FSM and the city average (at Key Stage 4 on the measure of 5 or more A*-C including English & Maths) was 26.8 percentage points in 2013. This was wider than in previous years.** On this measure, Sheffield was ranked 113th nationally. Rankings are influenced by the cohort on entry and it is important to look at their progress from their starting points. The progress that all children eligible for free school meals made based on their ability rankings placed between 62nd and 68th nationally, which is higher (better) than our deprivation ranking (using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index).

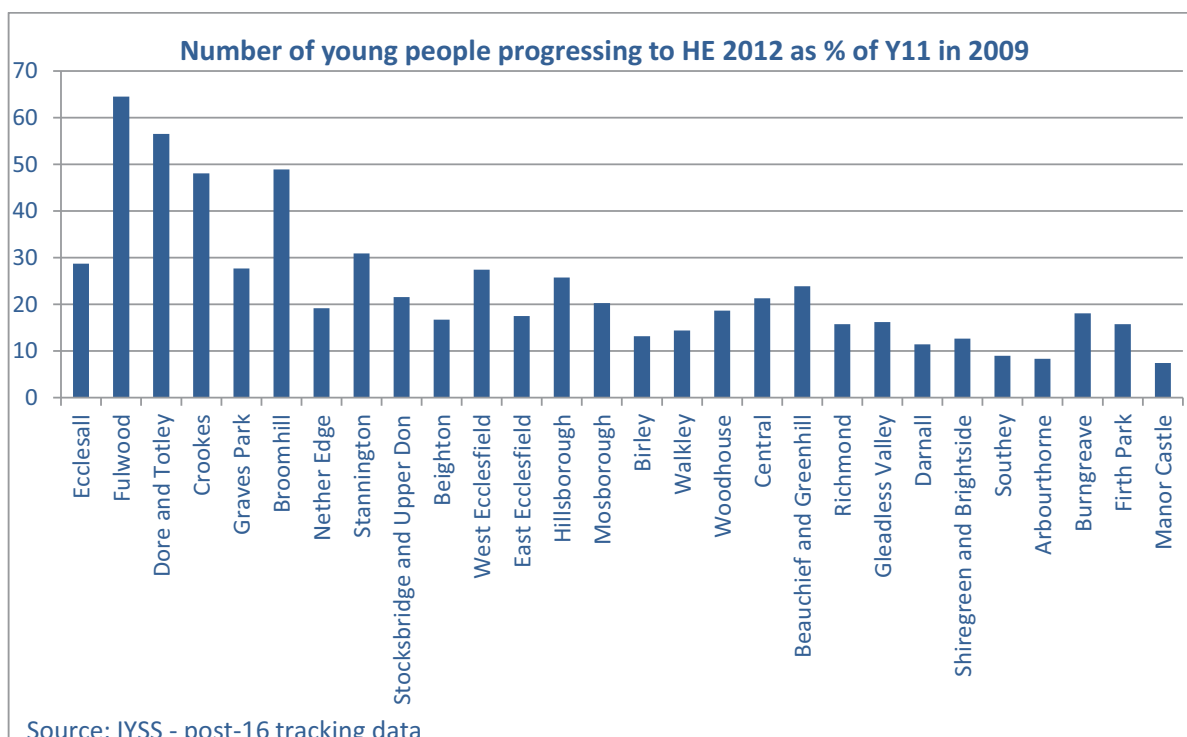
The progress which all students on free school meals made in English between KS2-KS4 ranks Sheffield at 66th nationally and 108th for mathematics. This suggests that the progress of children eligible for FSM in Sheffield is better than we would expect for a city with our levels of disadvantage, but despite this progress, their attainment is still not as good as it should be. This is affected by the low base from which children eligible for FSM start when they start school.

Our analysis of this situation is that **we need to maintain the rate of progress happening within school years whilst simultaneously concentrating efforts on improving the starting point from which children can progress.** This has led us to focus on early years. The key methods for giving children the best start in life that we have focused on, driven by evidence, are:

- improving the sensitivity of parental interactions with their children (attunement structure and regulation),
- access to high quality early years education, home learning environment and
- reducing the stress associated with poverty through strategies to reduce household outgoings and increase income.

This focus on the early years also includes important action to support adults to access lifelong learning including community and family learning, and our work on whole household support for families, in recognition of the importance of parents as their children’s first and most important influencers. Whilst investing increased energy on this point early in children’s lives, we will also maintain a focus on improving activities within schools via for example School to School Training and Development.

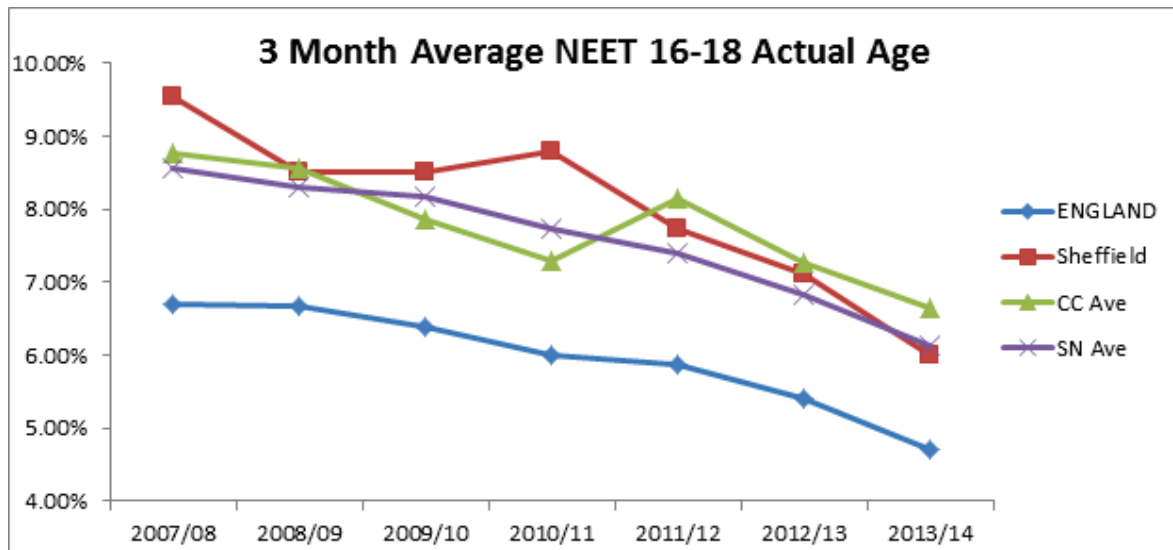
Finally in this section, we have included a breakdown of the proportions of young people progressing to **university**. 16% of children on free school meals progressed to university in 2014, compared with 34% of those not on free school meals. The graph below shows where in the city 2012 higher education entrants lived and, again, we see a broad correlation between deprivation and progression to university attendance.



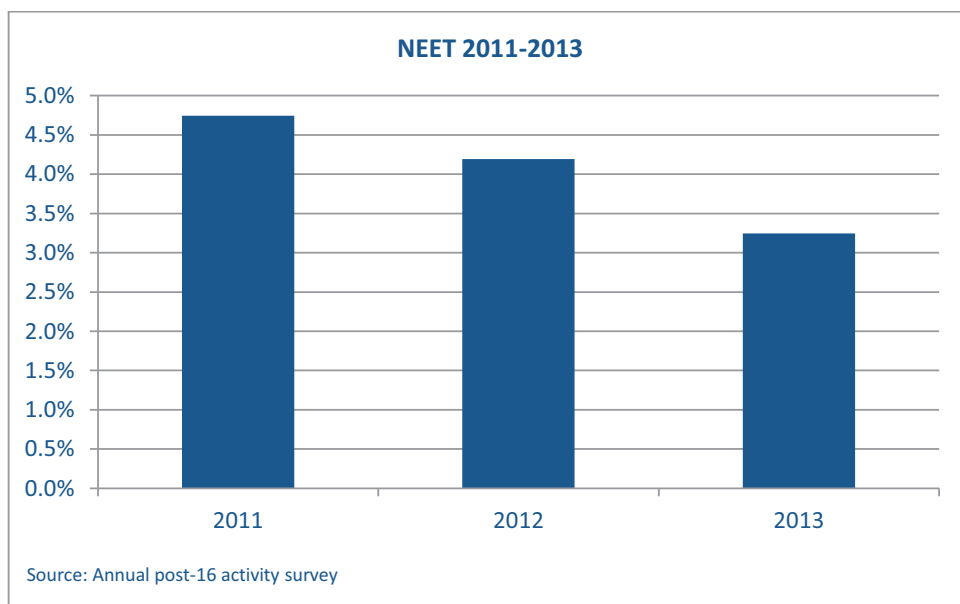
Young people or not in employment, education or training

The number of 16-18 year olds not in employment or training (NEET) in Sheffield has been reducing over the past seven years. The recession led to a small increase of young people in Sheffield aged 16-18 not in education, employment and training in 2010/11, but otherwise the downward trend has continued and **we have managed to**

reduce the proportion of our young people aged 16-18 who are not in employment, education or training to 6.0% in 2013-14. It is a lower rate than for core cities (6.66%), but still higher than the England average (4.7%). However, the gap between our percentage and that for England has narrowed from just over 2 percentage points in 2011-12 to 1.25 percentage points in 2013-14. The trend can be seen in the graph below.

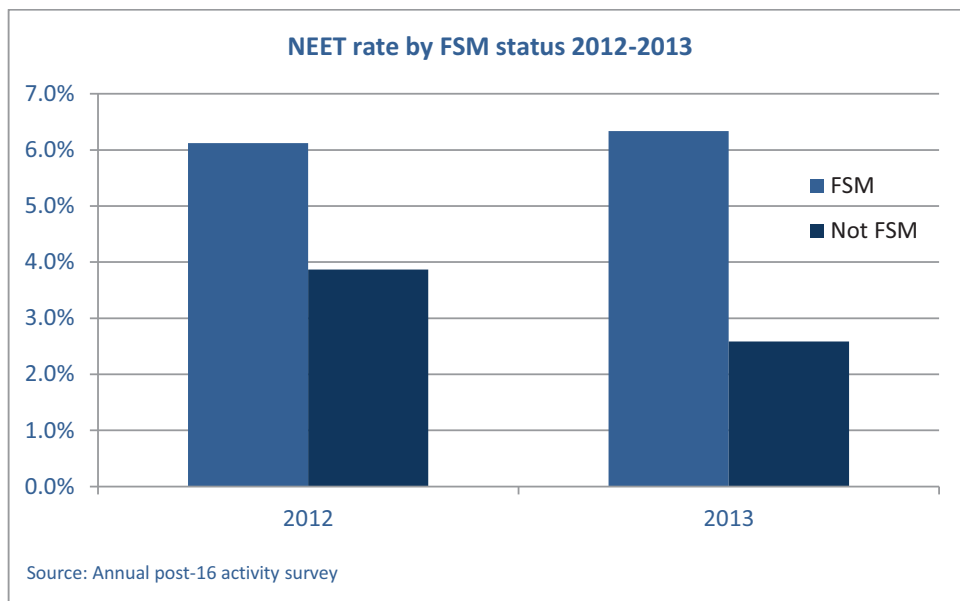


In addition to the measure which considers 16-18 year-olds, we also have an annual survey of learning destinations, which tells us where Y11 school leavers are progressing to (so a different group of young people). Although the rate is different (as might be expected from a different cohort), the trend is also going down.



We are able to break this second measure down to look at which children have been eligible for free school meals. The percentages shown are of the whole cohort, i.e. of all children who are eligible for free school meals (FSM), the proportion that were NEET when leaving school at Y11. This shows that although the **overall NEET rate is reducing**, **the rate for children eligible for free school meals has increased slightly**. **Care leavers are also less likely to be in education, employment or training than the general population.** The numbers in education, employment and

training have declined to 57% (2013) from a peak of 80% in 2011. Current LAC figures are similar to national, Yorkshire & Humber and our statistical neighbours.



Soft skills

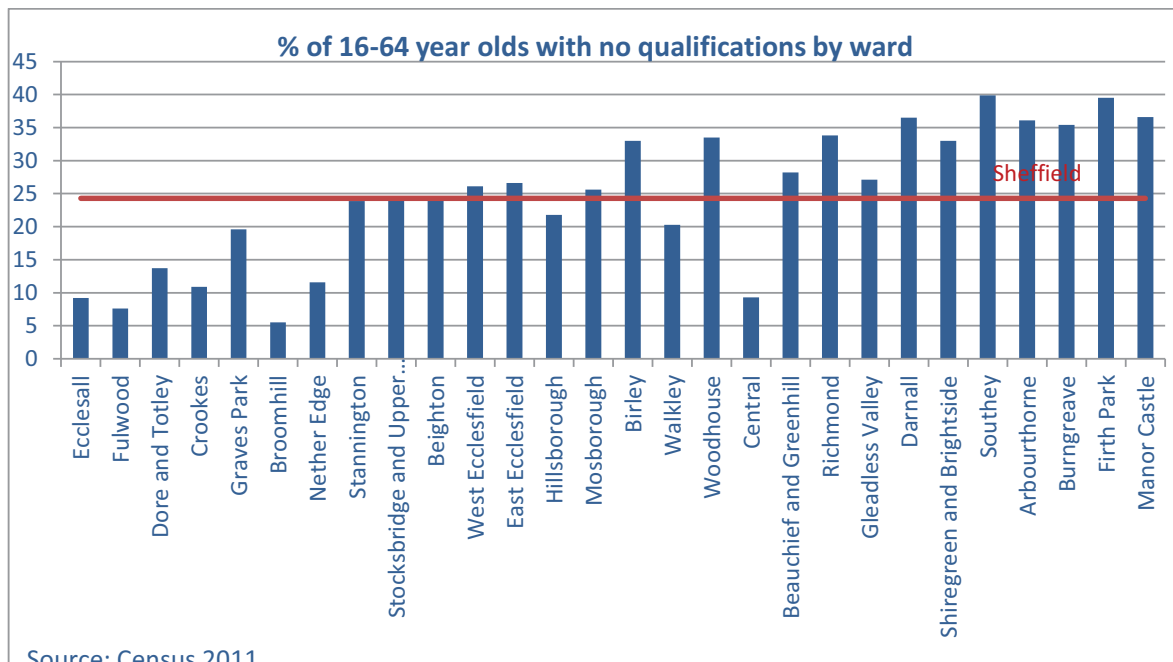
Although academic attainment is important, softer skills are also crucial, arguably more so. There are a broad range of qualities that make someone better able to navigate relationships, the education system and finding and succeeding at work. Research points to the importance in particular of self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, problem solving, a positive outlook, goals and aspirations, assertiveness, relationship skills and responsible decision making. There is a raft of evidence about the importance of these skills and their relationship to life chances. For example Leon Feinstein at the Institute of Education has concluded that dedication and concentration at age 10 has a bigger impact on earnings at 30 than ability in maths (cited in Roberts, 2009). He also found that a sense of personal agency is more important to life chances than reading skills. At present we do not have data on these skills in Sheffield.

Adult skill levels

The **proportion of people in Sheffield with no qualifications has dropped**. Using Census data, the estimated population in Sheffield aged 16-64 with no qualifications was 15.9% in 2011, compared to 33.8% in 2001. Because the Census is updated infrequently, we also use a measure from the Annual Population Survey to track change over time. The figures from this survey are different from those in the census. Latest figure using this measure is 10.6% for the year to December 2013. The figure for 2011 was 10%. There are fluctuations in this measure over the time period for which this data is available (from 2004 at which it was 14.3%), but the highest point in 2008 was 16% and there looks to be a general downward trend over longer-term. The reasons for the difference in figures are likely to be to do with differences in expression of the question and samples for Census and APS. The important point is that the trend, whichever source is used, shows that the proportion of working age population with no qualifications has reduced over the long-term.

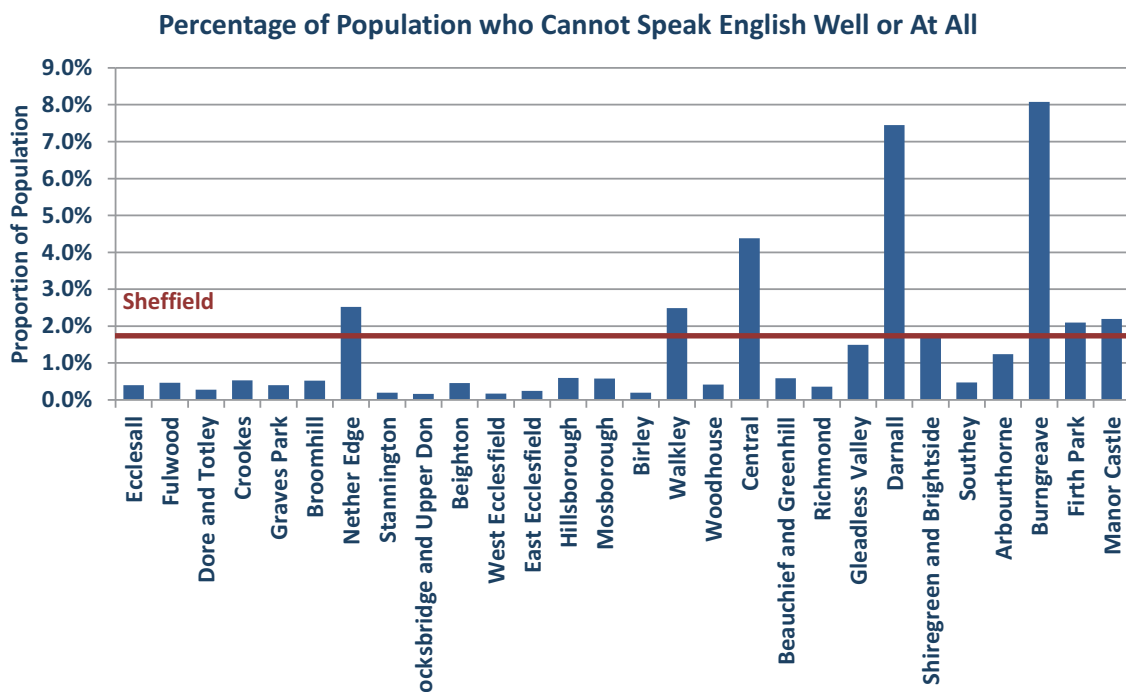
We have used the Census data (as more reliable at small area level than the APS) to show how the numbers of people with no qualifications varies across the city in the graph below. With the exception of wards with high

proportions of students who may have low incomes but good prospects of increasing their income after graduation, there is a **clear correlation between wards where there are high proportions of people with no qualifications and high levels of deprivation.**



2011 Census

Inability to speak English is a clear disadvantage in finding employment. This next graph compares the percentage of the population who cannot speak English well or at all in different wards and against the Sheffield average.



Our consultation suggests that there are concerns from users about the level and quality of provision of English as a Second Language, and particularly the affordability of this for people who are not on benefits or whose partners work. One of the biggest barriers for women learning ESOL appears to be the availability of free childcare to enable them to attend classes, especially before free early years entitlements kick in: this availability has reduced in recent years as a result of funding cuts.

Benefit take-up

"I only recently claimed housing benefit, I didn't even know I could claim it. For 18 months or so I just assumed cos I worked that I wouldn't be able to claim it and it was somebody said cos you only work part time you might be able to claim it" (City centre, social rented, White British, 33)

Whilst increasing the number of available jobs and improving education and skills enable people to improve their prospects will be very important for reducing poverty in Sheffield in the medium and long term, **one of the most effective ways of immediately reducing the impacts of financial distress is to maximise income by increasing benefit take-up.**

Understanding take-up levels is difficult and we do not have data at a local level, but national research suggests that **almost a third of eligible people in the UK in 2009-10 were not claiming the means-tested benefits they were entitled to** (Aldridge et al, 2012, p.107). Just over half of the estimated £10 billion unclaimed benefits could have been claimed by working age families. The Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion recently noted that nationally the proportion of young people who are unemployed but not claiming JSA (and so not only at increased risk of poverty, but also not receiving official help in finding employment) has increased – the proportion is now 55.4% and has risen by 25 percentage points since October 2012. Whether this rise is due to the new JSA sanctions regime (which started then) remains unproven².

Some benefits are particularly beneficial for claimants in receipt of them, for example Disability Living Allowance for children which passports allows the receipt of passported benefits. Understanding take-up levels of DLA is very difficult, as analysis of a recent pilot to increase take-up of the benefit in Wales demonstrates, but anecdotal evidence suggests that DLA is under-claimed, and the review demonstrates that **interventions can increase its take-up, with the average family income increased by £93.66 per week.**

Universal Credit, anticipated to roll out in Sheffield from 2015, is expected to increase benefit take-up, especially in the poorest households, but it is also anticipated that it, and the broader welfare reforms discussed in the next section, will have negative effects, particularly during the transition period and potentially for some other groups, particularly women who may lose control of money that was previously paid directly to them. Universal Credit will be paid monthly in arrears, and the switch to monthly rather than weekly budgeting, as well as the increased delay in receiving benefits is a cause for concern.

² <http://www.cesi.org.uk/statistics/labour/december-2014>

The impact of welfare reform

Since the Coalition government came into power in 2010 they have introduced a comprehensive programme of welfare reform, as well as freezing some benefit levels and introducing below inflation uplifts to others. These reforms, as well as reforms introduced by the previous government are having an impact on the incomes of those people affected by them.

Research by Sheffield Hallam University for Sheffield City Council (Beatty and Fothergill, 2014) has modelled the potential impact of benefit changes in Sheffield, looking at the impacts at ward level, and considering which types of household are most likely to be affected. The full impact of all the cuts will not be felt until 2017.

A selection of the most relevant findings for this strategy is outlined below.

- The uprating of benefits by 1 per cent rather than by inflation impacts on large numbers of households of all types except pensioners and students. The other reforms impact more on specific groups.
- Two thirds of the financial loss in Sheffield will impact on households with dependent children. Households with dependent children across the city will experience an average loss of £1,690 per year. This increases for lone parents to an average of just over £2,000 per year. Child Benefit changes impact on households with dependent children (63,000 in all) but the numbers experiencing full or partial withdrawal are smaller (8,900) and the vast majority of these are couples rather than single parents. Tax Credit changes also impact principally on households with dependent children, including large numbers (almost 17,000) of lone parents
- One third of the financial loss will fall on households including sick and disabled people, but within both groups the financial losses fall just on some claimants rather than everyone. Those losing out – generally the less severely ill or disabled if procedures are working properly – can expect to lose an average of £3,500 a year as a result of incapacity benefit reform and £1,600 a year as DLA is replaced by Personal Independence Payments. The reforms to DLA impact on especially large numbers of couples without children at home (2,200) and single person households (another 2,200). The impact of incapacity benefit reform is similar to that of DLA reform, with couples without children (2,400) and single person households (3,800) most affected.
- £75m, 45% of the impact will be felt by in work households.
- The reforms to Housing Benefit in the private rented sector ('Local Housing Allowance') impact particularly on single person households (2,700 in Sheffield) and on lone parents with dependent children (2,800 households). The 'bedroom tax' also hits large numbers of single person households (3,400) and lone parents (in total 1,800).
- Reductions in Council Tax Benefit impact on a wide range of working age households.
- Welfare reform impacts on only a small number of pensioner households, generally via rules requiring non-dependants (e.g. grown-up children) to make a larger contribution to housing costs.
- Sheffield's substantial number of student households – the 2011 Census records 5,700 of them³ – escape unscathed from the welfare reforms.

³ The number of full-time students in the city substantially exceeds the number of student households because each household may contain several students and because students in halls of residence are recorded as living in 'communal establishments'.

Overall impact of welfare reform on Sheffield, by household type

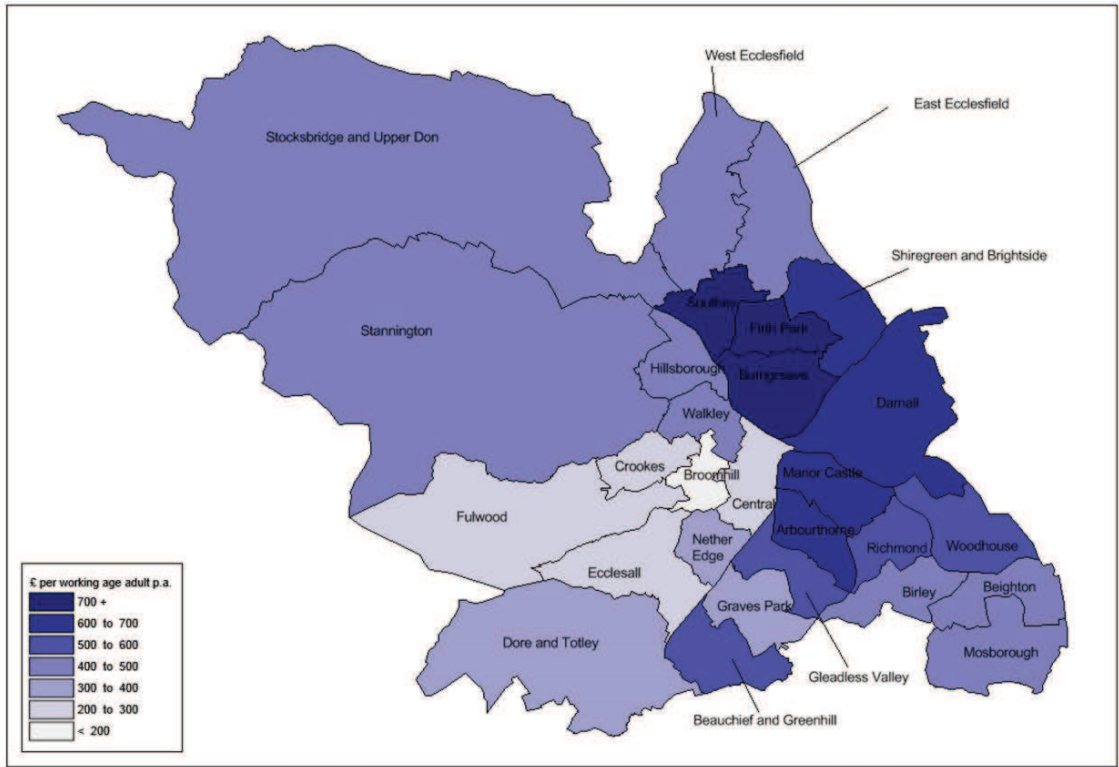
	Total number of households of each type in, 2011	Average financial loss £ p.a.
Pensioner couple	18,000	35
Single pensioner	29,000	50
Couple – no children	39,300	400
Couple – one dependent child	16,900	1,530
Couple – two or more dependent children	24,800	1,560
Couple – all children non-dependent	12,600	430
Lone parent – one dependent child	9,900	2,020
Lone parent – two or more dependent children	6,900	2,120
Lone parent – all children non-dependent	7,200	730
Single person household	44,400	620
Other – with one dependent child	2,500	1,540
Other – with two or more dependent children	2,800	1,620
Other – all full-time students	5,700	0
Other – all aged 65+	500	35
Other	9,500	570

All impacts by 2014-15 except DLA by 2017/18, incapacity benefits and 1% up-rating by 2015/16

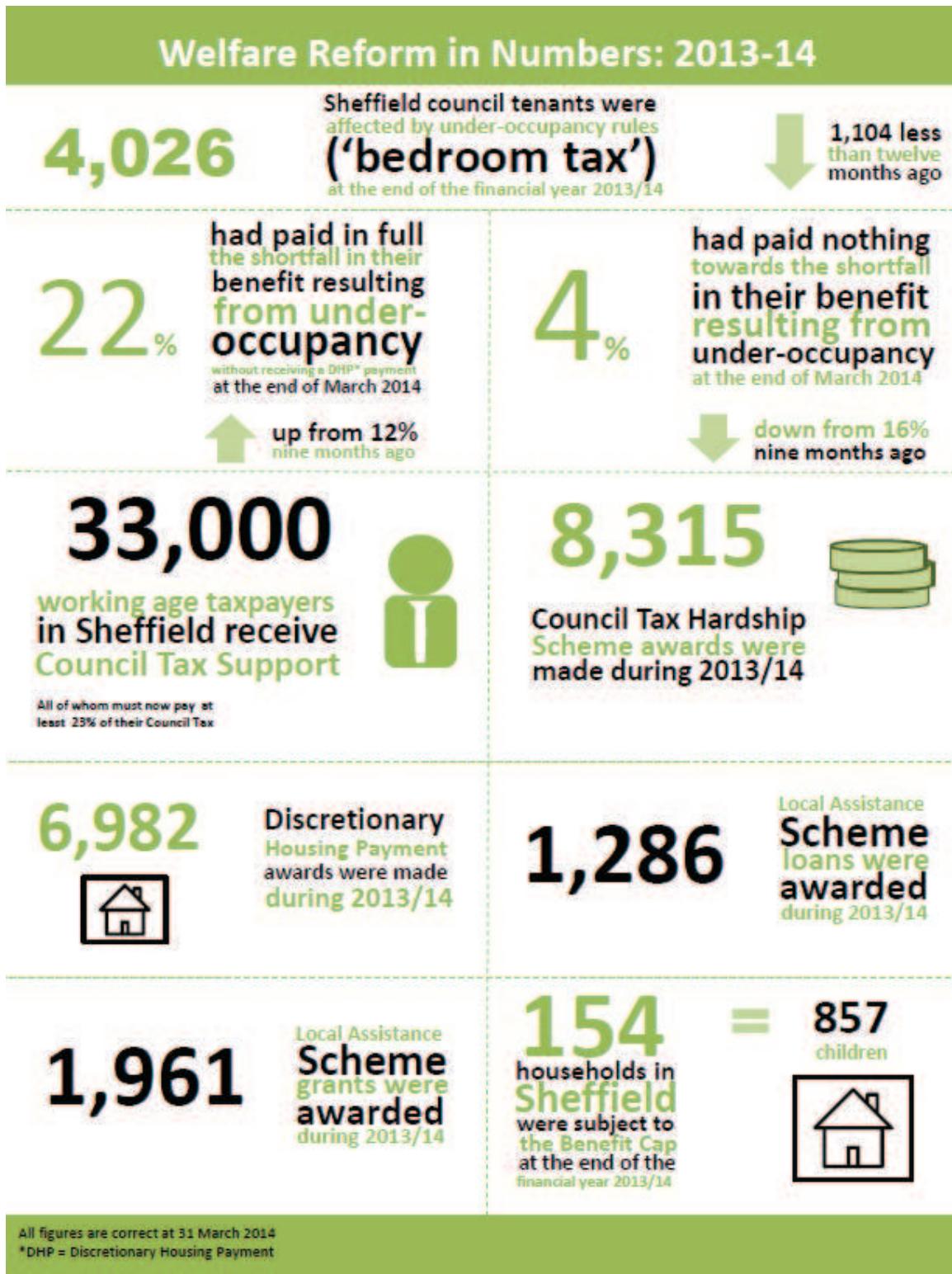
Sources: Census of Population and Sheffield Hallam estimates based on official data

The figures in the above table are all averages. Around all these averages there will be a large spread both in terms of the sums lost and the make-up of the loss. For example, as noted earlier some couples could face reductions in incapacity benefits, DLA, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit, and the failure to uprate with inflation. In these circumstances the cumulative financial loss when all the reforms have come to full fruition could be as large as £6-7,000 a year.

Geographically the impact will be very different across the city, as is to be expected in view of the distribution of benefits recipients across the city. The overall impact at ward level can be seen on the map below.



Some of the impacts of welfare reform can be seen below.



Conditionality

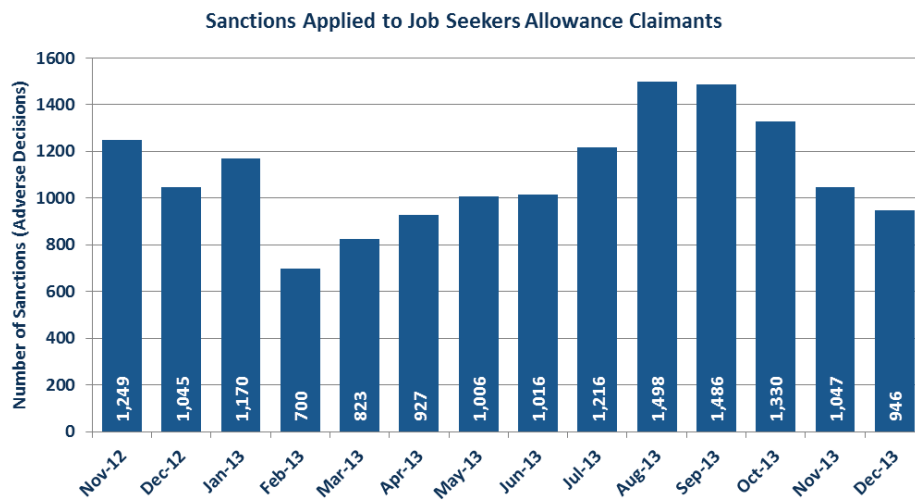
“I missed my bus and arrived 5 minutes late – the advisor said you have missed your slot and I got sanctioned for 12 weeks”

Sheffield foodbank user, quoted in the Rapid Review of Food Banks, 2013

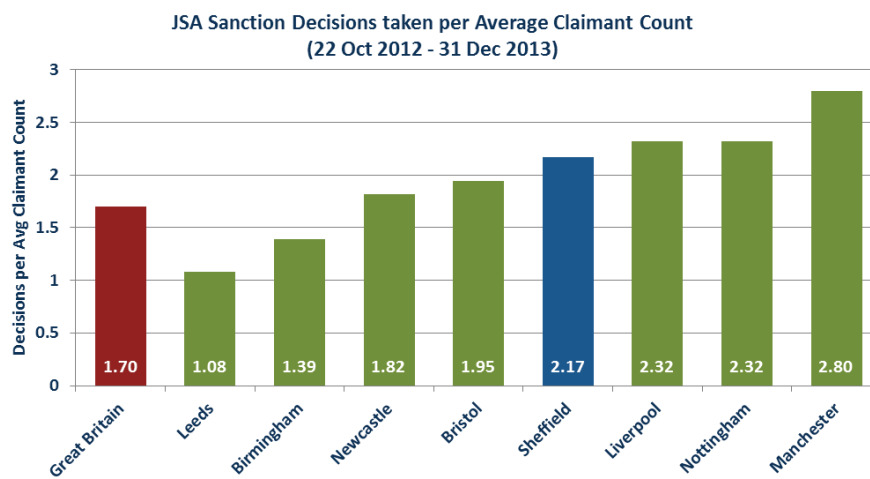
An increased use of sanctions to encourage people to move into work is causing severe financial distress to those affected. Changes to the conditionality regime means that there is significant anecdotal evidence that sanctions are often implemented as a result of one off events or mistakes on the part of DWP, as well as demands being placed on job seekers who try to meek them but are unable to because of circumstances beyond their control.

Nationally, statistics are compiled to show the number of people whose benefits are sanctioned. Monthly JSA sanction rates have risen from 2 per cent to 2.5 per cent of claimants from 2000 to 2006, to 6 per cent by late 2013, and now stand over 7 per cent (JRF, 2014b).

The first graph shows the number of sanctions for people on JSA over time. The second graph compares the proportions of people being sanctioned in Sheffield with other core cities. (Note: re the Manchester figures in the second graph - it isn't clear whether the same boundaries are being used for the claimant count and the sanctions).



Source: Dept. Work and Pensions



Source: Dept. Work and Pensions & Office for National Statistics

Siobhan is a single parent who fled domestic violence and was rehoused with her son by the City Council. She contacted the Job Centre by phone on finding that her Jobseekers' Allowance hadn't been paid. She was told she had been sanctioned for not going to an appointment. Unfortunately Siobhan had gone to the wrong venue. She wasn't told she could claim hardship payments or that she should keep signing on. She did not receive the letter confirming the sanctions. She survived for four months on limited income from her Child Tax Credit and Child Benefit and on food handouts.

Newly arrived immigrants and other people with poor levels of English find it particularly difficult to apply for the required number of jobs without support to find jobs and complete application forms.

Although sanctions to Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA) should not affect housing benefit or council tax benefit eligibility, a delay in amending processes mean that these benefits are being stopped and individuals are having to reapply.

Delays

Although not strictly welfare reform, as well as changes to benefits entitlement, there is increasing concern about the impact of delays in payment of benefits. Research by Involve into the use of food banks in Sheffield found that there was, on average, a delay of nine weeks between the first contact with job centre plus and benefits being paid. All Sheffield foodbanks have reported an increase in demand since April 2013 when benefits changes started to be implemented.

Research carried out into the use of food banks nationally included research carried out into almost 1000 cases at the Trussell Trust Food Bank in Burngreave. This found that in 43% of cases, people using the foodbank cited benefit delays as the referral reason, with a further 17% citing benefit changes (Perry et al, 2014).

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Sheffield's Tackling Poverty Strategy 2015-18

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Introduction

It is with anger and sadness that we write this introduction to Sheffield's Tackling Poverty Strategy, which includes our Child Poverty Strategy. Anger and sadness that in our city today people are still struggling to feed themselves and their children and families, that people are working all the hours they can find for low pay and without certainty, and that despite such hard work, they are scraping by, or sometimes not even that.

We also write with admiration and determination. Admiration for the expert management of household budgets, care for families and contributions to communities that citizens make in spite of incredibly difficult and hugely stressful circumstances. We will do more to make it easier for Sheffield people to help themselves and each other and to continue to focus on helping people earlier and helping those in greatest need. And we are determined to keep working at this together with all our partners in the city.

We are not starting from scratch; we achieved some important progress against the targets in our last strategy and are continuing to work towards the recommendations of the Fairness Commission. For example, we have the third highest proportion of teenagers in apprenticeships of any local authority in the country and we are launching Sheffield Money, which will provide an affordable and ethical alternative to high-cost credit.

However, we know that we have much more to do and that we won't achieve everything we need to in the lifetime of this strategy, or probably even the next. We know it will take a long time to shift the poverty and inequalities in our city but we know that it is possible to use public policy to do this. Child poverty did fall in the decade to 2010 and pensioner poverty has fallen in more recent years, both at least in part driven by deliberate targeting. We do need to do things differently though because despite significant efforts, poverty still exists. The evidence about the most effective ways to tackle poverty has some gaps and is still emerging and we want to learn from and build on this.

We have a clear vision and shared strategic priorities. We have some firm commitments from partners to take action that will begin addressing each of these priorities. We know where some of the gaps are and where we need to do more. We also know that we don't have all of the resources and powers we need to achieve our vision, but we have already begun to demonstrate how devolving powers can allow us to do more and better locally. We will build on this approach and make the case for how and where more local control could be more effective.

We want to thank partners who have worked so constructively together in difficult times to come to this shared agreement of the vision and strategic programmes required. We want to thank also the officers from the Council who have provided support to this project.

When the period covered by this strategy ends, we want to be on our way to achieving our vision. Stay involved as we try to make Sheffield an even better place for everyone.

Clr Julie Dore, Leader of Sheffield City Council

Dean Peter Bradley, chair of Sheffield's Tackling Poverty partnership reference group

Summary

Poverty and inequality are scars on our city. Around 1 in 5 Sheffield people live in poverty at any one time and the latest data showed that there are around 25,705 children of all ages and almost a third of all children under ten in Sheffield currently living in poverty. Almost two-thirds of the financial impact of the government's welfare reforms will be felt by families with children. Poverty harms them - both now and for the future - and harms our whole community.

The Child Poverty Act (2010) places a statutory duty on local authorities and named partners to co-operate to assess need and formulate strategies in response to this need. Our work to tackle child poverty will be an important focus within this broader strategy to tackle poverty in Sheffield. We have long been committed to working to address poverty and inequality for all the people of Sheffield and we know that we cannot tackle poverty for children without supporting the households and communities within which they live. Therefore this is a strategy to tackle all-age poverty.

Our vision is for children and adults in Sheffield to be able to afford to meet their fundamental needs.

We know that we won't achieve everything we need to in the lifetime of this strategy, or probably even the next. We know it will take a long time to shift the poverty and inequalities in our city but we know that it is possible to use public policy to do this. Factors outside of local control mean that child and all-age poverty is set to rise over the next three to five years. This makes achieving our vision even more challenging.

This strategy's development has been overseen by the Tackling Poverty Partnership Reference Group, chaired by Dean Peter Bradley, with representatives from various organisations, including Sheffield Executive Board, SY Police, the Clinical Commissioning Group, Jobcentre Plus, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority, and the Voluntary, Community & Faith sector. It sets out how we will work towards meeting this challenge over the next three years and the ambitious approaches that will be needed to make significant reductions in the longer-term. At the heart of the strategy is a commitment to those in Sheffield who are struggling to meet minimum needs – children, families, people and communities. We know no single organisation can do this alone, so we are committed to acting together as a partnership across the city to tackle poverty. We will ensure that the actions in our strategy are taken and every time we make a major decision, we will consider the impact of what we do on poverty and people in poverty.

As a partnership, we need a coherent and comprehensive approach covering the wide range of complex issues that mean poverty is still a reality in Sheffield. This is backed up by both the evidence and our consultation. We have developed a set of strategic programmes under the following three headings:

1. Change **the way we do things** so that tackling poverty is always a priority (including tackling the stigma often felt by people in poverty and by considering poverty when making major decisions)
2. Take action to **make things better for children and adults who are struggling and in poverty now** (including providing advice, reducing the cost of everyday essentials and reducing crime)
3. **Tackle some of the root causes of poverty and give our children the best chance of a poverty-free future** (including improving skills and employability, increasing the supply of good quality jobs, improving access to good quality, affordable childcare, giving children a great start in life and a good education, improving health and tackling health inequalities and providing more affordable, decent homes)

We know that we need to go further than the commitments that we have made so far as a partnership. So, as a partnership, we will use our vision and strategic framework to guide us and add, over the lifetime of the strategy, to the commitments that we have already made. The Action Plan, attached to the strategy is a 'living document'. It will be developed, added to and strengthened over the course of its lifetime. We will develop bolder and more ambitious actions, create opportunities and respond to changing needs and emerging evidence relating to adults and children in poverty.

Critically, if we are to have a chance of achieving our aim to reduce poverty in the future, this continued work must include exploring ways to tackle the issues that are currently outside of our control as well as those that we are more easily and directly able to influence. We must also evaluate how effectively each of our actions reduces poverty. We will maintain a focus on the specific impact on children as part of this.

We have started by identifying the critical issues outside of our control. We will develop robust, well-evidenced proposals for some of these issues and make the case to Government about how and where devolving powers and funds at the local level could reduce poverty. For other issues, it will be more effective to raise awareness and, in some cases, influence national decision-makers, or to seek sources of funding and resources by working in a partnership to do things differently.

We have focused on the needs and priorities of children and adults in Sheffield and considered the best available evidence about what works in tackling poverty. We are building on the important work that already has been done and continues to be done by partners across the city. This strategy cannot include every action that will help to reduce poverty and its negative effects, but we will continue to prioritise tackling poverty and increase our impact through 'poverty proofing' our decisions.

The combined impact of the specific actions within this strategy is hard to quantify and poverty in Sheffield is also influenced by national and international circumstances. We will review our progress regularly as a partnership to ensure we are on-track and manage any risks as early as possible in order that we maintain our position as the core city outside of London with the second lowest rate of relative child poverty.

In order to assure themselves that delivery is on-track as well as maintaining a focus on the overall vision, the partners will review a set of key indicators and will receive an annual report on progress against the actions set out in the strategy. They will also receive exception reports to alert them to any risk of under-performance against the targets. We recognise that things might change over the life of the strategy and that actions may need to be altered to address those changes, but we will maintain our focus on achieving progress towards our vision using our strategic framework as a guide.

What did we achieve with our last strategy?

We published a self-assessment of our previous Strategy as part of the consultation documentation. The full version, along with last performance monitoring data can be found here: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/your-city-council/policy--performance/what-we-want-to-achieve/corporate-plan/tackling-poverty-and-increasing-social-justice.html>

This section summarises our achievements as well as the areas in which we did not meet our targets.

A reminder of our goals

Sheffield's Child & Household Poverty Strategy 2012-14 set the following overarching goals:

- Increase understanding of the impact of poverty and what can be done to tackle it
- Raise aspiration, engagement and attainment in learning for children and young people in poverty
- Raise the skills and aspirations of parents and carers for themselves and their families
- Build resilient communities
- Increase access to employment for disadvantaged groups
- Reduce health inequalities

Underneath each of these headings, we agreed a set of actions and indicators. We also said that:

Throughout all of our interventions, we must maintain a watchful eye on how those groups we have identified as being particularly at risk of poverty are being supported and assess whether interventions designed to meet the specific needs of the 'at risk' groups are required.

Overall, 71% of all targets were on-track or achieved. There were two targets for which we could not provide an exact progress measure due to the fact that the metrics for Early Years changed and we could not compare our progress against the original targets. We achieved most progress in the following areas:

- Increased understanding of the impact of poverty and what can be done to tackle it
- Increased access to employment for disadvantaged groups.

The areas in which we were off-track or missed targets are shown in more detail in the full document, along with explanatory information and any action being taken to address under-performance. The following areas were identified as the ones where we did not achieve as much progress as we had wanted to (although in many cases significant progress was achieved, but the targets set were stretching and ambitious):

- Provision of advice
- Parental engagement and parenting programmes
- Narrowing the gap in educational attainment
- Prevention of homelessness
- Insulation and affordable warmth schemes
- Reducing health inequalities

We have considered these areas, along with new and emerging needs and evidence, in determining our goals and strategic approach.

Poverty in Sheffield – a summary of our needs assessment

What do we mean by poverty?

'When a person's resources (mainly their material resources) are not sufficient to meet their minimum needs (including social participation)¹.'

(JRF, 2012; 2014)

Poverty is experienced differently by different people. It can mean many or all of the below:

- not having enough to eat and not being able to eat well
- living in cold, poor quality accommodation
- not being able to afford childcare or transport to go to college or work
- having to pay more for things than people who have more money
- growing up without access to the experiences and opportunities that enable you to succeed in life
- having family relationships damaged by stress and desperation
- becoming isolated
- not being able to afford a basic holiday
- not having clothes that keep you warm and dry
- not being able to buy your partner or child a birthday present
- not being able to pay for your loved one's funeral
- skipping meals so your children can eat
- feeling stressed and in despair
- feeling powerless and unheard
- being made to feel ashamed and having low self-esteem
- being placed in a criminalised environment
- being at increased risk of mental and physical ill health
- dying at a younger age.

As part of our joint working as a partnership, there was common agreement that poverty is all around us, it is expensive for the whole of society and it is a problem for all of us.

Around one in every five people in Sheffield live in poverty and almost a third of children under 10

- Around 20% of people in Sheffield live in relative poverty (below 60% of median income) at any one time. In 2012 this included 23% of all Sheffield children and almost a third of all Sheffield children under 10.
- A far greater number of people will experience poverty over the course of ten years – potentially 40%.
- Despite efforts to reduce poverty, the proportion of people living in relative poverty is stable and reducing slightly but at the same time the poor are getting poorer: nationally, income for the bottom fifth of people in 2011/12 was 5% lower in real terms than it was ten years before.
- There are geographic variations in poverty in Sheffield. 125,000 [22%] Sheffield people live within areas ranked as the most deprived tenth nationally, and 47,000 [8%] live within the least deprived tenth nationally.
- The face of poverty has changed:
 - Pensioners are now less likely to be in poverty than previously, but other groups are more likely to be in poverty. Poverty amongst pensioners is directly linked to their experience in earlier life.
 - Nationally, falling poverty rates for disabled people have reversed, with poverty starting to increase.

¹ A number of proxy measures are used by government and others to seek to quantify poverty, but the JRF definition is the expression of what poverty means to an individual.

- People from minority ethnic backgrounds are more likely to be poor than white British people.
- Care leavers, and carers (both young carers and adult carers) are at increased risk of poverty.
- Children in large or single parent families are at greater risk of poverty. Almost two thirds of children living in single parent families live in poverty.
- Asylum seekers and refused asylum seekers experience destitution and benefits levels are insufficient to meet all but the most basic of needs.
- Compared to all other local authorities in England, Sheffield has relatively more deprivation, although it is not amongst the most deprived local authorities in the country. Sheffield is the 6th most deprived of the eight English Core Cities.

There are a number of key drivers of poverty

- Key factors keeping people in poverty now are: long term unemployment or poor pay and instability (short term, part time and zero hours contracts); lack of qualifications; family instability; family size; ill health and disability and (for the relatively few families affected by it) drug and alcohol abuse.
- Key factors increasing the likelihood of poor children growing up poor are: poor brain development influenced by poverty in early years; low levels of educational attainment; low parental qualification levels; childhood poverty; poor quality home learning environment; non-cognitive development (such as motivation, perseverance and self-control); child, or parental ill-health; long term parental worklessness and low earnings; and lack of guidance to help children to realise their aspirations.
- The length of time spent in poverty increases the risk of poor outcomes for children in their adult life.
- Consultation indicates to us that lack of affordable local childcare is preventing mothers from accessing work or training.
- The changing shape of the labour market means that there are more low skilled and low-paid jobs and fewer semi-skilled jobs which can attract higher wages.
- Our consultation tells us that for new arrivals, lack of English language and lack of access to high quality English classes limits opportunities to find work.
- Welfare reforms are having a significant impact on the income levels of those affected. Benefit levels have been frozen, meaning real terms cuts whilst the bedroom tax affects over 4000 families in Sheffield. Delays in the system are creating acute hardship for many and over 7% of claimants are sanctioned each month.

Poverty has short term and long term effects on well-being

- More people in Sheffield are turning to food banks for help: there are now at least 16 food banks operating in Sheffield. People using food banks have experienced low wages, unemployment, changes to benefits, benefit delays and sanctions. Schools are reporting having to feed children when they arrive having not had breakfast.
- The cost of a minimum food shopping basket has increased faster than general food inflation. This appears to be associated with prices of lower cost food rising more than average.
- 7% of people do not have access to a current account, and around 12% of people in Sheffield rely on high cost credit options such as payday loans and doorstep lenders.
- 11% of people live in fuel poverty.
- Poverty is strongly correlated with loneliness and social isolation, especially amongst older people.
- Poverty is closely correlated with poor health outcomes throughout life. As an example, infant mortality is more than a third greater in the most deprived areas of Sheffield compared with the least deprived. The rate of premature mortality from all causes of death is almost three times greater in the most deprived wards than it is in the least deprived.
- Mental health problems are more prevalent in areas with high deprivation, and health trainers are reporting seeing increased mental health problems related to financial worries.

- Living in a deprived area increases the risk of being a victim of crime. People living in poverty are at greater risk of domestic violence and sexual exploitation.

Poverty is expensive

- The poverty premium means that many goods and services are more expensive for people who are unable to access services online, to buy without credit, or to access affordable credit.
- Research commissioned by the Child Poverty Action Group has estimated that each child living below the poverty line is estimated to cost around £10,800 annually. The costs are made up of services needed to deal with the consequences of child poverty, lost tax receipts from people earning less as a result of having grown up in poverty, benefits for people spending more time out of work as a result of having grown up in poverty and lost earnings. The annual cost of child poverty in Sheffield has been calculated to be £265m and this likely to be a conservative estimate.

There is more to do to put the right conditions in place for people to escape poverty

- Well-paid employment helps people to escape poverty, but employment does not always prevent poverty. We know that across the nation in 2011-12 almost two-thirds of children in poverty were living in a household where someone worked at least some of the time.
- Sheffield has fewer jobs per resident than other Core Cities and the England average. However, unemployment/employment rates are improving: Jobseekers Allowance claims in August were at their lowest level since 2008, and Sheffield has the highest proportion of young people in work-based training of all the Core Cities.
- Poor health reduces people's opportunities to work. Disabled people and people with long term health conditions in particular are less likely to be employed than the general population, and so at greater risk of poverty. Sheffield ranks lowest of all Core Cities on the percentage of people with severe mental health illness who are employed.
- Childcare enables parents to work, and high quality childcare helps increase educational attainment. Children in the most deprived wards are less likely to make use of their entitlement to free early learning at three and four than those in the least deprived wards.
- The gap in attainment of five A*-C grades at GCSE including English and maths between children eligible for free school meals and the city average was 26.8 percentage points in 2013. This was wider than in previous years. Our analysis suggests that children make reasonable progress whilst at school and that the gap is largely due to children starting from a low base, so investing in the early years is key.
- The proportion of people in Sheffield with no qualifications has dropped. The information from the Census indicates that the population in Sheffield aged 16-64 with no qualifications was 15.9% in 2011 compared to 33.8% in 2001 and our annual monitoring indicates that the downward trend continues. However, there is still a clear correlation between poverty and low skills levels.
- One of the most effective ways of increasing income in the short term is increasing benefit take-up. Almost a third of eligible people in the UK in 2009-10 were not claiming the full amount of the means-tested benefits to which they were entitled.
- Online access is increasingly important for people to stay connected, claim benefits and secure the services they need, but 11% of people in Sheffield have never used the internet and many more do not have ready access to it.
- The stigma associated with poverty, and the way in which people are treated by service providers is reported to make it more difficult to escape poverty.
- Public sector reductions have resulted in cuts those services designed to help people to escape poverty.

A detailed needs assessment is available here: [note that a link will be added once this is approved]

The scale of the challenge

We must acknowledge the scale of the challenge we face. There have been significant budget cuts already for many public sector organisations and there are more to come. This has made it more difficult for those organisations (and organisations dependent on public sector funding, such as the voluntary and community sector) to provide support to the most vulnerable people in the city. There have also been significant cuts to benefits as part of the wider welfare reform agenda affecting around one in seven people in the city and, again, the full extent of these changes has not yet been felt. Both of these things, coupled with the impact of the recession, mean that even preventing things from worsening will require significant effort and commitment.

Impact of welfare reform locally

Recent research carried out by Beatty and Fothergill at Sheffield Hallam University has evaluated the cumulative impact of the welfare reforms on Sheffield, both at ward level and by household type. When the reforms have come to full fruition, Sheffield can expect to lose some £169m a year in benefit income. Their findings provide a clear indication of the groups which will be most affected by the welfare reforms. Households with dependent children across the city will experience an average loss of £1,690 per year. This increases for lone parents to an average of just over £2,000 per year. As a rule of thumb, it would be reasonable to assume that in the hardest-hit wards at least a third of the overall financial loss arising from welfare reform has still to make itself felt. Of the total of £169m a year that Sheffield is expected to lose when the reforms have come to full fruition, some £108m – approaching two-thirds – is a financial loss faced by households with dependent children. The financial loss in Sheffield arising from DLA and incapacity benefit reform is estimated to be £56m a year – a third of the total financial loss arising from welfare reform. It is estimated that around £75m a year of the financial loss arising from welfare reform might be expected to fall on in-work households. The financial loss to in-work households would therefore account for around 45 per cent of the total financial loss to Sheffield arising from the reforms.

What can be achieved at a local level

We need to acknowledge the limits of local action when considering the scale of the challenge facing us. Many critical drivers of poverty, such as the performance of the global economy and the impact of national policies, ranging from fiscal and benefit changes to education reform and the Work Programme, are outside of the control of the Council and its partners in the city. If we are to have a hope of reducing poverty in Sheffield, more of these things that are currently managed at a national level must be targeted at tackling poverty and we must be able to influence and control many more of them locally.

National targets and progress

The Child Poverty Act (2010) and subsequent national child poverty strategies aspire to eradicate child poverty in the UK. The ambitious targets set by the government included reducing by 2020 the proportion of children:

- living in relative poverty to below 10% of the population
- experiencing material deprivation to below 5%
- living in absolute poverty to below 5% of the population
- living in persistent poverty (target being finalised).

The scale of the challenge involved in meeting these targets is such that many experts do not now believe it is possible to meet them within the agreed timescales. The more optimistic assumptions (Reed & Portes, June 2014) are based on 100% take-up of means-tested benefits and Universal Credit. Their projections suggest that by 2020:

- relative child poverty will be 21%

- absolute child poverty will be just over 24%

They go on to state that 'even heroic assumptions about parental employment rates and earnings would still leave over 3 million children - 21% - in absolute poverty by 2020.'

The latest national Child Poverty Strategy 2014-17 states that '*This Government remains firmly committed to the goal of ending child poverty in the UK by 2020*'. The evidence review published alongside it considers a wide range of actions which will have the best chance of success. There is a strong emphasis on the importance of work in the national strategy. Research on behalf of the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission (SMCPC) found that achieving the 2020 targets within the current tax and benefit system would require parental employment rates of close to 100% combined with big increases in the working hours of families in working poverty over and above the requirements of Universal Credit. The analysis concludes that these 'employment outcomes for parents are implausible - they are far more ambitious than have ever been achieved in the United Kingdom or anywhere else in the world.' However, they have not modelled what could happen if the savings in welfare spend and increased tax revenues from increased working were all to be targeted at poverty reduction.

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What works in tackling child and all-age poverty?

Broadly flat poverty rates over the last twenty years reflect the challenges in tackling poverty effectively. The evidence about what works that is available is largely focused on national government approaches rather than approaches that would result in a city-level shift.

The New Policy Institute's historical review of national anti-poverty strategies considered the success of anti-poverty strategies and found those key characteristics that correlated with success included:

- **Political commitment:** the most effective strategies all had commitment at a high level, from both politicians and civil servants. This gave impetus and leadership to the strategy.
- **Responsibility and accountability:** in some of the strategies reviewed, the lines of accountability for delivery were not clear. These were often the less successful strategies.
- **Links to economic policy:** if anti-poverty strategies are to have real purchase they must be developed alongside economic policy.
- **Institutional arrangements:** the creation of dedicated institutions or systems of governance helps the development process. They also offer some security against changes in political leadership.
- **Co-ordination** (the all-government approach): the multifaceted nature of poverty means that tackling it requires high levels of co-ordination across government.
- **Implementation:** the development of a strategy means very little if it is not put into practice. There remains a gap between what is often committed to in strategy documents and what is delivered. Often gaps emerged when moving from the national picture to local delivery.
- **The involvement of external stakeholders:** these are a vital source of information and should be involved in implementing the strategy.
- **An effective system of monitoring and review:** measuring results is crucial to maintaining momentum and ensuring various parts of government are meeting their objectives.

International evidence suggests that only with a multi-faceted approach can we hope to achieve significant impact. There are, broadly speaking, three main approaches to tackling poverty:

1. Increasing the income of people affected through increased earnings and/or progressive taxation policies
2. Reducing the levels of people's expenditure required to maintain a basic standard of living (for example through provision of low / no cost childcare, health services)
3. Intervention approaches (such as work in early years to improve children's life chances) to alleviate or remove the impact of poverty on outcomes and reduce the likelihood of intergenerational poverty.

These approaches are not mutually exclusive. In fact, evidence from countries which have reduced the link between children's backgrounds and their outcomes shows that they achieved this through a combined approach of fiscal transfers, active labour market strategies and investment in education. Obviously local government does not have the ability to bring into effect the same level of change that national government can, but it is likely that a similarly multifaceted approach will be most effective.

Based on a reading of the available evidence on what works in tackling poverty, we propose that work should be focused in the following areas.

Making things better for people who are in poverty

- Reducing costs including: food, fuel/ energy, transport and credit (this may in some cases be via improved access to the internet)
- Increasing benefit take-up (particularly in the run up to the introduction of Universal Credit)

- Providing high quality advice /advocacy / access to service including debt-advice that is impartial and free
- Providing access to emergency support (often financial) including affordable small-sum loans that could help low-income households to cope with both peaks in expenditure and cover everyday expenses following an unexpected fall in income
- Reducing homelessness
- Providing spaces where children and adults feel safe to play and exercise
- Creating neighbourhoods and environments that enable people to thrive.

Tackling root causes and giving children the best chance of a poverty-free future

- Helping people access work, progress within work and improving work conditions (including pay)
- Creating an inclusive economic growth strategy that will deliver more and better paid jobs
- Improving adult skills and employer-sector led skills development
- High quality, accessible and affordable childcare and transport – as an enabler to work
- Developing opportunities and support for those who are not in work
- Increasing affordable housing supply
- Improving access to health, health outcomes including mental health and maternal health
- Creating a better home life (including the home learning environment, interactions with a primary care giver and emotional development)
- Establishing high quality early years provision (childcare to support child development , focusing on programmes which promote structure, attunement and regulation)
- Providing a good education (good schools and further and higher education and teaching, increasing attainment and closing attainment gaps, also softer skills)
- Cultivating lifelong and community learning and building resilience of individuals, families and communities
- Reducing barriers and supporting those with complex needs (e.g. youth offending, domestic violence, safeguarding).

How we do things

This last section is about the way in which service providers, including those whose services are not directly aimed at tackling poverty, work. Evidence points to the below being useful:

- Targeting support at the people who need it – including focus on the groups most at risk of poverty
- Making it easier for people, including the whole household approach, and making every contact count
- Building on strengths and assets within communities and families, including resilience
- ‘Poverty proofing’ our decisions, making sure people, especially those making decisions about service delivery and policy changes, think about how their actions affect people struggling for money
- Changing perceptions and attitudes to poverty – reducing the stigma of poverty and the extent to which we value contributions that are not about paid employment
- Involving people experiencing poverty in solutions to tackle it
- Digital inclusion.

We know that intervening as early as possible and preventative approaches are more effective, particularly when collective responsibility is taken across a range of partners focused on reducing inequalities.

In August 2014, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation published a set of 33 research summaries [Reducing Poverty in the UK: a collection of evidence reviews](#) assessing the evidence base for solutions to poverty. It completes the first phase

of a programme to develop anti-poverty strategies for the UK and its devolved administrations. The next phase will see more detailed policy development and modelling work to test different approaches.

Sheffield is engaging with Joseph Rowntree Foundation and others to ensure we keep up to date with emerging research and contribute to it where appropriate.

Further links can also be found in the document *Tackling Poverty how do we know what works v1.0* published at the start of the consultation period for the refreshed strategy, which can be accessed at:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/your-city-council/policy--performance/what-we-want-to-achieve/corporate-plan/tackling-poverty-and-increasing-social-justice.html>. Work on this is ongoing as new evidence emerges.

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Sheffield's priorities and approach

Our aim is to work towards a Sheffield in which people have sufficient income and resources to meet their fundamental needs. Through consultation we have developed a shared understanding of our ultimate goals.

Making things better for children and adults who are struggling and in poverty

In our ideal Sheffield, no-one would live in poverty, but we do not have control of the systems necessary to achieve this. However, we aim for a Sheffield where **the most damaging and degrading elements of poverty are eliminated**. This means that:

Poverty does not affect people's chances to be safe and healthy

- No-one goes hungry or is malnourished because people can access and afford a healthy nutritious diet, and people have a healthier relationship with food, diet and exercise.
- Adults can afford to dress themselves and their children appropriately for the weather.
- People live in affordable, safe, warm, decent homes.
- There is less addiction, substance misuse and problem gambling, and more support for those who need it.
- People in poverty are no longer at greater risk of being victims of crime, particularly domestic violence, prostitution and sexual exploitation.
- Children and adults feel safer and live in neighbourhoods and environments that enable people to thrive.

Poverty does not prevent people from living a full life

- Children and adults can enjoy safe places to play and exercise.
- Costs of food, fuel, energy, homes, transport do not rise more quickly than increases in income.
- People are less isolated and can socialise with friends.
- People can afford basic things to participate such as buying a birthday present or children having friends round for tea.
- People taking unpaid caring roles are supported properly and we reduce the number of unpaid carers.
- There is good access to affordable transport.
- People can access the internet.
- Children and adults can learn for the love of it.

The right systems are in place to help people to minimise their financial problems

- The 'poverty premium' is reduced.
- People can access affordable, appropriate credit.
- People are able to save.
- Problem debt is reduced and people are able to access help to deal with it.
- People are confident and able to manage their budgets, navigate financial systems and get help where they need it.
- The benefits system is sufficient to meet need and is clear, understood and responsive. It is trusted and used by those who need it.
- Sanctions are not used excessively or unfairly.

Although we may not be able to eliminate poverty without broader systemic change, we want to see it drastically reduced, and we believe that the way to do this is by **tackling some of the root causes of poverty to give our children the best chance of a poverty-free future**. What does this look like?

The right conditions are in place for people to escape poverty through employment

- We have well-paid, flexible, stable, decent jobs with sufficient hours, good employment practices and promotion and progression opportunities.
- We reduce discrimination and have more equity of opportunity and access to different jobs.
- We have a more mixed-skill economy with a range of opportunities for different interests and skills levels.
- People can afford and access suitable childcare (in terms of hours and location and caring for specific needs).
- Jobs are safer.

People are able to gain the skills that they need to access good jobs

- Young people leave school with the right qualifications and skills they need for work and life, and adults can continue to improve their skills throughout life.
- Training is affordable, high quality and appropriate for the jobs market.
- There are traineeships and apprenticeships for all young people who need them.
- People can afford childcare to go to college and parents and carers are able to access education, training and employment.
- There are opportunities for people who are not in work, including well-supported and structured volunteering opportunities.

Barriers are reduced for people who are at greatest risk of poverty

- We have sufficient high quality affordable ESOL provision.
- There is appropriate support in place for disabled people and those with health conditions to find work if they are in a position to do so.

The right conditions are in place for people to have good physical and mental health

- Financial stress is reduced and people are better able to cope with the stresses of everyday life.
- There is appropriate support for mental ill-health.
- Children and adults have improved emotional stability and intelligence.
- People are able to have fulfilling relationships, improved communication and wellbeing.
- People with chronic conditions get the care and support they need to manage their condition(s) and thereby continue to lead fulfilling lives.
- Children with health issues get prompt and appropriate care to resolve the issue or, if on-going, to manage it as effectively as possible so as to have the least possible impact on their growth and development.
- Communities are strong and resilient.

Families and schools are able to give children and young people the best start in life

- Parents are supported and knowledgeable - their parenting capacity and styles support best outcomes.
- Children have improved cognitive functioning, self-regulation, empathy and physical health.
- Children grow up with access to the experiences and opportunities that enable them to succeed in life.
- Children start school ready to learn and for life.
- Every school is a good school.
- Children can and do access enrichment opportunities.
- There is access to excellent careers guidance, at the right times, and support to realise aspirations.

Sheffield is a more equal city

- Health inequalities are reduced
- We narrow the gap in outcomes of all kinds between groups.
- There is less financial inequality

We know we cannot achieve all these goals within the lifetime of this strategy, but these are the outcomes we are working towards. We have set realistic interim targets as part of this strategy.

Guiding principles and scope

This strategy replaces the Child & Household Poverty Strategy that ran to the end of 2014. The Child Poverty Act (2010) places a statutory duty on local authorities and named partners to co-operate to assess need and formulate strategies in response to this need. Our work to tackle child poverty is an important focus within this broader strategy to tackle poverty in Sheffield. This means that we have prioritised action that will support families with children.

The Tackling Poverty Strategy Partnership, committed to be informed and influenced by the following when developing the contributions that partners in the city could make to the strategy:

- the needs of children and adults in poverty in Sheffield
- the evidence available about the most effective ways to meet these needs
- responses to its consultation.

Our analysis of these things suggests that we need to maintain a balance between making things better for people who are in poverty and tackling some of the root causes of poverty.

The responses to the consultation yielded a disparity of views and different priorities. There was a view expressed by some organisations that focusing on a small number of actions would be more effective. We know, though, that no single action will allow us to make a significant change to levels of poverty and hardship.

Approach and strategic programmes

We think that it is sensible for individual organisations and services to focus on a few areas where they can make most difference, but that, as a partnership, we need a coherent and comprehensive approach covering the wide range of complex issues that cause poverty. Therefore, we have developed a shared agreement of the strategic programmes that are needed and sought individual contributions to each of these. We have organised these strategic programmes under the following three headings:

1. How we will do things

- Telling the story of poverty in Sheffield - tackling the stigma
- Poverty proofing – putting consideration of poverty at the heart of decision-making

2. What we will do to make things better for children and adults who are struggling and in poverty now

- Providing advice, advocacy and access to entitlements and direct financial support
- Reducing the costs of everyday essentials
- Supporting neighbourhoods and environments that enable people to thrive and reducing crime including domestic abuse, sexual exploitation and substance misuse

3. What we will do now to tackle some of the root causes of poverty and give our children the best chance of a poverty-free future

- Providing skills and employability support
- Encouraging the creation of good quality jobs with fair terms and conditions
- Improving the affordability, availability and accessibility of flexible and good quality childcare – moving towards a point at which it is available where and when people need it
- Maximising entitlements for those who cannot work

- Giving children the education and enriching experiences and raising expectations to improve achievement and future life-chances
- Reducing health inequalities and improving health and access to health services
- Strengthening community resilience and tackling loneliness and isolation
- Reducing barriers for those with multiple and complex needs
- Increasing access to jobs, services and leisure activities
- Increasing the supply of affordable decent homes

Some of these strategic programmes also serve other purposes and, in some cases, the activities within them are well-developed, clearly defined and comprehensive. In these cases, we don't need to do much that is different, but if they were to stop or change significantly, we would struggle to meet our objectives. We have therefore differentiated between programmes and projects that:

- fall directly within the remit of the Tackling Poverty Strategy and where the partnership should be the main accountable body
- require an approach that meets the aims of both the Tackling Poverty Strategy and another agenda requiring a joint approach
- are led elsewhere but are critical to the success of the Tackling Poverty Strategy resulting in an interdependence.

Achieving greater impact

Our long-term goal of reducing poverty in Sheffield must include exploring ways to tackle the issues that are currently outside of our direct control as well as those that we are able to influence more easily. We have started by identifying the critical issues within our strategic programmes, where, with greater influence, resources and powers, we could achieve a significant shift in poverty and we have prioritised action for households including children. The areas in which we believe a bolder and more ambitious approach is needed are set out under each of our proposed strategic programmes. These are areas in which we want to influence national decision-makers, look at alternative ways of doing things and secure new sources of funding.

We know that we need to go further than the commitments that we have made so far as a partnership and we want to be more ambitious and far-reaching. We will use our vision and strategic framework to guide us. Over the lifetime of the new strategy we will build on and add to the commitments that we have already made, create opportunities and respond to changing needs and emerging evidence relating to adults and children in poverty. The Action Plan, attached to the strategy, is a 'living document' that will also be added to and strengthened as the strategy and our ambitions develop. We must also evaluate how effectively each of our actions reduces poverty. We therefore want to work with a research partner to understand the impact of our actions on poverty in the city and on children and others living in poverty. We will use this to improve our understanding and make any necessary adjustments to our Action Plan.

Making things better for children and adults who are struggling and in poverty now

- Maximising the income of struggling households, especially those with children, by providing the advice and support needed for them to access affordable credit, to claim the benefits to which they are entitled and to receive money advice.
- A welfare system that provides sufficient support for people when they need it – including reducing delays and sanctions.

Tackling some of the root causes of poverty and giving our children the best chance of a poverty-free future

- An even sharper focus on the early years work to give our children a great start in life.

- Supporting struggling households with high quality, accessible and affordable childcare and transport.
- Cultivating 'Good growth' – developing an inclusive economic growth strategy that delivers more and better paid jobs with fair terms and conditions, including the commitment of businesses to the Living Wage.
- Working with teenagers and young adults to make sure that they remain engaged with education, employment and training.
- Helping teenagers and adults to improve their skills levels so that they can move on to better paid work and sustainable careers.
- Better connecting those facing the greatest barriers to work with job opportunities, including disabled jobseekers and those with health conditions.
- Tackling stigmatisation and putting consideration of poverty at the heart of decision making.

Making the case for devolution

We will develop robust, well-evidenced proposals in relation to these objectives and make the case to Government about how and where devolving powers and spending to the local level could reduce child and all-age poverty. This is more than an aspiration. We know from experience that it can work. For example, we have already secured the right to direct the use of £27m of skills funding to create more and better apprenticeships and we have agreed with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to pilot a project to demonstrate better ways of helping people receiving Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) to prepare for, access, and progress within work.

Influencing national decision-makers

We will capture and record evidence to build the case for change. We have experience of doing this within our partnership, as demonstrated recently by the investigation undertaken by Sheffield Citizens Advice into the impact of benefits sanctions, which is contributing to the national campaign for changes to the sanctions regime.

Our strategic programmes

This section of our plan sets out what we will do, why we should do it and our commitments and aspirations. The full and rich picture of commitments from partners and detailed performance monitoring framework is included in our separate action plan which is still subject to development.

1. How we will do things

We have identified two programmes for this section. We must also recognise in this section that if we are to succeed, we must continue to build and improve our partnership working at strategic level, and inter-professional and interagency working at operational levels. Our continued work [to achieve greater impact](#) in which we will use research to understand our impact better will build on the partnerships we have developed to date.

Telling the story of poverty in Sheffield - tackling the stigma

We know that the way in which we do things can either help or hinder us in our efforts to achieve better outcomes. For example, people have told us that even if a service can't help them, if they are treated with respect and empathy they are more likely to seek help elsewhere. Similarly, being given help but feeling judged can lead to people disengaging from support.

"It's ten times worse if they've got a bad attitude. That's worse than anything, whether they give you any help or not. If you leave that building feeling like dirt, you won't want to go back and ask for help again."

Key commitments include

- When we talk about poverty, we will include positive stories and recognise the different contributions people make. We will use the Fair City campaign to take opportunities to tackle stigma and bust myths.
- We will update and promote our training materials for staff and continue to focus on being helpful and respectful.

Poverty proofing - putting consideration of poverty at the heart of decision-making

We know that at times some of our decisions can be made without fully considering the impact on people in poverty in the city, especially when the impact might be unclear or unintended. 'Poverty proofing' is about assessing policies and actions at the design or review stage to assess their impact. This must include consideration of how well we are meeting the needs of the people and communities who are most likely to experience poverty and whether people who have experienced poverty, including children, have been involved in designing solutions. By doing this we expect to be better able to assess what the poverty impact of any changes to services could be. This will help the partnership to make better decisions by taking account of the impacts on poverty.

Key commitments include

- The Council will include poverty as part of the Equality Impact Assessment and bring people with experience of poverty together with decision-makers in areas of critical importance.
- The Clinical Commissioning Group has made tackling poverty a priority and it will reflect this both in its 'Commissioning Intentions' and by including a mandatory paragraph about how inequalities will be addressed in the Mandates for Programme management process.
- The Voluntary, Community & Faith sector will continue to make a significant contribution to tackling poverty and supporting those who are struggling with it through its day-to-day work. It supports the principle of poverty-proofing and tackling poverty is often the main criterion against which many of the decisions made

by organisations in the sector evaluate their success. The sector will also continue to be involved in strategic development in this area.

- The Council and its partners will maintain a focus on children and the other groups most at risk of poverty and make sure the outcomes for these groups are improved through the actions we take.

Our aspirations include

- If we can work with more partner organisations in Sheffield to encourage them to take a more proactive approach to poverty proofing we think it would help to reduce poverty in Sheffield.

2. What we will do to make things better for children and adults who are struggling and in poverty now

We have identified three programmes for this section.

Providing advice, advocacy and access to entitlements and direct financial support

Our consultation bore witness to the fact that many people in Sheffield are living in extreme hardship. And this is supported by the evidence from our detailed Needs Assessment that showed that increasing numbers of people in Sheffield are hitting crisis point in terms of their financial situation. People in Sheffield are impressive in their resilience but we believe that part of this strategy has to be about making things easier for people who are in acute need.

Key commitments include

- We will protect and sustain access to high quality advice services including money advice targeted at life events and debt advice.
- We will continue to provide direct financial support for things like Council Tax and people in short-term acute need.
- We will inform people about and help them prepare for the impact of welfare reforms, including the introduction of Universal Credit.

Our aspirations include

- We would like to develop a Sheffield proposition for a more comprehensive safety-net and work towards its implementation.

Reducing the costs of everyday essentials

There are people in Sheffield who cannot afford feed their families, heat their homes, pay their bills or replace basics such as cookers and washing machines.

We will help them to make their money go further (we know many people manage incredibly well within a tight budget) by working together to reduce the costs of basics.

Key commitments include

- We will increase access to affordable credit for Sheffield citizens through developing Sheffield Money as well as an expansion of Sheffield Credit Union. This will mean that families are able to use ethical, affordable loans, rather than having to rely on high-cost payday and doorstep providers.

Our aspirations include

- We would like to investigate funding opportunities to cover the costs for credit union accounts for a time-limited period to help people to budget for their bills.

Neighbourhoods and environments that enable people to thrive - reducing crime including domestic abuse, sexual exploitation and substance misuse

We know that poverty has a scarring effect where the longer, or more frequently, people live in poverty, the deeper and longer the impact, including deteriorating health, the breakdown of relationships and reduced life chances.

There is a clear correlation between poverty and domestic abuse with research showing that children living in 'hard pressed' areas were over six times as likely to experience domestic violence as those in affluent areas. We also heard from people through our consultation that many parents did not feel safe in their communities and mentioned the state of local public spaces as a concern in terms of free places to play and for leisure activities.

Key commitments include

- We will 'poverty proof' our Domestic Abuse strategy and the commissioning and service delivery to reduce substance misuse.
- We will work to ensure that our standards of play and parks provision in disadvantaged areas are at least equal to the city average.

3. What we will do now to tackle some of the root causes of poverty and give our children the best chance of a poverty-free future

We have identified ten programmes for this section, the majority of which are joint approaches or are interdependent with the Tackling Poverty Strategy.

Unemployment damages health and self-confidence. The longer it lasts, the less likely an individual is to find sustainable, well-paid work. At the same time, we know that more than half of people in poverty nationally are working. For work to end poverty, jobs must be sufficiently well-paid and sustainable with fair terms and conditions. The evidence suggests that a combination of the following things will give us the best chance of success:

- Creating an inclusive economic growth strategy that will deliver more and better paid jobs.
- Supporting those jobseekers facing barriers to work to prepare for access and sustain employment.
- Equipping adult and young people with the higher level skills needed to secure and retain better paid work and career progression.
- Commissioning high quality, accessible and affordable childcare and transport as enablers to work
- Improving access to health services, including mental health.
- Reducing barriers and supporting those with complex needs (e.g. vulnerable young people and adults, youth and adult offenders and victims of domestic violence).

For those people who cannot work, a combination of the following will be important:

- Benefit levels being sufficient to meet needs and people accessing the benefits to which they are entitled
- The affordability of housing, childcare (if needed), transport and health and support services.

Skills and employability support

Key commitments include

- We will develop pathways to apprenticeships and work for those teenagers and young adult least likely to access these opportunities by conventional means.
- We will provide a specific employability support programme for young people and adults facing significant barriers to work, including those with learning difficulties and disabilities or health conditions.

Our aspirations include

- We will seek to negotiate with Government a devolved and integrated employment service for those furthest from the labour market and co-commissioning of a more responsive Work Programme from 2016.
- We will seek to use the city-region's new Skills Bank to create a 'skills escalator' that gives those in work access to better paid jobs and career progression.

Quality jobs with fair terms and conditions

Key commitments include

- The Council and the University of Sheffield will continue to pay directly employed staff a living wage.

Our aspirations include

- We have an ambition to develop an inclusive economic growth strategy and we want to work with partners across Sheffield City Region to build a shared plan to achieve this.
- Ultimately we would like to work towards ensuring that all Council contractors pay a living wage and that every GP practice, each Foundation Trust and their suppliers are paying the living wage, recruiting locally (and training local people where necessary). We recognise that this may take some time.
- The Clinical Commissioning group would like to consider tackling poverty questions when procuring services to understand what providers can bring to the local economy and system as an employer. This could include, for example, consideration of local businesses ('Sheffield Pound'), employment and training of local people, wages and benefits and conditions of employment for employees and local procurement policies. We would also like to work with key partners in the business and public sector to showcase the positive benefits they have recognised from paying the living wage and broader commitments to fair employment practises. We would like to see an increased number of jobs with living wage and Fair Employer Code.

Improved childcare affordability, quality, availability, flexibility and access – where and when people need it

Key commitments include

- We will explore more innovative approaches including flexible childcare through the expansion of the 2 yr Free Entitlement to Learning (FEL).

Our aspirations include

- We will explore options to reframe the financial subsidy for childcare so that more of the money is targeted at those on the lowest incomes.

Maximising entitlements for those who cannot work

Key commitments include

- We will protect and sustain access to high quality advice services, including money advice targeted at life events and debt advice.

Our aspirations include

- We want to consider the options and funding for increasing take-up of benefits, starting with focus on the families of children most in need.

- We want to work with other Core Cities to negotiate with government for the devolution to cities of the management of benefits.

Giving children the education and enriching experiences and raising expectations to improve achievement and future life-chances

The causes of poverty and therefore the means by which we tackle them are often interdependent. Educational attainment, for example, is the single biggest factor that can protect children from the perpetuation of inter-generational poverty. At the same time, analysis suggests that approximately half of the attainment gap between children eligible for free school meals and the rest could be eliminated by increasing to the national average incomes at the bottom end of the income distribution.

The following things have been identified as critical to children’s cognitive and social and emotional development, which in turn leads to improved educational and behavioural outcomes at school:

- sensitive and responsive interactions with the primary care giver
- high quality home learning environment
- high quality early years provision: staff qualifications have been shown to have the biggest impact on the quality of settings and therefore on children’s outcomes
- household income has a significant impact on children’s outcomes through reductions in parental stress and improvements in family resources
- parental qualification levels. This has a two-fold impact in terms of the ability to provide a high quality home learning environment and higher skill levels leading to progression in work and increased income.

Key commitments include:

- We will incorporate the Best Start principles into the City’s A Great Start in Life Early Years Strategy which will be disseminated across the city.

Our aspirations include:

- We will continue to seek funding to enable a great start in life for all children across Sheffield and to focus on soft skills in early years and schools.

Reduce health inequalities and improve health and access to health

Relationships between health and poverty are complex, with health conditions frequently playing a part in reducing people’s income, but many conditions are also caused and worsened by poverty. We want our Health Services to be designed and delivered in ways that reduce health inequalities and improve access to care for those most in need

Key commitments include:

- Delivering the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and the Health Inequalities Plan.
- Delivering the key work-streams led by the Children’s Health & Wellbeing Board.

Our aspirations include:

- Exploring the provision of free meals for children in early years settings. We are not in a position to fund this, but would like to explore the possibility, to seek funding and to analyse the impacts of this intervention.
- We want to improve access to, and outcomes from, health care for those most in need.
- We want to improve support for emotional wellbeing for children and young people with appropriate access to specialist services for those with more severe problems.

Programmes to build resilience and community – tackling loneliness and isolation

Access to support networks is a protective factor against many of the negative impacts of poverty. This was supported both by research and feedback as part of our consultation.

Key commitments include:

- Use of the £1m Transformation Challenge to expand the Community Support Worker programme in 2015/16.

Our aspirations include:

- We want to seek funding to continue and expand this programme in 2016/17 and beyond.

Reducing barriers for those with multiple and complex needs

We will continue to use keyworkers to support families and individuals who are in need of extra help and support. We know that young people who are carers, or looked after are at greater risk of poverty and we want to change this. We know that teenagers and young adults who disengage from education, employment or training need a different and more appropriate offer of support.

Key commitments include:

- We will use our existing keyworker services, combined with appropriate packages of interventions to support those individuals and families most in need of extra help and support.
- We will build on our early intervention and prevention work.

Our aspirations include:

- We want to work with a research partner to evaluate the impact of these services on reducing poverty.

Increasing access to jobs, services, leisure and participation

Free services can help to reduce material poverty by reducing the amount people have to spend to achieve a decent standard of living. The affordability of transport to get to work and to access services and leisure facilities is also important. Affordable safe access to the internet and the ability to use it can save people money and increase their ability to search for and apply for work, develop skills and access the services they need.

Our aspirations include:

- We want to develop a comprehensive approach to digital inclusion in Sheffield although, at present, we don't have the resources to do this. We want to work together as a partnership to see whether we can secure the resources to do this more systematically.

Increasing the supply of affordable decent homes

Housing is often the biggest cost facing individuals and families. The lack of affordable decent housing has many negative consequences for people. Provision of more affordable, decent homes can reduce financial strain and the problems caused by homelessness or inadequate accommodation.

Key commitments include

- We will increase the supply of affordable housing by maximising use of HRA to increase housing stock levels in the city and deliver 1,000+ 'new' Council homes by 2020.

Monitoring implementation and progress towards our vision

The partnership, led by the Council with its statutory responsibility for tackling child poverty, will oversee the further development and implementation of this strategy. It will do this by reviewing an agreed set of key indicators captured in its annual report and, if necessary, by reviewing any emerging underperformance in exception reports. We recognise that things might change over the life of the strategy and that actions may need to be altered accordingly but we will maintain our focus on realising the vision set out here. The initial set of indicators includes:

Making things better for children and adults who are struggling and in poverty now	Tackling some of the root causes of poverty and giving our children the best chance of a poverty-free future
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of households living below 60% of the median income level • 20th percentile hourly pay - gross • Number in receipt of Council Tax Support • Financial distress: number of claims into crisis loan element of the local assistance scheme, per 100 population • % of people living in fuel poverty • Number of food banks operating • Accounts in arrears for Council Tax payments • Number of advice centre queries relating to debt and affordable credit • Number of refugees and asylum seekers receiving food vouchers (section 4) and cash support (section 95) as a proportion of the population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of population within the 20% most deprived areas of England and Wales • Ranking of households at risk of poverty [Experian/Mosaic-based measure] • % of population in receipt of key out-of-work benefits aged 16-64 • % of 16-64 year olds with no qualifications • % of 16-24 year olds who are NEET – not in education, employment or training • Narrowing the gap between children in poverty and the rest at Foundation Stage profile • Number of homelessness acceptances per thousand households • Slope index of inequality in healthy life expectancy • Take up of formal childcare by low income working families

Targets

Headline target

A realistic, but challenging outcome of the firm commitments made in our action plan is that, as a minimum, we maintain our position as the Core City with the second lowest rate of relative child poverty.

Specific targets

As it develops, individual targets are being set in the action plan that accompanies this strategy. Where a contributory action is shared, or led by another elsewhere, associated targets will be jointly agreed and reported.

Evaluation

Some of the strategic programmes will be subject to individual evaluations when we piloting new approaches but an overall evaluation of the strategy will seek to understand the impact of poverty on children and adults in the city and the most effective actions required to combat this.

Partners to the Strategy

The Tackling Poverty Strategy Partnership Reference Group was set up to:

- oversee the engagement with children, young people, families and individuals and use their views and experiences to help shape the development and implementation of the strategy
- Influence and inform the content of the strategy
- capture the contributions that partners will make to the to the strategy.

Dean Peter Bradley, as the Sheffield Executive Board's lead on inclusion and poverty, chaired the group. Members included:

- Abtisam Mohammed, Fairness Commissioner
- Andy Hayter, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Andy Niblock, on behalf of the Food Executive
- Ann Pittard / Penny Curtis, University of Sheffield
- Antony Hughes, chair of the City Wide Learning Body
- Chris Roberts, South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
- Cl Simon Wanless, South Yorkshire Police
- Clive Clark, Director of Operations at Sheffield Health & Social Care NHS Trust
- Cllr Jackie Drayton and Cllr Mazher Iqbal, Cabinet members for Child Poverty and Tackling Poverty and Increasing Social Justice
- Debbie Mathews, representative from the Voluntary Sector
- Frances Potter, Sheffield Citizens Advice
- Isabel Hemmings, Director of Strategy, Sheffield Children's Hospital
- Jackie Robinson, on behalf of Early Years providers
- Jacquie Stubbs, Fairness Commissioner
- James Henderson, Sheffield City Council
- Jill Mitchell, Great Places
- Joel Hanna, Youth Justice Service
- Margaret Ainger, GP Clinical Commissioner
- Richard Wright, Chamber of Commerce
- Shamsa Latif, Jobcentre Plus
- Steve Slack, Fairness Commissioner
- Tony Maltby, 50+ and Fairness Commissioner

Signed

Cllr Jackie Drayton, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families

Cllr Mazher Iqbal, Cabinet Member for Communities & Public Health

Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director for Children, Young People & Families

Appendix – action plan

NOTE: This is a living document, there is further work ongoing to confirm and finalise all actions and aspirations.

1. How we will do things

Telling the story of poverty in Sheffield - tackling the stigma

What we will do / what we want to do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
Update and promote the training materials for staff, which increase understanding of poverty and what people can do to help, and continue to focus on being helpful and respectful.	Partners to the strategy (Council-led)	Training modules updated by December 2015 Aspects of the training modules used/attended by all partners who deliver services	Directly within
When we talk about poverty, we will include positive stories and recognise the different contributions people make and work through the Fair City campaign to take opportunities to tackle stigma and bust myths.	Partners to the Strategy will seek opportunities to do this more proactively The Fair City Campaign will support this	We have not set a target for this, it will be by report on an annual basis.	Directly within

Poverty proofing – putting consideration of poverty at the heart of decision making

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
The Council will include poverty as part of the Equality Impact Assessment and bring people with experience of poverty together with decision-makers in critical areas.	Sheffield City Council	Within three years, we will have an effective process in place to consider the impact on poverty of every key decision	Directly within
Tackling poverty is a priority for the Clinical Commissioning Group and we will reflect this in Commissioning Intentions, we will also include a mandatory paragraph about how inequalities will be addressed in the Mandates for Programme management process.	Clinical Commissioning Group	Inclusion in Commissioning Intentions and Mandates for Programme management, date by which this is done to be agreed.	Directly within
The Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector will	Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector	We have not set a target for this, it will be by	Directly within

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
continue to make a significant contribution to tackling poverty and supporting those who are struggling with it through its day-to-day work. It will support the principle of poverty-proofing and many organisations' main objectives are so aligned with tackling poverty that it is already the main principle by which decisions are judged. It will also continue to be involved in strategic development and leadership in this area.		report on an annual basis.	
When we identify public policies or procedures that have an adverse effect on people in poverty we will seek to secure changes to such policies.	Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector led – to include other partners to the Strategy as appropriate	By assessing whether policy changes are made and have a positive effect.	Directly within
Fair employer (see below under quality jobs section for detail)	See below	See below	Directly within
We will continue to develop methods for listening to and involving people with experience of poverty and changing what we do in response	Partners to the Strategy	We have not set a target for this, it will be by report on an annual basis.	Directly within
Maintain a focus on children and the other groups most at risk. For each of the key performance measures in this strategy, we will seek to understand levels of access to services and achievement of outcomes for each of the groups most at risk. We will then address problems as they are identified.	Partners to the Strategy	As part of the annual report, partners will provide an update about what they have done for the groups identified as most at risk. Where outcomes for groups at risk are worse than average, success would mean narrowing gaps over the life of the strategy.	Directly within
Ensure staff are talking to the people they support about money and providing support directly or via sign-posting to other services	Partners to the Strategy who deliver services	Partners can demonstrate that they include financial issues as a routine part of standard assessments (partners will self-report on this) Where financial issues are identified within an assessment, support is given directly or via sign-posting (we will ask for monitoring	Directly within

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
		information for example via case recording, and may also carry out audits)	

2. What we will do to make things better for children and adults who are struggling and in poverty now

Providing advice, advocacy and access to entitlements and direct financial support

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
We will explore ways to simplify the financial support we provide for people in crisis	Sheffield City Council	By March 2015 we will have completed a high-level review of the schemes to identify potential options for improvement. These will be considered by key stakeholders and a proposal will be presented to CMT. If CMT wish the feasibility of any of the options to be investigated in further detail, this will be carried out by summer 2015. Any changes to be implemented would then be planned at that point and include agreement on measures to monitor success.	Directly within
Continue to provide direct financial support for things like Council Tax and people in short-term acute need and to prepare for and respond to the welfare reforms, in particular planning for and preparing people for the introduction of Universal Credit.	Sheffield City Council	Maintaining hardship funds Examining how our council tax support integrates with other benefits such as Universal Credit Conducting an analysis of the impact of our enforcement activity on groups in need of support and identifying any improvements that could be made to reduce negative impacts on individuals (e.g. pathways, packages of support)	Directly within
Protect and sustain access to high quality advice services including money advice targeted at life events and debt advice	Sheffield Citizens Advice	Maintain the number of clients helped Maintain the diverse characteristics of these clients	Directly within

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
Ensure that advice services are designed and delivered as effectively as possible including developing a Sheffield Advice Network to ensure that all advice services are well coordinated and have clear inter-service referral pathways	Sheffield Citizens Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Advice Services strategy • Network formally established • Agreed referral pathways operational • All relevant agencies and professionals informed about and aware of referral pathways 	Directly within
Respond to welfare reforms – including consideration of benefit take-up	Welfare reform implementation group (this includes Sheffield City Council, JobcentrePlus and Sheffield Citizens Advice)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete analysis of current take up and identify whether more targeted work is needed by December 2015 and on an ongoing basis as required 	Directly within

Reducing the costs of everyday essentials

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
<p>Implement the food poverty strand in Food Strategy as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking community engagement and development in 4 neighbourhoods with a focus on food • Improving health through diet – activity within the strategy covers all ages but there is also a specific focus on early years. All food and obesity related contracts target areas of deprivation and vulnerable groups, this is specified in contracts and closely monitored • Maximising entitlements by facilitating links between support services and food banks • Improving environments through supporting community food growing projects 	Sheffield Food Executive	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By April 2015, we will have piloted approaches to reducing food poverty and improving diet via community engagement in 4 neighbourhoods. If we identify successful practice, we will explore options for roll-out by Apr 2017 2. All commissioned activity will target groups and/ areas with greatest health needs as measured through routine health data and IMD. 3. By March 2016 we will have supported people presenting at of food banks to access advice leading to increases in income and reduction in debt. Specific targets to be confirmed. 	Directly within

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Including opportunities for volunteering and skills development through projects and contracts wherever possible 		4. 'Reduce number of vacant allotment plots'	
<p>Ensure full postcode coverage across Sheffield as well as improving access to foodbanks on as many days as possible to address food poverty in our communities. Some of the foodbanks also offer Cook and Eat courses where people can attend to learn how to cook healthy, nutritious meals on a low budget and to increase food confidence.</p>	Sheffield Foodbank network	<p>We will aim to have full postcode coverage across Sheffield for any referrer wishing to refer a client for a food parcel and aim to have access to a foodbank in the city on as many days as possible to address food poverty in our communities <i>until this is no longer needed</i>. Empowering people to cook more healthily, build confidence in using a range of foods and adopting a healthy eating lifestyle on a manageable, low budget.</p>	Directly within
<p>Continue work to tackle Fuel poverty including developing a Fuel Poverty Strategy and developing a programme of work activity to reduce the cost of heating the home in terms of fuel and providing heat</p>	Sheffield City Council and partners	<p>Fuel Poverty Strategy developed and implemented Increase in measured domestic energy efficiency and decrease in measured fuel poverty rates</p>	Joint approach
<p>Aims to encourage transport providers to consider poverty when making decisions regarding provision of transport ticket options.</p>	South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYLTE) and Sheffield City Council (bus partnership)	Annual report on progress	Directly within
<p>Opportunities for development of bus network to serve areas of employment, and for access to essential services. To encourage the commercial bus network, and to consider poverty when making decisions regarding provision of subsidised transport services, including local bus, Door2Door Community Transport & shopper bus services.</p>	SYLTE	Currently provided, will continue subject to continued funding and prioritisation of Transport Committee objectives.	Joint approach
<p>Increase access to affordable credit for Sheffield citizens through developing Sheffield Money as well as the expansion of Sheffield</p>	Sheffield Money Sheffield Credit Union	Up to 5,000 people will be supported to take out an ethical, affordable loan, rather than having to rely on high-cost payday and	Directly within

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
Credit Union This will mean that families are able to use ethical, affordable loans, rather than having to rely on high-cost payday and doorstep providers		doorstep providers. Sheffield Money will charge less than half the interest of high-cost credit providers. Sheffield Credit Union will aim for a 10% year on year increase in new membership, and a 7.5% year on year increase in loans granted through to 2018. This is from a baseline of 1815 new members joining and 2501 loans made in 2013-2014.	

Reducing crime including domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, substance misuse

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
Develop and implement the Domestic Abuse and include within it demonstrable contribution to tackling Poverty	Sheffield City Council, Police, YJS, DACT, Probation	Domestic Abuse Strategy published by April 2015 Then on an ongoing basis by strategy targets	Interdependence
Ensuring tackling poverty is central to commissioning decisions and projects for substance misuse	Sheffield City Council, Police, Youth Justice Service, Sheffield Drug and Alcohol / Domestic Abuse Coordination Team (DACT), Probation	In all contracts and commissioning and initiatives there is explicit reference to tackling poverty – reported by service	Interdependence

3. What we will do now to tackle some of the root causes of poverty and give our children the best chance of a poverty-free future

Skills and employability support

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
Continue to provide lifelong adult and community learning	Sheffield City Council, others	We will reduce the proportion of working age population without qualifications to 6.6% by 2018 We will increase the proportion of working age population qualified to at least Level 2 to 85%, those qualified to at least Level 3 to	Directly within

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
		59.4% and to at least level 4 to 38.9% by 2018.	
Deliver 'Progress to work' (and other programmes that help people prepare for, access, retain and progress within work including traineeships, pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships)	Sheffield City region Local Enterprise Partnership, Council, Voluntary & Community sector contracted delivery	<p>Reduce Youth unemployment to 24% in 2014-15, 22% in 2015-16 20% in 2016-17 and 18% in 2017-18</p> <p>By March 2016 we will have ended the rise in the number of working age people who are unemployed and by March 2017 have reduced the total by 6% to below 30,000</p> <p>We will sustain and drive forward the reduction in the number of people claiming Out-of-Work benefits in Sheffield , reducing the total by at least 3,500 (to below 40,000 people) by March 2018.</p> <p>We will support double the number of young people leaving our care who progress to work or further learning and help 2,000 18-24 year olds to find a job.</p> <p>We will have supported 7,000 people into sustained employment.</p>	Directly within
Provide a specific employability support programme for adults with learning difficulties and disabilities and mental health conditions to prepare for, access, retain and progress within work. We will explore options for scaling up this approach if demonstrably successful.	Sheffield City Council, specific GP practices and JobcentrePlus	By 2018, we will support double the number of disabled people and those with health conditions moving into employment.	Directly within

Quality jobs with fair terms and conditions

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
Pay directly employed staff a living wage	Sheffield City Council, University of Sheffield		
Develop Fair Employer code	Sheffield City Council, Chamber of Commerce	Fair Employer code developed	Directly within

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
	– via Fairness commission		
We would like to work with key partners in the business sector to showcase the positive benefits they have recognised from paying the living wage and broader commitments to fair employment practises. We would like to see an increased number of living wage jobs in Sheffield with Fair Employer code	All partners	Approaches to measurement being discussed	Directly within
Use commissioning and contracting to encourage Fair Employer code where possible	Sheffield City Council, Clinical Commissioning Group	Target tbc	Directly within
We have an ambition to develop an inclusive economic growth strategy, we want to work with partners across Sheffield City Region to build a shared plan to achieve this.	Sheffield City Council	Progress towards this ambition will be reported	Directly within

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Improve childcare affordability, quality, availability, flexibility and access – where and when people need it

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
Explore options to reframe the financial subsidy for childcare so that more of the money is targeted at those on the lowest incomes	Sheffield City Council	Options appraisal conducted by 2016. Influencing position developed, if appropriate, by 2017.	Directly within
Explore more innovative approaches including flexible childcare through the expansion of the 2 yr Free Entitlement to Learning (FEL) We want to explore the possibility of developing and supporting the development of Child-minder co-operatives in most deprived areas of the city, particularly where there are few or no child-minders	Sheffield City Council, Early Years Providers, JobcentrePlus, Parents	The success will in part be indicated by increased take-up. 2014-15, 70% 2015-16, 80% 2016-17 80% 2017-18 80%	Joint approach

Maximising entitlements for those who cannot work

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
We will protect and sustain access to high quality advice services including money advice targeted at life events and debt advice.	Sheffield Citizens Advice	Maintain the number of clients helped Maintain the diverse characteristics of these clients	Directly within

Giving children the education and enriching experiences and raising expectations to improve achievement and future life chances

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
<p>We will build the Best Start principles into the City's A Great Start in Life Early Years Strategy which will be disseminated across the city.</p> <p>We want to continue to seek out further funding to develop the work we wanted to undertake as part of the Best Start lottery bid to enable a great start in life for all children across Sheffield.</p>	Best Start Delivery Board / Sheffield City Council / Clinical Commissioning Group / Early Years Providers / Local Learning Partnerships / Local Early Years Community Partnership forums	<p>Re-design early years strategy in line with Best Start by March 2015</p> <p>We will report on the success of exploration for external funding.</p> <p>Narrowing gap in Early Years Foundation Stage Profile –between children living in poverty and the rest specific target being discussed</p> <p>Systematic approach to parental engagement and increase the proportion of eligible children from each background taking up free childcare</p>	Joint approach
<p>Continue to focus on parental engagement including parenting programmes, family learning, parental engagement in learning</p> <p>Ensure effective use of pupil premium, reading strategies, improve attendance and reduce exclusions</p>	Sheffield City Council, schools	<p>Narrow the gap in attainment at Key Stage 4 – specific target being discussed</p> <p>We want to explore ways of understanding how many parents and carers move into learning and employment</p>	Joint approach
Increase proportion of children on FSM who go to a good or outstanding school or nursery	Sheffield City Council / schools / Early Years providers	Target for schools being discussed	Directly within

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
		Increase the proportion of 3&4 year olds benefitting from funded early education in a Good/Outstanding setting – specific target being discussed	

Reduce health inequalities and improve health and access to health

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
Deliver the Health & Wellbeing Strategy	Constituent members of the Health & Wellbeing board	Key indicators of success (these are not measures): Slope Index of Inequality for Healthy Life Expectancy at Birth: Male and Female (separate indicator for each gender) Slope Index of Inequality for Life Expectancy at Birth: Male and Female (separate indicator for each gender) Also for children: Slope Index of Inequality for Infant Mortality Under-18 conception rate	Interdependence
Deliver the key work-streams key work-streams led by the Children's Health & Wellbeing Board. These include Emotional Health & Wellbeing, Children with complex needs, A Great Start in Life and Engagement and Participation.	Children's Health & Wellbeing Board	Measures to be agreed.	Interdependence
Tackle health inequalities for children in care and leaving care	Corporate Parenting Board	Measures to be agreed	Interdependence
Deliver the health inequalities plan	Constituent members of the Health & Wellbeing board	Measures to be agreed	Interdependence
We would like to develop a top tips for GPs leaflet (to include Living wage and fair employer code, Healthy start vitamins,	GPs	Measures to be agreed	Interdependence

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
Targeting groups most at risk)			
<p>Through the Community Wellbeing Programme (CWP) develop partnership working to address financial inclusion, including fuel poverty and food poverty.</p> <p>Commission for Health Trainers to increase access to and uptake of appropriate primary care services including self-care and management of long term conditions, healthier lifestyle choices. Provide a social prescribing and signposting service to community and social support, training and employment opportunities.</p>	Sheffield City Council and partners	<p>Activity that addresses financial inclusion in 14 programme areas.</p> <p>Targets to be set for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of volunteers recruited and accessing training. Number of people involved learning opportunities Number of people achieved accredited training Number of volunteers in paid employment Increase in management of long term conditions by patient Increase in levels of physical activity Improvement in diet and intake of fruit and vegetables Increased in levels of community activity 	Interdependence

Programmes to build resilience and community - tackling loneliness and isolation

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
Use the £1m Transformation Challenge Award funding to expand the Community Support Worker programme for 2015/16	Sheffield City Council and partners	Targets being discussed	Joint approach
Commission to build resilience and community. Build community assets in communities with the highest deprivation and with vulnerable groups. To achieve this through commissioning the Community Wellbeing Programme, working closely with the Housing Plus, Libraries and Sheffield City	Sheffield City Council (public health) and voluntary and community organisations	<p>Improvements in capacity, resilience and wellbeing improvement at individual, organisation, and community level.</p> <p>Increase the number of beneficiaries and points of contact using 14/15 data as a base line.</p>	Joint approach

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
Council staff working in Localities		Increase in numbers engaged in communities.	

Reducing barriers for those with multiple and complex needs

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
Prevent first time offending	Youth Justice Service	Maintain a rate of 447 first time entrants to the criminal justice system per annum to 2016. Beyond this, targets will be set by the Youth Justice Board – if the target is not equal or lower, this will be consultation with tackling poverty strategy	Interdependence
Reduce reoffending and continue to develop pathways for offenders focused on Education, Training and Employment and Finance and Benefits	Reducing Reoffending Theme Group (this includes Integrated Offender Management, Police, Probation, Council, Youth Justice Service and Providers)	Maintain the rate of reoffending by young people. Structured pathways in place re Education Training and Employment and Finance & Benefits	Interdependence
Early intervention and safeguarding – including Building Successful Families and continued links to employment, advice and tackling poverty, also build on this to consider how can use lessons within early years	Sheffield City Council and partners, including Voluntary sector providers and JobcentrePlus	To support at least 10% of families worked with in 2015-16 to reduce poverty (either through increased income or reduced outgoings or both) if the programme extends, the proportion should be increased	Joint approach
Work to reduce proportion of young people <i>not</i> in education, employment or training and to increase the proportion of vulnerable groups who <i>are</i> in education, employment or training	Sheffield City Council, Sheffield Futures, JobcentrePlus	Reduce to 6.5% in 2014-15, 6.2% in 2015-16 is 6.2%, 5.9% in 2016-17 and 5.6% in 2017-18 Proportion of group in education, employment or training: Those with learning difficulties or disabilities: (14-15) 67 (15-16) 69 Teen mothers (14-15) 40.5 (15-16) 42 Young offenders (14-15) 79.5 (15-16) 80.5 Care leavers (14-15) 67 (15-16) 69	Joint approach

Increasing access to jobs, services, leisure, participation

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
We'll focus our physical activity outreach work in the areas of greatest health needs	Sheffield City Council and partners	Targets being discussed	Interdependence
We will work to ensure that our standards of play and parks provision in disadvantaged areas are at least equal to the city average	Sheffield City Council and partners	Targets being discussed	Interdependence
Transport infrastructure	SYPTE	Being discussed	Interdependence
Promote the Wheels to Work service.	SYPTE and others	Increased use of wheels to work. Subject to continued provision of the DfT's Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF).	Interdependence

Increasing the supply of affordable decent homes

What we will do	Who will contribute to this	How will we measure success?	Relationship to Strategy*
Increase the supply of affordable housing	Sheffield City Council	Maximise the use of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to increase housing stock levels in the city - to deliver 1,000+ 'new' Council homes by 2020	Joint approach
Continuing to improve conditions in housing in the city include private rented and social housing, via targeted work in specific areas	Sheffield City Council	By 2018 we will work with partners to improve the quality of around 1,000 private homes that would otherwise damage the health of those living there.	Joint approach
Continue to work on homelessness prevention programmes	Sheffield City Council and partners	Increase homelessness preventions to 8.2 per 1000 households	Joint approach

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SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL



Cabinet Report

Report of: Laraine Manley

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 18th March 2015

Subject: Future Options for the Housing Repairs & Maintenance (HR&M) Service

Author of Report: Janet Sharpe

Key Decision: YES

Reason Key Decision: Expenditure/savings over £500,000
Affects 2 or more wards

Summary:

Following the successful re-integration of the Housing Service into the Council in 2013 tenants, leaseholders and Elected Members have considered which future option for the Repairs and Maintenance Service (R&MS) would deliver a first class service for customers whilst giving the Council much greater flexibility in terms of accountability and making sure the Service can deliver this vision.

The current Housing Repairs and Maintenance Contract with Kier Services Ltd ('Kier') is due to end on 31st March 2017. A decision needs to be made on how the Service will be delivered after this contract ends, the three main options being to:

- extend the current contract with Kier for up to a further two years
- seek a new external contractor to deliver the Service
- bring the Service in-house to be directly delivered by the Council ("insourcing")

The Council has no particular stance on whether services should be provided directly or through an external organisation. It takes a pragmatic approach based on the particular circumstances of each decision it takes. We recognise that there are a range of potential benefits and dis-benefits to different types of arrangement, and have considered these carefully in coming to a view about the best model for the Housing Repairs Service.

There were a number of drivers that led us towards outsourcing at the point the current contract was let – these included providing long term certainty over costs and service levels, and that working with a partner such as Kier would allow us to access funding and economies of scale that would be more difficult for the Council to realise on its own.

However, with the changes in the external environment, both in terms of funding (with changes to the way in which the HRA is managed), and the fact that the housing management function has been brought back directly under Council control, it is the Council's view that an insourced option for housing repairs and maintenance currently represents the pragmatic choice. It will also re-associate the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service with the Sheffield City Council brand, meaning that we have more control over how a key customer facing service operates, and ensuring that we are able to deliver the best possible service to tenants, in line with the Housing+ Programme principles.

There would be initial one-off implementation costs involved in insourcing the Service. However, in the long-term insourcing is the most cost-effective option - expected to achieve year-on-year sustainable savings for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

Insourcing the Service would also integrate it fully with other key Council Services and so strengthen its partnership working with these Services. For example, it will enable the Service to support the new approach to housing management ("Housing+"), and to be an integral part of locally-based neighbourhood management.

Insourcing the Service will involve transferring the current Kier workforce delivering the HR&M Service, and the work they currently undertake, into the Council. There may be a small number of elements of the Service which may continue to be more effectively delivered by an external contractor, and more work will be done to confirm this.

Kier are working closely with the Council to deliver a number of service improvements and initiatives around customer engagement, modernising the workforce through a new pay and reward scheme whilst providing its workforce with the tools and support to provide a first class Repairs Service. Once in-sourced the Council will continue to build on this work.

As with any major change, there are risks associated with insourcing the Service. In particular, there are risks relating to: - a decrease in productivity; greater health-and-safety responsibilities; fluctuating costs of materials; equality of pay; and having the necessary resources to implement the transfer. Strong management of the transfer and robust implementation plans will ensure that these risks are effectively mitigated.

A wide range of Council Officers have been involved in developing the proposals in this report, along with Elected Members, and information has also been sought from other organisations delivering an in-house Repairs Service to help inform the work.

Following approval of the proposals a detailed implementation plan will be designed to prepare for the insourcing of the Service. This work will include working with employees and Trade Unions to ensure a smooth integration into the Council.

Alongside the work to assess the best option for *how* the service should be delivered in the future, work will also be done to design *what* that service should look like. This design work will lead to the development of a new 'Target Operating Model' (TOM) for the Service, and tenants and leaseholders will be closely involved in this work.

Reasons for Recommendations:

- Insourcing the HR&M Service will give the Council more control, flexibility and accountability in managing the Service, enabling the service to be fully integrated into the Council and to work in close partnership with other relevant key Council services. This will help to transform its approach to one which is more holistic, joined-up and outcome-focused and ensure that the Service is delivered in a way which fully supports the Council's corporate objectives.
- Bringing the HR&M Service in-house for direct delivery by the Council will also help to bring about an alignment of culture in the Service to that of the Council, and in its approach to customers. As an integrated function within the Council, the Service will be much better placed to adopt the Council's key principles of 'right first time' and holistic service delivery - and to be more adaptable to varying circumstances and to any changes in corporate priorities.
- Based on all information known to date, and after the initial upfront costs of transferring the Service, the insourced option is expected to generate sustainable year-on-year revenue savings. In addition, once fully integrated into the Council there will be further opportunities to reduce duplication, join-up procurement with other Council Services and increase efficiency within the Service – enabling it to achieve more and improve outcomes within the same level of spending.
- Under this option, there is huge potential for the HR&M Service to help support and strengthen the Housing+ approach, which focuses on tailoring our Services to help achieve better outcomes for our tenants. HR&M staff would be out on estates and in tenants' homes on a daily basis, and so would be ideally placed to identify problems with tenancies or additional support needs. Strong links with the local Neighbourhood Teams (due to be implemented later this year under the Housing+ roll-out) would enable the HR&M Service to refer any such issues to the appropriate Neighbourhood Team staff, enabling these issues to be dealt with earlier.
- Insourcing the Service will also make it easier to structure the Service around the proposed 7 Neighbourhood Areas (currently awaiting the outcomes of the Electoral Ward Boundaries Review before being confirmed). This would enable the Service to be delivered in-line with the new Neighbourhood-based approach (again part of the roll-out of the Housing+ model), with staff potentially based in a particular Neighbourhood. This would increase local knowledge for HR&M staff, and improve their links with the local community.

- It is clear from in-depth consultation with tenants and leaseholders that the Repairs and Maintenance Service is for customers one of the most important elements of housing management. Insourcing the Service will put it in a stronger position in terms of its ability to deliver the customer vision for the Service. The Service will be directly linked into the Council housing governance and engagement framework (as all other key Council Housing Services are), enabling greater transparency and accountability. It would also enable tenants and leaseholders to more easily have direct influence on how the service is shaped and delivered in the future.
 - Potential insourcing was part of the Council's vision for the service in April 2013, and a requirement to prepare the Service for this was incorporated into the current contract with the new provider from April 2014. This preparation work has been taking place over the last few months, and will continue for the duration of the contract. This work should mean that the Service, and its workforce, are fit-for-purpose at the point of transfer - and that the Council will inherit the foundations of a modern and efficient Service on which it can build even further.
 - Insourcing also brings with it the potential to run the Service as an externally-trading Council function in the future – for example undertaking repairs and maintenance work on behalf of other social landlords.
 - Directly delivering the service in-house, with minor elements of it being outsourced to locally-based contractors wherever possible, would help support the concept of the 'Sheffield Brand'. Materials would be purchased from local suppliers wherever possible (subject of course to the usual procurement rules and Council policies), and the workforce would be predominantly local.
 - Sheffield would not be alone in insourcing a key service such as the HR&M Service Independent research by APSE (the Association for Public Service Excellence) has also identified a number of potential benefits of insourcing services, based on actual case-studies and local authority experiences:
 - Improved performance
 - Stronger links to corporate strategic objectives
 - Greater flexibility, and more responsive to local and national policy changes
 - Efficiency savings
 - Improved customer satisfaction
 - Enhanced local supply chains
 - Better integration and joining-up with other relevant key services
 - New development and employment opportunities for the city
 - There are of course risks associated with the option to insource the Service (as indeed there are with the other two alternative delivery options discussed in this report), and some of these risks are significant. However, measures are and will continue to be in place to mitigate these risks, and if any of these risks significantly escalate, or any significant new risks (including financial ones) emerge, a further report would be brought back to Cabinet before progressing the transfer any further.
-

Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

- approves the proposal in this paper to **insource the Housing Repairs and Maintenance (HR&M) Service from 1st April 2017**.
- gives its approval for the insourcing to be done based on the principles and assumptions described in Section 9.4 of this report, and taking into account the risks and mitigations as set out in Section 10, including the potential contracting-out of a small proportion of the service.
- gives its approval for the budget required to cover the one-off implementation and set-up costs, as described in Section 8.3 of this report.
- grants delegated authority to the Executive Director of Communities to take all the necessary steps to progress and implement the insourcing of the service, in consultation with the Cabinet Member. These steps will include:
 - at the appropriate time, commencing formal consultation with Trade Unions regarding the transfer of staff from Kier into the Council (in consultation with the Director of Human Resources as necessary).
 - developing the structure and agreeing the timescales needed to deliver an in-house repairs service (in consultation with the Director of Human Resources as necessary).
 - approving the procurement strategy and contract award, and agreeing contract terms and entering into the contracts, for all necessary goods and services. This will apply to both the development / implementation work required prior to the insourcing, and for in-house delivery of the Service itself (including any elements of the Service which it is agreed will be contracted out by the Council) once it is brought back into the Council (in consultation with the Director of Commercial Services and the Director of Legal and Governance as necessary).
 - undertaking a more detailed assessment of which elements of the Service are more appropriate to be contracted out, rather than directly delivered by the Council, and what the impact of this will be and how that will need to be managed (in consultation with the Director of Commercial Services and the Director of Human Resources as necessary).
 - Ensuring that the statutory leaseholder consultation required by Section 20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 (as amended by the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002) is adhered to.
 - Any other work required for the effective preparation for and implementation of the insourcing of the HR&M Service.
- request that a further report is presented to Cabinet if the underlying strategy for the future of the Service cannot be achieved, or if any unforeseen significant risks emerge which may prompt Cabinet to re-consider its decision.

Background Papers:

- Cabinet Report 10th April 2013: “Construction and Building Services Re-Tender for Social Housing Repairs and Maintenance”
 - Cabinet Report 19th March 2014: “Future of Council Housing: ‘Housing+’ proposals”
 - Association for Public Sector Excellence (APSE) Report January 2009: “Insourcing: A guide to bringing local authority services back in-house”
-

Category of Report: **OPEN** (with a closed Appendix Three, Five and Six which contain commercially sensitive and financial information)

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Anna Peysner
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Deborah Eaton
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES Cleared by: Louise Nunn
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human Rights Implications
NO
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic Impact
NO
Community Safety Implications
NO
Human Resources Implications
YES Cleared by: Jo Wright-Coe
Property Implications
NO
Area(s) Affected
Citywide
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Lead
Cllr Harry Harpham
Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Safer and Stronger Communities
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press Release
YES

1 Summary

- 1.1 Local authorities over the past twenty years have moved from a uniform direct delivery model for all services, to one where services are undertaken on behalf of the authority by a range of external partners. These can include voluntary sector groups, charitable trusts, private sector organisations, other local authorities, as well as joint ventures and wholly owned companies (such as arms-length management organisations).

Sheffield is no different in this regard. A range of services are delivered directly by the Council, including Parking, Customer Services, Parks and Countryside, Housing, Libraries, Adoptions etc and a range of services are delivered by external organisations. A sample of these is given in the table below:

External Provider Type	Service	Provider
Charitable Trust	Museums and Galleries	Sheffield Museums and Galleries Trust
	Theatres	Sheffield Theatres
	Sports, Events and Leisure Facilities	Sheffield International Venues
Voluntary Sector	Adult Social Care	Various
	Adult Skills	Various
Other Local Authority	Emergency Planning	Rotherham MBC
Private Sector	Housing Repairs	Kier
	ICT, Revenues and Benefits, HR Transactions etc	Capita
	Waste Management and Disposal	Veolia
	Highways Maintenance etc	Amey
	Property and Facilities Management	Kier KAPS

- 1.2 Sheffield City Council has no particular view about which delivery arrangement is most appropriate – each situation is considered on its own merits that provides quality services for customers and represents value for money for the Council. We therefore tend to adopt a pragmatic approach which is different to other authorities, some of which have very clear views about which model they prefer – this may include almost total in-house provision, or out-sourcing of most direct services. We believe, instead, that there are a range of advantages and disadvantages to each of these types of arrangement, and it makes sense to consider the specific situation in hand.

1.3 The current contract with Kier Services Ltd ('Kier') for the delivery of the Housing Repairs and Maintenance (HR&M) Service to Sheffield's Council housing is due to end on 31st March 2017.

A decision needs to be made on how the service will be delivered after this contract ends, the three main options being to:

- extend the current contract with Kier for up to a further two years
- seek a new external contractor to deliver the Service
- bring the Service in-house to be directly delivered by the Council ("insourcing")

1.4 Tenants, leaseholders and Elected Members have been developing a vision for the future HR&M Service since the Housing Service re-joined the Council in April 2013. Of the three options above, insourcing would give the Council much greater flexibility and accountability in managing the Service and therefore best enable the Council to deliver this vision.

1.5 We recognise that there are a range of potential benefits and dis-benefits to different types of arrangement, and have considered these carefully in coming to a view about the best model for the housing repairs service.

1.6 There were a number of drivers that led us towards outsourcing at the point the current contract was let – these included providing long term certainty over costs and service levels, and that working with a partner such as Kier would allow us to access funding and economies of scale that would be more difficult for the Council to realise on its own.

1.7 However, with the changes in the external environment, both in terms of funding (with changes to the way in which the HRA is managed), and the fact that the housing management function has been brought back directly under Council control, it is the Council's view that an insourced option for housing repairs and maintenance currently represents the pragmatic choice. This will bring a number of advantages including making it easier to integrate and modernise the service, cost-effectiveness, and providing more control in a less stable financial environment. It will also re-associate the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service with the Sheffield City Council brand, meaning that we have more control over how a key customer facing service operates, and ensuring that we are able to deliver the best possible service to tenants, in line with the Housing+ Programme principles.

1.8 There would be initial one-off implementation costs involved in insourcing the Service and designing an Integrated Housing and Repairs Service. However, in the long-term, insourcing is the most cost-effective option - expected to achieve year-on-year sustainable savings for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

1.9 Insourcing the Service would also integrate it fully with other key Council Services and so strengthen its partnership working with these Services. For example, it will enable the Service to support the new approach to housing management ("Housing+"), and to be an integral part of locally-based neighbourhood management.

- 1.10** Insourcing the Service will involve transferring the current Kier workforce delivering the HR&M Service, and the work they currently undertake, into the Council. There are a small number of elements of the Service which may be more effectively delivered by an external contractor, and more work will be done to assess these.
- 1.11** Kier are currently delivering a number of service improvements and initiatives – particularly around customer engagement, training and modernising the workforce - and the Council will continue to build on these if the Service is insourced. Following a period of stabilisation after the transfer, a full review of the Service will be undertaken and transformation work begun to re-shape the future Service.
- 1.12** As with any major change, there are risks associated with insourcing the Service. In particular, there are risks relating to: - a decrease in productivity; greater health-and-safety responsibilities; fluctuating costs of materials; equality of pay; and having the necessary resources to implement the transfer. Strong management of the transfer and robust implementation plans will ensure that these risks are effectively mitigated.
- 1.13** A dedicated Project Team led by the Director of Housing has been in place for the last 12 months who have been involved in developing the proposals in this report. Detailed work has also taken place with customers and through a dedicated Member Reference Group chaired by Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods. Information has also been sought from other organisations already delivering successful in-house Repairs Service has been a priority.
- 1.14** Following Cabinet approval work will commence to prepare for the in-sourcing of the Service working closely with Kier and their employees and, customers. This work will include formal Trade Union consultation, procurement of the necessary goods and services, an effective communications strategy for all key stakeholders and the development of a detailed implementation plan. A dedicated implementation team will be established to lead on this work.
- 1.15** Alongside the work to assess the best option for *how* the service should be delivered in the future, work will also be done to design *what* that service should look like. This design work will lead to the development of a 'Target Operating Model' for the service, and tenants and leaseholders will be closely involved in this work.

2 What does this mean for Sheffield People?

- 2.1** Council Housing represents almost a fifth of all Sheffield's housing, with over 80,000 tenants, their families and leaseholders living in around 43,000 homes. Effective management and delivery of the Repairs and Maintenance Service to these properties is a priority for these households in the city.
- 2.2** In its Corporate Plan 'Standing up for Sheffield', the Council commits to supporting communities which are "... desirable places to live with homes appropriate for people at different points in their lives, with attractive and clean buildings" As the biggest single housing provider in the city, high-quality and

efficient repairs and maintenance of our housing stock will support this commitment.

- 2.3 There is also a commitment in the Corporate Plan to "... make the best possible use of our resources to meet the needs of Sheffield and its people..." The Council needs to ensure that the resources delivering the HR&M Service are used in the most effective way and achieving the best possible outcomes for customers.

3 Outcome and sustainability

3.1 Supporting the Council's Strategic Outcomes

A well-managed and efficient Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service will contribute to a number of the outcomes in the Council's corporate plan:

- 3.1.1 **Better Health and Well-being:** There are well-evidenced links between safe, well-maintained housing and improved health and mental well-being.
- 3.1.2 **A Great Place to Live:** Offering safe well-maintained housing significantly contributes to making our neighbourhoods more attractive, and to giving local communities an environment to be proud of and to look after.
- 3.1.3 **A Strong and Competitive Economy:** The option to bring the repairs service in-house, with certain elements contracted out to local businesses where possible, should have a positive impact in terms of economic growth and encouraging jobs – delivering the service through the 'Sheffield Brand'.

3.2 A sustainable 30-year Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan

- 3.2.1 Through the Decent Homes Programme the Council has invested approximately £670m in its housing stock over the last 10 years, in line with the Government's and Sheffield's Standard for Council Housing. It is important that the Council protects this investment through ongoing effective maintenance and repair of its properties, and this in turn will help to protect the long-term viability of the HRA and so contribute ultimately to sustainable estates and communities.

3.3 Achieving positive outcomes for the wider Council

- 3.3.1 Any contractual arrangement for the delivery of services on behalf of the Council, including the current arrangement for the HR&M Service, involves a degree of inflexibility in how that service is delivered. Bringing the HR&M Service in-house for direct delivery will enable the Council to use these resources collectively - exploring opportunities for joint benefits and better integration, thereby achieving efficiency savings for other Council Services.

3.3.2 The Council as a whole has a vision for how it wants all of its services to be shaped and developed, and these are set down in the Council's Organisational Design Principles. These need to be factored into any decision on the future delivery and development of the HR&M Service. The Principles particularly relevant to the HR&M Service are:

- ✓ **Demonstrate improvement of outcomes:** Delivering more and achieving better outcomes for customers within the existing budget will be a key focus for the Service going forward. Insourcing the Repairs and Maintenance Service for direct delivery by the Council will enable much stronger links to be forged between the Service and other key Council Services, support a more holistic approach to service delivery and so ultimately achieve better outcomes for our tenants.
- ✓ **Affordable, cost effective services:** The Service will need to drive efficiency, minimising costs and ensuring a good return on its spending. By bringing the Repairs Service into the Council, opportunities for streamlining and reducing duplication can be maximised.
- ✓ **The right people, skills and behaviours:** Bringing the repairs and maintenance workforce into the Council will help create a cultural alignment to the Council, moving it towards a more modern and flexible way of working.
- ✓ **Flexible and responsive services:** Bringing the Repairs and Maintenance Service into the Council will enable the service to be more flexible and responsive to future changes, listening to customers and engaging them in development of the service.

4 Background

4.1 Current Housing Repairs and Maintenance (HR&M) contract with Kier Services Ltd

4.2 In 2003, the Council established a 'limited liability partnership' with the Kier Group – this partnership was named Kier Sheffield LLP. The Council's Construction and Building Services (CBS) contract was awarded to the LLP in 2003, and this contract covered the repairs, maintenance and other construction work to all Council-owned buildings – a significant element of which was the Council's social housing stock.

4.3 The CBS contract expired in March 2014 – this had included a 1-year extension to the original contract to align the timescales for the procurement of a new contract with those of the Future of Council Housing Programme.

4.4 In readiness for the CBS contract coming to an end, Cabinet made the decision in April 2013 to separate out the social-housing element of this contract and put it out to tender on the open market. This procurement would source a contractor to provide the Repairs and Maintenance Service to Council housing stock from 1st April 2014. Continuing with an outsourced Service at this point in time was a

pragmatic decision, as it would provide stability for the Service and at a clear and stable level of cost for the Council, at a time when there was significant change to the delivery of the housing management function.

4.5 Following this Cabinet decision, procurement of a new contractor was carried out, in adherence with European Union Procurement Rules and the Council's Standing Orders. Kier Services Ltd was successful in their bid for the contract and were awarded a 3-year contract, from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2017. This contract includes an option for a contract-extension for up to two more years (ie to 31st March 2019), should both the Council and Kier agree to this.

4.6 Built into the contract with Kier are a number of requirements aimed at modernising the Service and achieving efficiencies for the HRA. Kier are working closely with the Housing Service and making excellent progress in delivering these improvements.

These include:

- Providing greater flexibility to respond to changing circumstances
- Enhancing customer engagement
- Better tailoring of the service to suit local needs
- Providing employment and training opportunities for young people
- Maximising a Sheffield-based supply chain
- Modernising the workforce
- Moving from a bonus-based pay structure to a salaried system, with performance management based on successful outcomes for customers

4.7 The current contract covers a wide range of repairs and maintenance functions, including:

- Responsive repairs
- Repairs to vacant properties
- Maintenance of the District Heating system
- Gas servicing and repairs
- Lift and stair-lift servicing
- Electrical work
- Communal painting
- Domestic heating renewals
- Communal footpaths, car-parks and un-adopted highways

4.8 A full list of the elements covered by the current contract is given in Appendix 1.

4.9 As explained above in Section 4.5, the current contract with Kier Services Ltd is due to expire on 31st March 2017. A decision therefore needs to be made now on how the Service will be delivered after that date. The 3 options considered by the Council are:

- **“Insourcing”**: An integrated service delivered in-house by the Council (possibly with a small element of the service contracted out to be delivered by specialist contractors)

- **“Full external procurement”**: Seeking an external contractor to deliver the whole of the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service on the Council’s behalf.
- **“Extension of the current Kier contract”**: Extending the current contract with Kier Services Ltd for up to 2 more years (ie to March 2019).

4.10 This report explains the work which has taken place to assess these three options, and makes a proposal for the preferred option.

4.11 The wider context

4.12 In considering the best option for delivering the HR&M Service going forward, it is important to take into account the wider context and environment in which the Service will operate. This is significantly different to the environment when the HR&M Service was first outsourced through the Kier LLP arrangement in 2003, particularly the more benign funding environment and the different arrangements that were in place for management of the Council’s housing stock.

4.13 The Council has faced significant budget cuts in recent years, under Government austerity measures – and this is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. In light of this it is more important than ever that all Council Services are efficient and represent value-for-money, achieving better outcomes for customers with limited resources.

4.14 The HR&M Service is and will continue to be funded by the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), which is a ring-fenced account and as such is not directly impacted on by the cuts in the Council’s General Fund. However, it is still crucial that the HR&M Service is seen to be efficient, well-managed and achieving excellent value for tenants’ rent money and leaseholders’ service charges.

4.15 Two key Council initiatives currently being progressed are the Housing+ Project and the proposed restructure of the Housing and Neighbourhoods Service. The first of these - Housing+ - is a new approach to housing management, with officers having a responsibility for a geographical ‘patch’ of households and providing those households with a range of support and advice, tailored to individual needs.

4.16 The proposed restructure of the Housing and Neighbourhoods Service is aimed at achieving a new structure for the Service, with new teams and job roles designed to provide a strong framework to deliver local neighbourhood services.

4.17 Both of these initiatives are aimed at increasing efficiency, reducing duplication and improving joined-up working between Council Housing teams, services in the wider Council and external service partners. The new HR&M Service will need to integrate well into this culture of more holistic, better co-ordinated and more streamlined service delivery

5 Customer and other stakeholder involvement in shaping the service

5.1 Customers, Members and staff have been involved from the beginning in establishing a vision for the Repairs and Maintenance Service in the future. This close involvement will continue throughout this Project, regardless of who is chosen to deliver the service after March 2017.

5.2 Customers

5.3 Following the March 2012 Cabinet decision to re-integrate Council Housing management back into the Council, in-depth consultation with tenants and leaseholders was undertaken. A number of tenant-led Service Design Project Groups were established to look at the parts of the Service which tenants had said were most important to them. These Groups worked together to develop a vision for how these aspects of the Service should be delivered in the future.

5.4 As part of this work, the 'Well Maintained Homes and Neighbourhoods' project group considered and agreed their ambitions for the Repairs and Maintenance Service. Their complete Vision Statement (which was shared with Cabinet as part of the Future of Council Housing Cabinet Report in March 2014) is attached as Appendix 2. The key repairs and maintenance related elements of that vision are as follows:

- ✓ There will be a good quality, modern responsive repairs service which has high standards of customer care and health and safety, and which provides value for money.
- ✓ The repairs call-centre will be effective and efficient, and workmen will carry the right tools and materials.
- ✓ The Council will help to tackle fuel poverty by ensuring that homes are energy efficient and have modern and well-maintained heating systems.
- ✓ We will improve all of our communal areas and ensure they are well-maintained in the future.

5.5 Following this initial visioning work, the tenant- and leaseholder-led Investment and Repairs Partnership Group (IRPG) has established a sub-group of some of its members to work with officers over the coming months on designing a '**Target Operating Model**' for the new HR&M Service. This Model will describe what the Service needs to do and how it needs to do it. To achieve this, work first needs to be done to capture the way the service currently works and identify the reasons and opportunities for change. Some basic principles have already been agreed by those involved:

- ✓ The way the Service works will need to focus on what matters most to tenants and leaseholders
- ✓ Processes need to be as simple as possible, with minimal duplication of work

- ✓ Front-line staff need to be involved in decisions about what will work best for our customers
 - ✓ Decisions need to be based on reliable evidence
 - ✓ Staff need to be trusted and equipped to achieve the best outcomes for our customers
 - ✓ Tenants and leaseholders must be at the heart of any service development or key changes to the service
 - ✓ There must be positive and constructive relationships with suppliers
 - ✓ There needs to be effective performance management of the Service
- 5.6** The requirements of the Service going forward will be the same regardless of *who* delivers the Service, whether that is the Council, an external contractor or Kier for up to a further 2 years. Work on developing the Target Operating Model will continue over the coming months.
- 5.7** On a much wider basis, all tenants and leaseholders are being and will continue to be kept up-to-date via regular articles in the customer magazine 'InTouch' and other established communication channels – such as Citywide Forum, Local Area Housing Forums and the implementation will be overseen by the Housing and Neighbourhoods Advisory Panel (HANAP).

5.8 Cabinet Vision

- 5.9** In March 2012, as part of their decision on the future management of Sheffield's Council Housing, Cabinet set their vision for the city's Council Housing Service as a whole:
- ✓ An excellent quality housing management service
 - ✓ Making best use of the Council's role as landlord to help people achieve their full potential – with all Council Services using this role as a platform for achieving this.
 - ✓ Being an active landlord and delivering services to tenants which are part of a joined-up neighbourhood management approach, helping neighbourhoods to flourish.
 - ✓ A "one stop shop" approach giving easy access to housing and other Council Services.
 - ✓ Efficient management ensuring value-for-money and allowing more rent to be spent on frontline services and homes.
 - ✓ A bigger say for tenants – about their homes; their neighbourhoods; and the city.

- 5.10** Following the March 2012 Cabinet decision, and as referenced above in Section 4.4, Cabinet took the decision in April 2013 to re-tender the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service. As part of this decision, an explicit objective was to prepare the Service for potential insourcing at the end of the new contract, to fully integrate it with Council Housing Services and with other relevant Council teams. The new contractor would be required to support this future vision as part of winning the contract - and this commitment is incorporated into the current contract with Kier Services Ltd.
- 5.11** To ensure effective ongoing Member involvement in the Project, a Member Reference Group was established in February 2014 to look in detail at the options for the Repairs and Maintenance Service. This Group meets monthly, and has helped to shape the proposals in this paper.
- 5.12 Council and Kier Employees**
- 5.13** Council Officers from relevant teams were involved in the initial service design work described above. Key Council Officers are also involved in the work to develop a Target Operating Model described in Section 5.5 above. This involvement will continue throughout the project.
- 5.14** A new Communications Plan will be agreed with Kier management and trade unions so that employees are fully involved to inform the new Service. The Director of Housing and Kier's Operations Director will jointly deliver the outcome of the Cabinet meeting to the workforce.
- 5.15** Staff in both the Council and Kier who are likely to be impacted on by the outcomes of this report, along with their Trade Unions, will be provided with regular updates through a number of arrangements including team briefings, staff newsletters and intranet updates.

6 How the proposals in this report have been developed

- 6.1** A wide range of key people have been involved in the work which underpins this report. A Project Team was established - led by the Director of Housing and consisting of lead officers from across the Council representing all key service areas involved in this project. These include:
- Transport and Facilities Management
 - Business Change and Information Solutions (BCIS)
 - Commercial Services
 - Future of Council Housing Programme
 - Corporate Finance
 - Legal Services
 - Human Resources (HR)
 - Corporate Risk and Insurance
 - Corporate Contact Centre

- 6.2** Representatives from the above Teams have taken responsibility for providing the relevant costs and information for their individual service area, and this has informed the financial modelling work described in Section 6.10 below.
- 6.3** A comprehensive options appraisal was carried out to determine the most appropriate way of delivering the Repairs and Maintenance Service after March 2017. This review considered three main options described in Section 4.9 above.
- 6.4** The options appraisal involved detailed work to evaluate each option, including:
- Financial modelling for each option, based on agreed assumptions and future service requirements (see Sections 6.10 - 6.15 below for further information).
 - Identifying the risks associated with each option, for example in relation to human resources / staffing and commercial issues.
 - Assessing the potential benefits associated with each option.
- 6.5** Members of the Project Team have also visited other local authorities which deliver their Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service directly, in order to gain a greater understanding of the costs, benefits and risks associated with the insourcing option.
- 6.6** The Project Team are also working closely with other high-performing in-house repairs and maintenance providers, via Efficiency North - a consortium of social housing providers working collaboratively in the construction and maintenance industry. This group includes Local Authorities, Stock Transfer organisations and Arms' Length Management Organisations - including those in Leeds, Doncaster, Wakefield and Hull.
- 6.7** The aim of Efficiency North is to drive value for money through effective shared best practice, networking and by developing greater efficiencies in procurement. Being an active member of this group helps to give external reassurance and validation to the work being done on this project.
- 6.8** Robust governance arrangements have been in place throughout this work. A Project Board has overseen the work of the Project Team above, chaired by the Executive Director of Communities (who is also the Project Sponsor).
- 6.9** Members have also had close involvement with the work. A Members Reference Group was established in February 2014 and have helped to shape the proposals in this paper, and will continue to be involved in the design of the service going forward.
- 6.10 Financial Modelling**
- 6.11** For each option, financial information was collated by the relevant professionals, taking into account how the Service will need to operate at day one (ie 1st April 2017). The costs included in this financial modelling are:

6.12 For the **insourcing** option:

- Staffing costs for the workforce which it is assumed would be transferred into the Council from Kier
- A small senior management team to run the insourced service
- Appropriate accommodation and vehicles
- The cost of the small plant and materials
- The Information Technology costs of integrating the Service, and of the ongoing running of the systems required
- The insurance costs and costs for uninsured claims.
- The impact on the Council's corporate services of transferring in a large service and associated workforce (eg HR, Finance, etc)
- Customer Services / Call-Centre costs
- The cost of transferring the Service from Kier and of the work needed in preparation for the Service being insourced (eg the cost of a project team, any necessary procurement work, etc)
- 'Dual' operating costs, to cover the 'handover' period between Kier and the Council
- Estimated costs for the elements of the Service which the Council would contract out, rather than deliver directly itself

6.13 For the **full external procurement** option:

- Expected costs of an externally procured (outsourced) service, using information held within the Council
- The cost of undertaking the procurement for such a large contract
- Customer Services / Call-Centre costs
- Any further costs associated with working with a new supplier

6.14 Market intelligence information has also been gathered to help inform the estimated costs for this option.

6.15 For the option to **extend the Kier contract** the current cost of the Service was agreed in 2014 and this has been used as the basis for estimating the cost of this option. However, under the terms of the contract, Kier do have the right to re-negotiate an increased price for any extension beyond March 2017. In addition to the amount paid to Kier to deliver the Service, the costs for this option also include:

- Customer Services / Call-Centre costs
- SCC staff costs - for contract monitoring, performance management, etc
- Subcontractor costs for the elements which Kier don't directly deliver

7 Evaluating the options for future service delivery

7.1 Since the Council's partnership with Kier was first established in 2003, a lot has changed both locally, on a national level and the local government 'landscape', and that for social housing, looks very different. To ensure we continue to deliver the best possible service to our tenants we need to rethink how the HR&M Service is delivered and consider the options available to us.

7.2 As explained in Section 4.9 above, there are three main options for the future delivery of the HR&M Service:

- **“Insourcing”**: An integrated Service delivered in-house by the Council (possibly with a small element of the service contracted out to be delivered by specialist contractors)
- **“Full external procurement”**: Seeking an external contractor to deliver the whole of the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service on the Council’s behalf.
- **“Extension of the current Kier contract”**: Extending the current contract with Kier Services Ltd for up to 2 more years (ie to March 2019).

The key potential benefits and risks for each are described below:

7.3 Insourcing

7.4 Under this option, the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service would transfer into the Council, as would the Kier workforce currently undertaking this work, and the Council would **directly deliver** the vast majority of repairs and maintenance work to Council Housing stock.

7.5 The main potential **benefits** of this option are:

7.5.1 More control, flexibility and accountability for the Council in managing the Service, enabling the service to be fully integrated into the Council and to work in close partnership with other relevant key Council Services.

7.5.2 This option is expected to generate sustainable year-on-year revenue savings, and longer-term there will be further opportunities to reduce duplication, join-up procurement with other Council services and increase efficiency within the Service.

7.5.3 It would enable the HR&M Service to help support the Council’s approach to integrated neighbourhood management. HR&M staff would be out on estates and in tenants’ homes on a daily basis, and so would be ideally placed to identify problems with tenancies or additional support needs and refer these to the appropriate Neighbourhood Team for action.

7.5.4 It would also make it easier to structure the Service around the proposed 7 Neighbourhood Areas, with staff potentially based in a particular Neighbourhood. This would increase local knowledge for HR&M staff, and improve their links with the local community.

7.5.5 The Service would be directly linked into the Council housing governance and engagement framework, enabling customers to more easily have direct influence on how the Service is shaped and delivered in the future.

- 7.5.6 Insourcing also brings with it the potential to run the Service as an externally-trading Council function in the future – for example undertaking repairs and maintenance work on behalf of other social landlords.
- 7.5.7 Directly delivering the service in-house, with minor elements of it being outsourced to locally-based contractors wherever possible, would help support the concept of the ‘Sheffield Brand’. Materials would be purchased from local suppliers wherever possible (subject of course to the usual procurement rules and Council policies), and the workforce would be predominantly local.
- 7.6** The main potential **risks** of this option are:
- 7.6.1 There may be potential Equal Pay claims from existing Council staff.
- 7.6.2 Moving the current Kier workforce into the Council may impact on staff motivation and so lead to reduced productivity and reduced customer satisfaction.
- 7.6.3 If at the point of transfer staff resource levels do not match service demand there could be significant budget implications for the Council in terms of potential redundancy costs.
- 7.6.4 The time and resources allocated to managing the transfer are not sufficient, resulting in delays and increased costs.
- 7.6.5 A greater exposure for the Council to potential health and safety issues.
- 7.6.6 There may be insufficient experience and knowledge within the Council to manage such a large-scale Repairs and Maintenance Service.
- 7.6.7 More vulnerability to the impact of market forces, meaning increased uncertainty regarding the cost materials, fuel, etc. and potential increased the costs of elements of the Service which are contracted out.
- 7.7** The risks associated with insourcing– and how they would be mitigated – are explained in more detail in Section 10 below.
- 7.8 Full external procurement**
- 7.9** Under this option, the whole of the HR&M Service would be put out to competitive tender to procure a new external contractor to deliver the Service. For a service of this size, this would involve a full procurement exercise undertaken in compliance with European Procurement rules and the Council’s Standing Orders.
- 7.10** The main potential **benefits** of this option are:
- 7.10.1 It would enable the Council to test the market not just for price but also for innovation, potentially resulting in a more creative and / or technologically advanced service.

- 7.10.2 A competitive procurement exercise could *potentially* achieve savings - this would depend on the market conditions at the time.
- 7.10.3 The majority of the health-and-safety risks associated with the delivery of a large scale Repairs and Maintenance Service would be the responsibility of the contractor, not the Council.
- 7.10.4 Costs would be fixed for the period of the contract, making medium-term budget planning easier.
- 7.10.5 No Equal Pay risk to the Council

7.11 The main potential **disadvantages** of this option are:

- 7.11.1 A service that is culturally disconnected from the housing management service and its outcomes.
- 7.11.2 Reduced flexibility, as changes would be more difficult to implement than with the insourced option and costs more difficult to control.
- 7.11.3 Procurement of a new contractor could potentially lead to a Service which is less productive and more costly than the current one.
- 7.11.4 Less control over the Service, and more distant links to corporate objectives.
- 7.11.5 Fewer / reduced opportunities for integration with other Council Services, and for a more joined-up approach.
- 7.11.6 Reduced opportunity for transparency and a less direct route for tenants to engage with the Service.
- 7.11.7 There would be a cost associated with procuring and setting up a new contractor, and with putting robust contract monitoring / performance management frameworks in place.
- 7.11.8 The time taken for the new contractor to become familiar with the Council, the Housing Service and our tenants could mean a reduction in performance in the interim period.
- 7.11.9 The price of this option could be higher than expected due to changes in the ever-changing construction market.

7.12 Extension of the current contract with Kier (for up to 2 years)

- 7.13** Under the terms of the current contract with Kier, there is an option to extend the contract by up to two more years, if both the Council and Kier are agreeable to this. This would mean the Service continuing to be delivered in much the same way as it is now, and would give the Council more time to consider the longer-term future of the service.

7.14 The main potential **benefits** of this option are:

- 7.14.1 The costs of this option are known already (subject to any re-negotiation by Kier for the additional period of the contract).
- 7.14.2 There would be no, or very little, additional cost in terms of procurement or implementation.
- 7.14.3 There would be complete service continuity, and the experience which Kier have of working with the Council and with our tenants would be retained. This would mitigate the risks involved in major operational change.
- 7.14.4 The Council would carry less risk in terms of health and safety issues (as compared to insourcing the service).
- 7.14.5 No Equal Pay risk to the Council

7.15 The main potential **disadvantages** of this option are:

- 7.15.1 Under this option it would be more difficult to generate any revenue savings.
- 7.15.2 It could potentially lead to an increase in costs as Kier are likely to re-negotiate the contract price for any extension beyond March 2017, as both sides would need to agree to any extension.
- 7.15.3 This option also carries the same risk regarding productivity linked to the change in pay arrangements, as described in section 10.
- 7.15.4 Being tied into the contract gives limited opportunity to improve the service, and less flexibility.
- 7.15.5 Less control over the Service, and much more distant links to corporate objectives.
- 7.15.6 Fewer / reduced opportunities for integration with other Council Services, and for a more joined-up approach.
- 7.15.7 Reduced opportunity for transparency and a less direct route for tenants to engage with the Service.
- 7.15.8 Kier may not be agreeable to this option.

8 Financial implications

8.1 There are three principal options open to the Council:

1. Extend the Kier contract;
2. Retender in full; or
3. In-source the Repairs and Maintenance Service.

8.2 All three options contain risk and reward.

8.2.1 Risk and its mitigation is a particularly important issue in this project given the scale of the service and its importance. In this project, risk principally falls under the following categories:

- **Service delivery and continuity** through our ability to provide by way of contract or directly an effective and efficient R&M service;
- **Financial**, through our ability to provide a cost-effective service; and,
- **Reputational**, given that this is a customer facing service.

8.2.2 The following table briefly explains the key financial and delivery risks and opportunities across each option:

		Kier Extension	Full Retender	In-source
Risk	Financial	- Contract price on extension of contract could be higher than current budget if market conditions for the sector are unfavourable.	- Contract price on re-competition could be higher than current budget and Kier contract projections	- SCC may not be able to provide as cost effective service as a private sector partner which will mean displacement of other HRA priorities - Failing to deliver revenue surpluses will mean up-front change management costs represent an un-resourced drain on the HRA - Material Equal Pay claim exposure would fall principally on the General Fund
	Delivery	- On-going service quality issues with current Kier contract	- New relationship may not be as productive as existing - Productivity may fall in interim during change period	- Major change for SCC following divestment of skills and resource as part of last outsource - Many practical hurdles around recruitment/retention, technology, and contracting - Benchmarking suggests material productivity loss is a possibility
Opportunity	Financial	- Perceived limited scope to reduce current contract price due to short nature of arrangement and the modernisation programme	- Potential to drive down price in market tender and unlock improved efficiency and innovation through long term partnership	- No profit requirement for SCC, so scope to be cheaper if service can be run as efficiently - Potential for efficiencies in SCC as processes realigned to reflect new delivery model
	Delivery	- Limited scope given current contract performance issues, remaining contract term, and focus on modernisation	- Potential to find a more effective partner	- Direct control offers a service more responsive to SCC needs

8.2.3. The table below illustrates the quantifiable on-going service delivery risks and efficiencies identified by the Council that could accrue under each option should the Council fail to mitigate risk, and should the Council be able to deliver on efficiencies:

	Kier Extension	Full Retender	In-source
	£'m	£'m	£'m
Quantifiable Risks	1.3	0	4.7
Efficiency Savings Estimate	0	0	-0.4

8.2.4 This table serves to highlight that in-sourcing the R&M Service delivers material risk and some opportunity. Of the three options it has the highest level of risk of additional costs at £4.7m, but also the possibility of higher efficiencies – albeit marginal at £400k.

8.2.5 The bulk of risk on in-sourcing falls around our ability to maintain workforce productivity without recourse to the remuneration flexibilities available to private sector providers. This issue is exacerbated by the comparative lack of experience the Council has in this area following the divestment of skills and resource after the initial R&M outsourcing.

8.2.6 Mutual agreement to extend The Social Housing Repairs and Maintenance contract is required so this presents an opportunity for both parties to consider their respective commercial positions in the prevailing market conditions as to whether extending arrangement is an appropriate strategy.

8.2.7 This situation encourages us to consider best and worst case scenarios alongside our base case cost estimates, and how they would impact on the HRA revenue budget.

8.2.8 Our worst case scenario occurs when all risks come to fruition, whereas our best case occurs where we successfully mitigate all quantified risk, and deliver additional identified efficiencies:

Per annum variance to current budget	Kier Extension	Full Retender	In-source
	£'m	£'m	£'m
Base case estimate	0	1.8	-1.3
Best case estimate	0	1.8	-1.7
Worst case estimate	1.4	1.8	3.8

8.2.9 This table again serves to highlight that though the change associated with the in-sourcing option delivers the potential for ongoing sustainable savings, it also exposes the HRA to significant on-going financial risk. In simple terms – the risk and opportunities mean that there is a much wider range of possible financial outcomes on the in source option: the range is around £5.1m between best and worst cases. However, it provides the

most advantageous base case position; so much of this decision rests on our appetite for risk.

8.2.10 The final principal financial consideration for the HRA is the costs associated with delivering any of the options that move the Council away from the Kier contract. These costs are one-off change management costs, and should be viewed within the context of both the on-going service delivery they facilitate, and the shorter term requirement to resource those costs.

8.3 The following table shows that the in-sourcing option that involves the most change inevitably incurs the most change management costs:

HRA Change costs	Kier Extension	Full Retender	In-source
	£'m	£'m	£'m
One-off costs change management	0	0.5	4.4

8.4 It is important to note that there is no current HRA budget for these costs which are likely to be incurred between financial years 2015/16 and 2016/17. To resource these costs the HRA would need to consider use of reserves, forecast underspends, or divert funding from other priorities. However, it is equally important to recognise the on-going benefit that this investment could potentially deliver.

8.5 In consideration of these risks the Project Team has sought to identify the most probable and prudent scenario. On the balance of judgement, the Project Team believes that where there is a change in delivery model from the current Kier contract, there is likely to be a period of upheaval where productivity will fall before being corrected by management action. This will inevitably result in a cost to the HRA in order to maintain service standards.

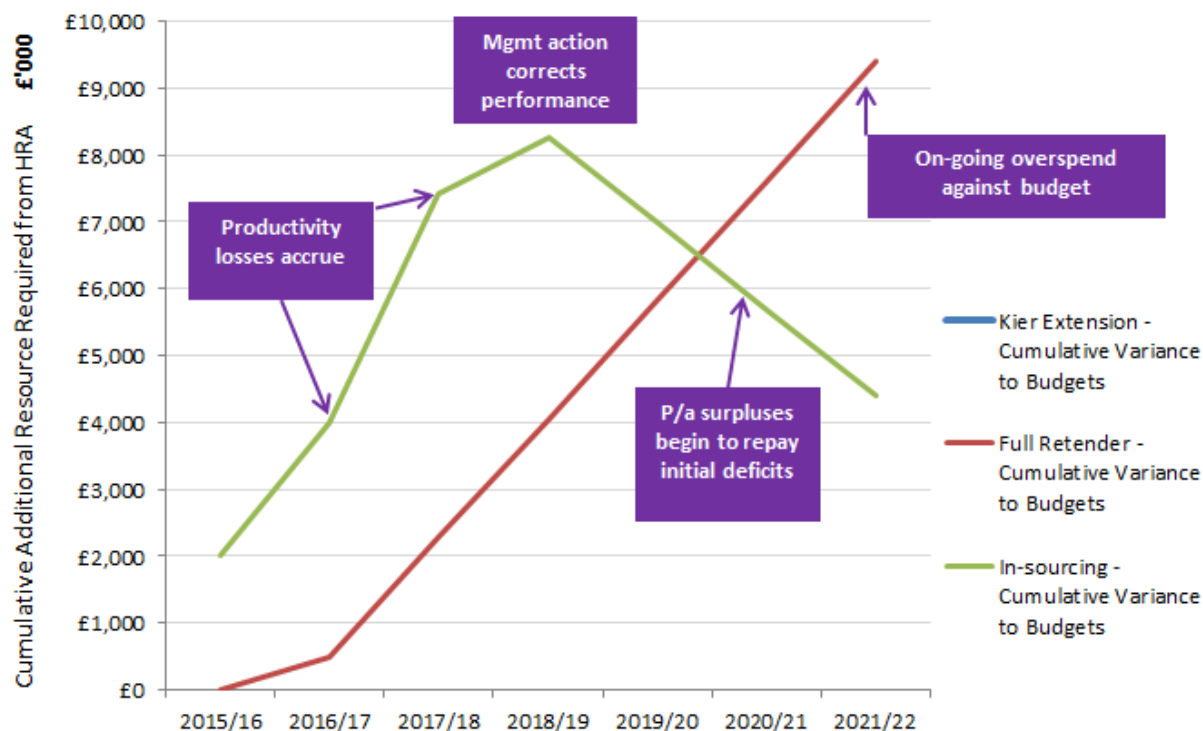
8.6 The following table shows the annual variance to budget for each option under our view of the most probable scenario:

	Pre Decision		Decision Period				
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Kier Cost Estimate	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Full Retender Cost Estimate	0.0	0.5	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
In-sourcing Cost Estimate	2.0	2.0	3.4	0.9	-1.3	-1.3	-1.3

8.7 The table illustrates the extension to the Social Housing Repairs and Maintenance Contract agreed at current prices which would mitigate price risk. The full-retender option sustains losses over the life of the retendered contract. The in-sourcing option suffers cost deficits initially due to the up-front investment required, and then the loss of productivity. This situation is addressed before surpluses are returned.

8.8 The following graph attempts to build on this to explain our estimate of how variances against the proposed budget will accrue. The graph shows that the re-tender option sustains cost overruns over the life of the arrangement consistent with a fixed price contract.

8.9 The graph also reflects our view that there will likely be cost overruns in the early years of in-sourcing which are then corrected, returning the service to base case cost estimates of an annual surplus, with the deficit accrued being recovered by year nine of the arrangement.



8.10 The graph further serves to illustrate the disparate cost profile of each option. This issue is exacerbated by the need to judge proposals over a similar timeframe, whilst also noting that an in-sourcing option could realistically be judged over a much longer period than shorter-term contract based alternatives.

8.11 Consideration should be given to both the Council’s ability to successfully mitigate risks through active management, and the HRA’s limited capacity to manage the financial impact of the identified risks should they come to fruition. One-off, or ongoing, adverse variances against budget will represent a drain on HRA resource, and inevitably displace other HRA and member priorities such as stock investment.

8.12 This paper details the proposals of the Council to mitigate risk, and support delivery of the potential efficiencies. However with fully mitigated risks this will be delivered within the Housing repairs and maintenance budget provision

8.13 Financial Implications: General Fund

8.14 In addition, there are also cost risks associated with the insourcing option that would fall outside the HRA. The key issue is that a decision on the HRA for the benefit of Council tenants could have an impact on all across the city.

- 8.14.1 As Kier staff currently receive bonuses as part of their remuneration, in-sourcing staff on such packages exposes the wider Council to Equal Pay claims. With the majority of the Council's workforce employed via the General Fund, the majority of the financial exposure will fall there too:
- 8.14.2 The equal pay exposure is a contingent risk. This means that the risk will only come to fruition in the event of Kier not implementing their pay and conditions changes that will see staff taken off bonuses. Though Kier have committed to implement the necessary changes, there is a residual risk that they do not honour the contract. This limits the ability of the Council to mitigate the risk prior to an in-sourcing.
- 8.14.3 The General Fund's capacity to manage a claim of this magnitude is minimal, and it should be noted that previous claims were managed through Secretary of State granted capitalisations that may not be forthcoming for this matter.
- 8.14.5 Without such a capitalisation the General Fund would be required to bear the costs in full in the year in which the claims were upheld. Such charges would inevitably displace other General Fund member priorities through additional cuts to service, or increased taxation and/or charges. The paper will proceed to detail the relative cost base of each option. Comparing cost bases is somewhat difficult given the lack of transparency around the current contract, and potential re-tendered contracts. However, general themes are evident such as relative costs around staffing, and the requirement for contractor profit in the out-sourced options.
- 8.15 Though this Section necessarily concentrates on the financial implications of decisions, the issues should not be considered in isolation from qualitative issues around service standards. This is particularly relevant when considering the cost effectiveness of the current contract, and whether the price we pay is commensurate to the service quality delivered. In this respect, the cost of the Service is only one consideration in determining an effective and efficient delivery model.

9 Proposal to Insource the Repairs and Maintenance Service

- 9.1 Taking into account all the information given in this report so far – the vision for the future Service, the benefits and potential risks of each option, the financial implications, etc - the proposal in this report is to insource the service for direct delivery by the Council (with a small element of the service possibly contracted out by the Council to external providers). This is considered to be a pragmatic approach given the particular circumstances in which the HR&M Service operates. Inevitably there are benefits and disadvantages to all three options considered. However, on balance, the insourcing option provided a higher level of benefit to the Council than the other two options. It will allow better integration with the new Housing+ Service, it will return a key customer facing service to

direct SCC management and control, and will enable us to change and transform the service more easily than if it had continued to be outsourced.

9.2 This proposal is made on the basis that the insourcing option overall offers the most potential benefits for customers and for the Council. Whilst there are significant risks associated with this option, with effective management and a robust implementation plan these risks would be mitigated (see Section 10 below for more information on this).

9.3 This option will deliver the Service within the current budget limit. There are implementation costs associated with this option, but these would be paid back within 4 years by the efficiency savings which this option would generate.

9.4 Key principles and assumptions for the insourcing of the Service

9.5 Under these proposals, the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service would transfer into the Council as an integrated Housing and Repairs Service, and the Council would **directly deliver** the vast majority of repairs and maintenance work to Council housing stock. This work would include:

- Responsive repairs
- Repairs to vacant properties
- Gas servicing and repairs
- District heating
- Domestic heating
- Electrical testing
- Lift and stair-lift servicing and repairs

9.6 Under this option, the service currently delivered by Kier, and the Kier workforce currently undertaking this work, would **be transferred into the Council** from 1st April 2017. Kier's workforce are vastly experienced in delivering the Repairs and Maintenance Service to the Council's housing stock, and so transferring the existing workforce into the Council will ensure retention of this experience, knowledge and expertise.

9.7 A Senior Manager post within the Council to head-up the Service would be recruited to, ensuring that there is an appropriate level of experience and expertise at a senior level to successfully lead the insourced Service and ensure that performance is maintained. This would be done as part of the implementation phase to help ensure that the preparatory and implementation work described in Section 11 is effectively managed.

9.8 There are a small number of elements of the Service which the Council needs to consider further in terms of whether they would be best delivered directly by the Council, or if being **contracted out by the Council** to an external contractor would be more beneficial. For example, if:

- It is more economically viable to do so
- The service requires little or no interaction with customers

- Where the demand for the service is 'ad hoc', rather than continuous and consistent
 - The risk carried by the Council in directly delivering a specific element is considered too great
- 9.9** The elements of the service to which one or more of the above is likely to apply and therefore which may be contracted include those listed below (the full list of such elements is given in Appendix One). It is important to note that these equate to less than 10% of the current contract value, and of the current Kier workforce:
- Legionella Repairs
 - Communal painting
 - Communal door-entry repairs
 - Laundry equipment
 - Lightning protection tests and repairs
 - Dry Risers
 - Fire Alarm service, repairs and renewals
- 9.10** If Cabinet approve the recommendation in this report to insource the HR&M Service, more detailed work will be done to further assess these elements of the service to determine if contracting out is the most appropriate way of delivering them. Kier staff currently involved in delivering these areas of work, and officers in the Maintenance Partnership Unit will be fully involved in this assessment.
- 9.11** Wherever possible, and subject to the Council's Standing Orders and any relevant procurement legislation, the above elements of the Service would be contracted out to **locally-based contractors**.
- 9.12** For any contracting out of certain elements of the Service, opportunities would be explored for joint-procurement with other Council services. This could potentially achieve efficiencies for both the HRA and general-funded services.
- 9.13** For any elements for which it is decided that contracting out would be the best way of delivering, further work will need to be done to assess the best way to do this. A key consideration will be whether to insource the staff involved into the Council, and then transfer these staff to the new contractor, or if to move the staff involved directly from Kier to the new contractor. Consultation with the relevant staff would be undertaken before any decision is made.
- 9.14 Building on the service improvements currently being delivered by Kier**
- 9.15** As described in Section 4.6 above, a number of key commitments are incorporated into the current contract with Kier aimed at achieving greater efficiency and improving the Service. Kier are delivering on these commitments, and are supporting the Council in making these service improvements. It is important to note that these initiatives would not end if the Service were to be insourced - the Council would build on the foundations laid by Kier and develop these areas further. In particular, there would be a focus on:

- Further increasing flexibility to enable the Service to respond to the changing needs of local communities, working closely in partnership with the new Neighbourhood Teams which will be introduced as part of the implementation of Housing+.
- Increasing customer engagement in the Service, and improved transparency in its governance.
- Making close links between the Service and the proposed Housing Employability Scheme, helping to improve the training and employment prospects for young people in the city.
- Using locally-based companies wherever possible for any contracted-out elements of the service, thereby supporting the local economy.
- Continuing with the changes to the culture of the workforce to become more outcome-focused and holistic in its approach to service delivery.

9.16 Preparing the Service for potential insourcing

9.17 As explained in Section 5.10 above, at the time of Cabinet's decision in April 2013, a longer-term objective was to potentially insource the Service if and when this became a realistic and affordable option. A requirement to support this objective was therefore built into the current contract with Kier, and a number of service improvements and organisational changes have taken place since the contract began in April 2014 aimed at achieving this:

- **Efficiency savings:** A target has been agreed for savings of £665,000 on the contract with Kier over the 3-year contract period. The Service is currently on track to achieve this.
- **Reorganisation of the Service to link more closely with Council Housing Areas:** Locally-based operatives are now providing elements of the Service, based around the Council's six housing areas. This reduces travel time, increases local knowledge and enables faster delivery of materials.
- **Empowering Kier frontline staff to deliver a 'right first time' approach:** Kier staff now have more autonomy to make more decisions in tenants' homes on the first visit. Many are now equipped with modern Information Technology (in the form of Tablets) which enable them to access a wide range of estate and tenancy information, as well as repairs diagnostics applications. More staff will be similarly equipped over the coming months.
- **Modernising the Workforce:** Kier are currently taking all staff who work on the repairs and maintenance contract through a cultural transformation programme. The programme covers cultural change, increased focus on customers and a review of their remuneration.
- **Expanding the Handyperson Service:** This popular scheme began in just two areas of the city (East and South West), providing assistance to vulnerable customers by completing small repairs and maintenance jobs in their homes which they would be unable to do themselves (eg decorating,

hanging curtains, fitting shelves, etc). This service has now been extended to cover all 6 housing areas.

- **Better joint-working between Kier and the Council:** Building on the partnership working which developed through the Kier Sheffield LLP arrangement, there is now increased joint-working in key areas such as performance monitoring, budget management and tenant and leaseholder involvement.

9.18 Transformation of the Service after the transfer

9.19 The transfer of the Service from Kier into the Council would initially be a 'lift and shift', with as little change and disruption to services and staff and possible. It would become a discrete Service within the Housing and Neighbourhoods Service, and a period of stabilisation would follow, to enable the Service to become fully integrated into the Council.

9.20 Once transfer of the Service is complete, a full service review would then be undertaken and transformation work begun to re-shape the future Service. Insourcing the Service offers a huge opportunity to transform and re-brand the Service – and this would enable the Service to become an externally trading function and so generating its own income.

10 Potential risks and disadvantages of insourcing the service

10.1 As with any large-scale change, there are risks associated with the insourcing of the Repairs and Maintenance Service. The key risks are described below, along with the appropriate mitigating actions to be taken to effectively address and manage those risks.

10.2 One of the most significant risks of insourcing the Service is in relation to potential Equal Pay claims - this is described in more detail in Section 13.

10.3 Moving the current Kier workforce into the Council, and the transition onto salary-based pay, may both impact on staff motivation and so lead to reduced productivity and reduced customer satisfaction. The potential financial impact of this is illustrated in Section 8 above. To help mitigate this, Kier have an experienced Change Manager working to help deliver a successful transition to the new pay structure, and to help prepare the workforce for a transfer into the Council. Kier also already have a track record in performance management and this is expected to continue. A small dedicated team of senior managers would be recruited within the Council to lead the Service and to ensure effective performance management.

10.4 There is a risk that the performance of the Service when assessed against contractual requirements is shown to be failing - which would in turn mean that the Council inherits a failing Service. To mitigate this, the current contract framework allows for performance management, early warning of failure, escalation as necessary and requirements for performance improvement plans

to be implemented. Additionally, the Council is experienced in delivering service improvement and working with Kier and others to mitigate the risk of service failure.

- 10.5** As another part of their commitment to modernising their workforce, Kier are currently undertaking a “right sizing” exercise within the workforce to ensure that staff resource levels match service demand. If this is delayed in any way there could be significant budget implications for the Council in terms of potential redundancy costs. Although Kier have made good progress on this, they are monitoring progress on a regular basis and feeding back to the Council when issues arise. A dedicated workstream will also be established, led by the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods, to work with Kier on successfully modernising the service.
- 10.6** Due to the nature of the work involved, there is a greater exposure to potential health and safety issues (eg exposure to asbestos leading to long-term health conditions) and serious accidents. There would therefore be a potentially higher reputational and financial risk should the Council not successfully manage the risks resulting from compensation claims, corporate manslaughter charges and higher Employer and Public Liability Insurance payments. To mitigate this, thorough and robust health and safety practices will need to be in place, ensuring compliance with all relevant legislation and guidelines. Senior Health and Safety officials from within the Council would be closely involved in implementing the new service to ensure that this happens.
- 10.7** The HR&M Service is a £30million per year construction function, currently employing over 500 staff, and it is more than 10 years since the Council directly managed a similar service. There is a risk, therefore, that there is insufficient experience and knowledge within the Council to manage such a large-scale Repairs and Maintenance Service. To mitigate this, an experienced management team would be recruited – externally if necessary – to ensure effective management and leadership of the Service.
- 10.8** Insourcing such a large-scale Service also increases the level of uncertainty regarding the cost of delivering the service. Unlike with an external contract, for which the costs would largely be fixed for the period of the contract, an insourced service would be more vulnerable to market forces in the cost of materials, pay awards, fuel price increases, etc. As for all Council services, this would need to be managed through effective budget management, robust procurement processes and high levels of flexibility. Close working with Efficiency North (see Section 10.10 below for more detail), and making best use of e-procurement and Government Framework Agreements (see Section 10.11 below for more detail), will also help mitigate this risk.
- 10.9** It is estimated that contracting out the elements of the Service identified in Section 9.9 above could increase the cost of these elements by approximately 3%. This cost is in relation to potential increases in the price of materials. Again, this would be mitigated by robust procurement, effective contract management, close working with Efficiency North (see Section 10.10 below for more detail), and making best use of e-procurement.

- 10.10** Sheffield City Council created a regional social housing consortium eight years ago called Efficiency North, which now has membership covering two-thirds of all social housing stock within Yorkshire and the Humber. This organisation collaborates regionally on labour frameworks, and with other similar regional housing consortia nationally on materials. This approach gives substantial market leverage and buying power in ensuring costs are effectively managed.
- 10.11** External costs can be controlled by using Government Framework Agreements. The relevant Agreements available for the Council's Transport Services include the Vehicle Tyre, Vehicle Parts and Fuel Purchase Agreements. These external Agreements have been used to monitor, control and mitigate risk over the last 5 years whilst achieving significant discounts.
- 10.12** The current contractor provides Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to operate the Service including systems that schedule and record work to operatives. Some of this equipment interfaces with the Council system thus providing a record of work carried out by the contractor. The Council will need to source equivalent systems to operate an insourced service and ensure these have the correct linkages to other Housing and Council systems thus providing better access to information and an effective service. Without this there is a risk that the customer pathway will not be as effective as possible and that operative productivity may reduce due to ineffective scheduling. To mitigate this risk the service design for an insource model will include the options and risks for the provision of ICT solutions. Estimated costs have been based on known comparable provision, with some contingency, but need to be checked against current and future requirements. It has been assumed that there will be sufficient time to assess, design, test and implement such systems.
- 10.13** The current contractor utilises mobile devices to manage the efficiency of the workforce. A comparable ICT provision (devices, back-end systems to support job-allocation and in-field updating, and support for these) would be needed both to operate the Service and to mitigate some of the productivity risks described above. The costs for these have been estimated on the basis of known similar provision.

11 Next steps

- 11.1** It is critical that the preparatory and implementation period begins immediately after any Cabinet agreement. The work to be carried out during this period will be crucial in ensuring a smooth transfer to the Council and consistency of service. It is expected that this work will take 2 years, from April 2015 to March 2017. The right level of resources must be in place and allocated to the project.
- 11.2** If Cabinet approve the recommendation in this report to insource the HR&M Service, an internal Project Team and Project Board with an appropriate governance structure will be established to implement this decision. The project will be led by the Executive Director of Communities and will include representatives from all relevant services across the Council. Further work will also take place with Elected Members and customers to shape tenant governance model.

11.3 The key objective of this Project Team and Project Board will be to ensure that all the necessary preparatory work is completed in readiness for the transfer of the Service into the Council. This work will include:

- Formal consultation with both Kier and Council staff and their Trade Union representatives regarding the TUPE transfer of the Kier workforce into the Council – as well as additional communications and briefings.
- A detailed assessment of how existing Council staff – particularly those in the Housing and Neighbourhoods Service – will be impacted on by the move, and plans for how this will be managed (including a clear and robust communications strategy).
- Consideration of whether running the HR&M Service as an externally trading function within the Council is a feasible and desirable option for the future, generating income by undertaking work on properties other than the Council's own social housing stock.
- Allocation of sufficient and suitable resources for project delivery.
- Procurement of all necessary goods, services and materials (eg. transport, equipment, accommodation, IT systems and software, etc).
- Effective communication, engagement and consultation with tenants, leaseholders, Members and other key stakeholders.
- Completion of a detailed Target Operating Model for the Service.
- Development and agreement of an organisational structure for the Service, including where and how it will be best integrated with housing and wider Council services.
- Development of a detailed implementation plan for the transfer.
- The management of the risks identified in this report and identification and management of emerging risks.

11.4 Some of this work will be undertaken via a 'Business Infrastructure Workstream' which will be tasked with managing the infrastructure elements of the transfer (eg. IT, health and safety aspects, HR, etc).

11.5 Robust governance arrangements will be put in place to ensure that the timeframe, cost and outputs of the transfer are tightly controlled. Risks, issues and dependencies will be effectively managed through good project management, and the links with wider organisational change will be incorporated into the implementation plan. Business Change best practice will be followed throughout.

12 Legal Implications

12.1 The Council has the power under the Housing Act 1985 to provide housing and to alter, enlarge, repair or improve its housing stock. It also has a number of

statutory and contractual obligations to its tenants and leaseholders to ensure that the structure of their homes and the communal areas are kept in repair and that in its tenants' homes the various installations for utilities, including water, gas, electricity and heating are repaired and kept in proper working order.

12.2 Duty to consult

12.3 The general power of management of its housing is vested in the Council by Section 21 of the 1985 Act. There is wide discretion as to how the Council may exercise that power, but there is a duty under Section 105 of the Act to consult its secure tenants when they are likely to be substantially affected by certain matters of housing management which involve a change to practice or policy, including arrangements for the management, maintenance, improvement or demolition of its housing stock, or the provision of services or amenities.

12.4 The duty therefore applies to the decision of how the HR&M Service will be delivered after the end of the current contract with Kier. There is no prescribed form of consultation but it must include arrangements for tenants to be informed of the Council's proposals and to make their views known and the Council must consider any representations made.

12.5 The duty will be complied with by keeping tenants up-to-date with progress of the project via a number of established communication channels – eg by publishing articles in tenants' magazine 'InTouch', providing updates at Local Area Housing Forums and involving the Investment and Repairs (Tenants') Partnership Group in the project going forward. These communications will give details of the new model and the timetable for its implementation and will inform tenants how to make their views known. Responses to the consultation will be considered before the change is implemented.

12.6 Statutory Leaseholder Consultation

12.7 Statutory leaseholder consultation is required by Section 20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 as amended by the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002; the procedure is set out in the Service Charges (Consultation Requirements) (England) Regulations 2003.

12.8 There are two strands to Section 20 consultation:

- Entering into a qualifying long-term agreement under which the service charge to any leaseholder may exceed £100 in any year;
- Carrying out qualifying works which may result in any leaseholder being charged more than £250.

12.9 Thus if qualifying works are to be carried out under a qualifying long-term agreement, two consultations are required (one for the agreement, one for the works).

12.10 Statutory consultation requirements would apply to any elements of the service which the Council decides to contract out to an external provider rather than directly deliver itself. If the appropriate consultation requirements are not complied with then the maximum that any affected leaseholder may be charged

is the limit for that consultation, so a failure to carry out agreement consultation means a maximum service charge of £100 even if the subsequent works consultation is done properly.

- 12.11** Any procurement required in order to deliver both the development / implementation work required prior to the insourcing, and for in-house delivery of the service itself, including any elements of the service which it is agreed will be contracted out by the Council, must be procured following the Council's standing orders and all relevant EU procurement directives. The procurement process will therefore have to be open, transparent, fair and non-discriminatory. The contract awarded to the successful tenderer/s must ensure compliance with all applicable legislative requirements and provide for effective service delivery, value for money and ensure the delivery of the project outcomes.
- 12.12** The same considerations will apply should Cabinet decide upon the full external procurement route.

13 Human Resources (HR) Implications

- 13.1** At this stage, it is not possible to provide a complete assessment on all HR implications that could result from the proposals in this paper. However, the immediate apparent implications include TUPE and Equal Pay.
- 13.2** TUPE could apply if staff, that currently work on the repairs and maintenance contract for the Council, were transferred to the Council's employment. The majority of staff to be transferred would be operatives, with a smaller number of support staff and operational managers. These staff may include ex-Council employees who transferred to Kier Sheffield LLP on its formation.
- 13.3** Although TUPE could apply, the proper assessment of whether TUPE will apply and if so to who requires employee information that the Council does not have access to at this stage. If TUPE does apply, the Council will need to have sufficient time in the implementation period to undertake proper consultations on the transfer with affected staff and their representatives.
- 13.4** Operatives within Kier are currently remunerated on a scheme that also pays bonus. It is understood that Kier has started a programme of removing this scheme by adopting a staged approach that should conclude prior to the transfer of their staff to the Council, at which point this staff group should be on an evaluated salary.

14 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 14.1** There will be staffing implications as a result of the TUPE transfer of Kier Services Ltd. staff into the Council. However, there is not expected to be any disproportionate impact on staff with a particular protected characteristic.
- 14.2** The Council has a wide range of policies and procedures already in place to support employees reduce potential inequalities in the workplace. Access to

these policies and procedures will be available to all transferred staff to support their integration into the Council.

- 14.3** There is a small risk that some transferring staff may not be fully included in the consultation process due to their characteristics - in particular those staff on pregnancy/maternity/paternity leave or those absent from work due to illness or disability. This risk is covered in the action plan and managers will be expected to ensure that these staff are involved wherever possible in consultation arrangements in a manner appropriate to their needs.
- 14.4** It is important to ensure that staff transferring into the Council are given an appropriate induction to the Council so that they are aware of the support offered to staff with protected characteristics. This is also captured in the action plan attached to this EIA.
- 14.5** The workforce profile currently within Kier shows an underrepresentation of BME, disabled and female staff within the service. This imbalance is something that the Council will seek to address through involvement of existing staff groups in identifying barriers to potential new entrants to the service and promoting positive employment policies to encourage interest in any vacancies from all staff and Sections of the community.
- 14.6** There is not expected to be any negative impact on customers as a result of these proposals and the intention is that the service will deliver positive service changes over the longer-term. The service will initially carry on delivering the same service to customers as it does at the moment. Proposals to change this service will be developed in partnership with customers and will take account of the diverse needs of Council housing tenants within the city. The aim of bringing the repairs service back into the Council is to improve the overall service to customers and co-design an integrated housing and repairs service.

15 Other options considered

- 15.1** The alternatives considered are as described in Section 7 of this report.

16 Reasons for recommendations

- 16.1** Insourcing the HR&M Service will give the Council more control, flexibility and accountability in managing the Service, enabling the service to be fully integrated into the Council and to work in close partnership with other relevant key Council services. This will help to transform its approach to one which is more holistic, joined-up and outcome-focused and ensure that the Service is delivered in a way which fully supports the Council's corporate objectives.
- 16.2** Bringing the HR&M Service in-house for direct delivery by the Council will also help to bring about an alignment of culture in the Service to that of the Council, and in its approach to customers. As an integrated function within the Council, the Service will be much better placed to adopt the Council's key principles of 'right first time' and holistic service delivery - and to be more adaptable to varying circumstances and to any changes in corporate priorities.

- 16.3** Based on all information known to date, and after the initial upfront costs of transferring the service, the insourced option is expected to generate sustainable year-on-year revenue savings. In addition, once fully integrated into the Council there will be further opportunities to reduce duplication, join-up procurement with other Council services and increase efficiency within the Service – enabling it to achieve more and improve outcomes within the same level of spending.
- 16.4** Under this option, there is huge potential for the HR&M Service to help support and strengthen the Housing+ approach, which focuses on tailoring our services to help achieve better outcomes for our tenants. HR&M staff would be out on estates and in tenants' homes on a daily basis, and so would be ideally placed to identify problems with tenancies or additional support needs. Strong links with the local Neighbourhood Teams (due to be implemented later this year under the Housing+ roll-out and the proposed restructure of the Housing and Neighbourhoods Service) would enable the HR&M to refer any such issues to the appropriate Neighbourhood Team staff, enabling these issues to be dealt with earlier.
- 16.5** Insourcing the Service will also make it easier to structure the Service around the proposed 7 Neighbourhood Areas (currently awaiting the outcomes of the Electoral Ward Boundaries Review before being confirmed). This would enable the Service to be delivered in-line with the new Neighbourhood-based approach (again part of the roll-out of the Housing+ model), with staff potentially based in a particular Neighbourhood. This would increase local knowledge for HR&M staff, and improve their links with the local community.
- 16.6** It is clear from in-depth consultation with tenants and leaseholders that the Repairs and Maintenance Service is for customers one of the most important elements of housing management. Insourcing the Service will put it in a stronger position in terms of its ability to deliver the customer vision for the service. The Service will be directly linked into the Council housing governance and engagement framework (as all other key Council housing services are), enabling greater transparency and accountability. It would also enable tenants and leaseholders to more easily have direct influence on how the service is shaped and delivered in the future.
- 16.7** Potential insourcing was part of Council's vision for the service in April 2013, and asked that a requirement to prepare the service for this was incorporated into the current contract with the new provider from April 2014. This preparation work has been taking place over the last few months, and will continue for the duration of the contract. This work should mean that the Service, and its workforce, are fit-for-purpose at the point of transfer - and that the Council will inherit the foundations of a modern and efficient service on which it can build even further.
- 16.8** Insourcing also brings with it the potential to run the service as an externally-trading Council function in the future – for example undertaking repairs and maintenance work on behalf of other social landlords.
- 16.9** Directly delivering the service in-house, with minor elements of it being outsourced to locally-based contractors wherever possible, would help support the concept of the 'Sheffield Brand'. Materials would be purchased from local

suppliers wherever possible (subject of course to the usual procurement rules and Council policies), and the workforce would be predominantly local.

16.10 Sheffield would not be alone in insourcing a key service such as the HR&M Service. Independent research by APSE (the Association for Public Service Excellence) has also identified a number of potential benefits of insourcing services, based on actual case-studies and local authority experiences:

- Improved performance
- Stronger links to corporate strategic objectives
- Greater flexibility, and more responsive to local and national policy changes
- Efficiency savings
- Improved customer satisfaction
- Enhanced local supply chains
- Better integration and joining-up with other relevant key services
- New development and employment opportunities for the workforce transferred in

16.11 There are of course risks associated with the option to insource the service (as indeed there are with the other two alternative delivery options discussed in this report), and some of these risks are significant. However, measures are and will continue to be in place to mitigate these risks, and if any of these risks significantly escalate, or any significant new risks (including financial ones) emerge, a further report would be brought back to Cabinet before progressing the transfer any further.

17 Recommendations

17.1 That Cabinet:

17.2 Approves the proposal in this paper to **insource the Housing Repairs and Maintenance (HR&M) Service from 1st April 2017.**

17.3 Gives its approval for the insourcing to be done based on the principles and assumptions described in Section 9.4 of this report, and taking into account the risks and mitigations as set out in Section 10, including the potential contracting-out of a small proportion of the service.

17.4 Gives its approval for the budget required to cover the one-off implementation and set-up costs, as described in Section 8.3 of this report.

17.5 Grants delegated authority to the Executive Director of Communities to take the necessary steps to progress and implement the insourcing of the service, in consultation with the Cabinet Member. These steps will include:

- at the appropriate time, commencing formal consultation with Trade Unions regarding the transfer of staff from Kier into the Council (in consultation with the Director of Human Resources as necessary).

- developing the structure and agreeing the timescales needed to deliver an in-house repairs service (in consultation with the Director of Human Resources as necessary).
 - undertaking a more detailed assessment of which elements of the service are more appropriate to be contracted out, rather than directly delivered by the Council, and what the impact of this will be and how that will need to be managed (in consultation with the Director of Commercial Services and the Director of Human Resources as necessary).
 - Approving the procurement strategy and contract award, and agreeing contract terms and entering into the contracts, for all necessary goods and services. This will apply to both the development / implementation work required prior to the insourcing, and for in-house delivery of the service itself (including any elements of the service which it is agreed will be contracted out by the Council) once it is brought back into the Council (in consultation with the Director of Commercial Services and the Director of Legal and Governance as necessary).
 - Ensuring that the statutory leaseholder consultation required by Section 20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 (as amended by the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002) is adhered to.
 - Any other work required for the effective preparation for and implementation of the insourcing of the HR&M Service.
- 17.6** Request that a further report is presented to Cabinet if the underlying strategy for the future of the Service cannot be achieved or if any unforeseen significant risks emerge which may prompt Cabinet to re-consider its decision.

Appendix 1

List of functions / elements covered by the current Housing Repairs and Maintenance contact with Kier Services Ltd

The current contract covers the following:

- Responsive repairs
- Repairs to vacant properties
- Maintenance of the District Heating system
- Gas servicing and repairs
- Lift and stair-lift servicing and repairs
- Electrical work
- Communal painting*
- Domestic heating renewals
- Communal footpaths, car-parks and un-adopted highways
- Security of Vacant Properties*
- Non Domestic Properties Servicing and Repairs*
- Electrical Testing to Dwellings
- Landlords Supply Fixed Wire Testing*
- Legionella Management*
- Fire Alarm Servicing and Repairs
- Emergency Lighting Servicing and Repairs*
- Laundry Equipment Servicing and Repairs*
- Solid Fuel Servicing and Repairs*
- Potable Water*
- Dry/Wet Riser Equipment*
- Lightening Protection tests and repairs*
- Communal Door Entry Repairs*
- PVCu Maintenance*
- Electrical rewiring/upgrades*
- Fire Alarm service, repairs and renewals*
- Emergency Lighting servicing and repairs*
- Emergency Lighting renewals*
- Lift Refurbishments*
- Metalwork Repairs/Fabrication*
- External Block Lighting*
- Handy Person Service*

* These elements would be considered further for possible contracting out rather than direct delivery by the Council if this is deemed to be more effective. (These elements represent only a small proportion of the whole service).

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Appendix Two

Well-Maintained Homes and Neighbourhoods Service Design

Project Group: Vision Statement



- Investment and tenancy management services will be joined-up in a way which supports our tenants and leaseholders – particularly the most vulnerable.
- Tenants and leaseholders will play an integral part in shaping and designing investment standards in the future.
- The Council will help to tackle fuel poverty by ensuring that homes are energy efficient and have a modern and well-maintained heating system.
- Homes and neighbourhoods will be safe and secure. They will also be disability-friendly wherever possible.
- We will improve all of our communal areas and ensure they are well-maintained in the future.
- We will ensure that our neighbourhoods are safe, attractive and well-designed to promote long-term sustainability.
- There will be a good quality, modern responsive repairs service which has high standards of customer care and health and safety, and which provides value-for-money. The repairs call centre will be effective and efficient, and workmen will carry the right tools and materials.
- Some simple repair jobs will be dealt with where appropriate by staff in the Council Housing Service. We will provide advice, permission and support to any tenant wanting to make minor repairs and improvements to their home.
- The Handy-Person's Service will be extended to all elderly and vulnerable tenants in the city.
- There will be effective stock management, which considers all the relevant information to help inform sound investment decisions. We will work closely with our partners to plan and sequence work.
- Vacant properties will be brought up to a lettable standard quickly, including the gardens. We will advise new tenants when any missed Decent Homes work will be completed to their homes.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Appendix Four

Equalities Impact Assessment

Name of policy/project/decision: Housing Repairs & Maintenance Service - Delivery Options Post-March 2017 - Cabinet Report

Status of policy/project/decision: New

Name of person(s) writing EIA: Peter Brown

Date: Jan 2015

Service: Future of Council Housing Team /

Portfolio: Communities

What are the brief aims of the policy/project/decision?

In 2003, the Council established a 'limited liability partnership' with the Kier Group – this partnership was named Kier Sheffield LLP. The Council's Construction and Building Services (CBS) contract was awarded to the LLP in 2003, and this contract covered the repairs, maintenance and other construction work to all Council-owned buildings – a significant element of which was the Council's social housing stock.

The CBS contract expired in March 2014 and procurement of a new contractor for housing repairs and maintenance was carried out. Kier Services Ltd were successful in their bid for the contract and were awarded a 3-year contract, from 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2017. This contract includes an option for a contract-extension for up to two more years (ie. to 31st March 2019), should both the Council and Kier Services Ltd agree to this.

The main elements / functions which it covers are as follows:

- Responsive repairs
- Repairs to vacant properties
- Maintenance of the District Heating system
- Gas servicing and repairs
- Lift and stair-lift servicing
- Electrical work
- Communal painting
- Domestic heating renewals
- Communal footpaths, car-parks and un-adopted highways

The recommendation to Cabinet is that the service is 'insourced' once the current contract expires in 2017. This will result in an integrated service delivered in-house directly by the Council. There are no plans at this stage to change any aspect of the service delivered to customers. Therefore the focus for this EIA is on the changes to the existing staff of Kier Services Ltd.

Are there any potential Council staffing implications, include workforce diversity? All of Kier Services Ltd. staff working on the Sheffield contract will be transferred under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations

("TUPE") into Sheffield City Council. Staff transferring into the Council from Kier Services Ltd. will initially be located in the Housing and Neighbourhoods Service. The transfer from Kier into the Council would initially be a 'lift and shift', with as little change and disruption to services and staff as possible. A period of stabilisation would follow, to enable the Service to become fully integrated into the Council. Once integration of the service is complete, a full service review would then be undertaken and transformation work begun to re-shape the service going forward. This could potentially impact on both former Kier Services Ltd. staff and existing Council staff. Due to the large number of staff involved, it is not expected that the impact will be less or more for any particular staff groups. However, until it is known exactly which staff are affected, and in what way, we cannot be sure how workforce diversity will be impacted on

There are also potential implications for the Council's workforce diversity profile. The table below shows the Kier workforce profile compared to that of the Housing and Neighbourhoods Service.

	Housing & Neighbourhoods Service	Kier
Average Age	46 years old	44 years old
Ethnicity	8%	3.5%
Disability	12%	5%
Gender (Male : Female)	56:44	92:8

The table shows that there is a similarity in terms of the average age of the workforce that would transfer. However in terms of ethnicity, disability and gender the profile is distinctly different. The Kier workforce is much less diverse with lower levels of BME, disabled and female staff - distinctly different from the profile of the communities that Kier staff work within.

This will also have an impact on the overall profile of the Housing and Neighbourhoods service.

Under the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#), we have to pay due regard to: "Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations." [More information is available on the Council website](#)

Areas of possible impact	Impact	Impact level	Explanation and evidence (Details of data, reports, feedback or consultations. This should be proportionate to the impact.)
Age	Neutral	Medium	The whole workforce of Kier Services Ltd. currently delivering the Sheffield contract will

Areas of possible impact	Impact	Impact level	Explanation and evidence (Details of data, reports, feedback or consultations. This should be proportionate to the impact.)
			<p>be affected by the TUPE process. The TUPE process should not result in any negative impact on individual members of staff as a result of their equality profile. Any changes identified as a part of the TUPE process will be subject to full consultation as described in the report. Some of the changes may result in a positive impact where the SCC 'offer' as part of the transfer provides additional benefits. All staff transferring into the service will be covered by the Council's 'Dignity and Respect at Work' policy providing support for the resolution of any equality issues.</p> <p>These changes may cause concerns for staff, both in the Council and Kier, regarding places of work and line management. Full consultation and communication with staff is paramount requiring managers and supervisors to remain open and honest with the staff. The idea of the change to SCC may be seen as negative by some staff. This impact will need to be managed.</p> <p>The impact on employees who are away from work on sickness absence may be negative and again needs to be managed..</p>
Disability	Neutral	Medium	<p>As above. The Council will also consider any reasonable adjustments for disabled staff during and after the transfer. As well as Kier, the Council is a member of the 'Two Ticks' scheme providing support and development opportunities for disabled people. There is currently under representation of disabled staff in the current Kier workforce and this would need to be considered further once staff transfer</p>
Pregnancy/mat ernity	Negative	Medium	<p>There will be employees on maternity leave who will not be receiving face to face consultation. This may have a negative impact on their ability to engage in the transfer process. However, anyone on maternity/paternity leave will be fully consulted with on a regular basis using other communication methods and kept up to date with changes that will be made to their working environment.</p>
Race	Neutral	Medium	<p>As for Age. There is currently an under representation of BME staff in the Kier</p>

Areas of possible impact	Impact	Impact level	Explanation and evidence (Details of data, reports, feedback or consultations. This should be proportionate to the impact.)
			workforce and this would need to be considered further once staff transfer.
Religion/belief	Neutral	Medium	As for Age
Sex	Neutral	Medium	As for Age. There is currently an under representation of female staff in the Kier workforce and this would need to be considered further once staff transfer.
Sexual orientation	Neutral	Medium	As for Age
Transgender	Neutral	Medium	As for Age
Carers	Neutral	Medium	As for Age. The Council are committed to supporting all employees with a caring role. The Council's Carers' Charter gives more information about the definition of a Carer and the Council's commitment to Carers. A range of flexible working policies are in place to support employees.
Voluntary, community & faith sector	Neutral	Medium	As for Age
Financial inclusion, poverty, social justice:	Positive	Low	The Council offer protection for the lowest paid employees by paying a minimum living wage rate, currently £7.65 per hour. This will be extended, if appropriate to staff transferring in.
Cohesion:	Positive	Low	The Communities Staff Equality and Inclusion Network (SEIN) is open to all staff within the Communities Portfolio who are interested in equality, diversity and inclusion. Kier staff transferring into the Portfolio will have access to support from this inclusive forum and be able to raise equality issues.
Other/additional: Workforce Profiling.	Neutral	High/Medium	There is a noticeable difference in the workforce profile between the two organisations. There will need to be action in place to tackle the below average number of BME and disabled employees in Kier as well as a concerning difference in the gender profile. There are explanations for this due to the work that is involved and the type of work that is carried out. Support from the equalities team within the Communities Portfolio will be required and discussions from existing staff groups within the Housing Service on how to make opportunities available for people from under-represented backgrounds will be needed to ensure that any resultant opportunities in the service are

Areas of possible impact	Impact	Impact level	Explanation and evidence (Details of data, reports, feedback or consultations. This should be proportionate to the impact.)
			open to all Sections of the community.

Overall summary of possible impact (to be used on EMT, cabinet reports etc):

There will be significant staffing implications as a result of the TUPE transfer of Kier Services Ltd. staff into the Council. There is not expected to be any disproportionate impact on staff with a particular protected characteristic however The Council has a wide range of policies and procedures already in place to support employees reduce potential inequalities in the workplace. Access to these policies and procedures will be available to all transferred staff to support their integration into the Council. There is a small risk that some transferring staff may not be fully included in the consultation process due to their characteristics - in particular those staff on pregnancy/maternity/paternity leave or those absent from work due to illness or disability. This risk is covered in the action plan and managers will be expected to ensure that these staff are involved wherever possible in consultation arrangements in a manner appropriate to their needs. It is important to ensure that staff transferring into the Council are given an appropriate induction to the Council so that they are aware of the support offered to staff with protected characteristics. This is also captured in the action plan attached to this EIA. The workforce profile currently within Kier shows an underrepresentation of BME, disabled and female staff within the service. This imbalance is something that the Council will seek to address through involvement of existing staff groups in identifying barriers to potential new entrants to the service and promoting positive employment policies to encourage interest in any vacancies from all staff and Sections of the community. There is not expected to be any negative impact on customers as a result of these proposals and the intention is that the service will deliver positive service changes over the longer-term. The service will initially carry on delivering the same service to customers as it does at the moment. Proposals to change this service will be developed in partnership with customers and will take account of the diverse needs of Council housing tenants within the city. The aim of bringing the repairs service back into the Council is to improve the overall service to customers and co-design an integrated housing and repairs service.

If you have identified significant change, med or high negative outcomes or for example the impact is on specialist provision relating to the groups above, or there is cumulative impact you **must** complete the action plan.

Review date:

Q Tier Ref

Reference number:

Entered on Qtier: -Select-

Action plan needed: Yes

Approved (Lead Manager):

Date:

Approved (EIA Lead person for Portfolio):

Date:

Does the proposal/ decision impact on or relate to specialist provision: -Select-

Risk rating: Low

Action plan

Area of impact	Action and mitigation	Lead, timescale and how it will be monitored/reviewed
Workforce	Ensure that there is a full consultation/communication plan in place and that all employees are reached with regular feedback and updates regarding the process.	
Workforce	Promote the positive aspects of change to staff and involve them in all aspects of the transfer. Key actions include regular intranet and face to face communication, involvement in planning for the transfer and clarity of induction.	
Workforce	Ensure that all staff who are not at work (through pregnancy, maternity, sickness or other reason) are provided with opportunities to be involved with the consultation on TUPE transfer	
Workforce	All staff to be given a full induction, ensuring that they are familiar with the relevant Council processes, policies, etc	
Workforce	All staff to be made aware of the key Council commitments to equality and dignity within the workforce including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wide range of flexible working options. •Maternity, paternity and adoption benefits and child care vouchers. •Dignity and Respect at Work policy •Access to Staff Equality and Inclusion Networks •Employment policies and support mechanisms to promote health and wellbeing. 	

Area of impact	Action and mitigation	Lead, timescale and how it will be monitored/reviewed
-Select-		
-Select-		
-Select-		
-Select-		
-Select-		
-Select-		
-Select-		

Approved (Lead Manager): **Date:**

Approved (EIA Lead Officer for Portfolio): Louise Nunn **Date:** 02/02/2015

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Cabinet Report

Report of: Executive Director, Place

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 18th March 2015

Subject: University of Sheffield Campus – Sheffield City Region Investment Fund

Author of Report: Matt Hayman, City Regeneration Division

Key Decision: YES

Reason Key Decision: Expenditure over £500,000

Affects 2 or more wards (Central & Broomhill)

Summary:

For the last two years the City Council and the University of Sheffield have been jointly developing proposals for a project known as the University of Sheffield Campus Phase 1 works (see attached plan). These works, first proposed in the Draft City Centre Masterplan 2013 and further detailed in the Campus Master Plan 2014, will create a world class landscaped spine and pedestrian/cycle route linking the University's campus from the Arts Tower to St Georges, extending the 'Gold Route' and enhancing the attractiveness and functioning of the University. Some of the works would be completed by the University on its own property but the majority will improve areas of the public highway. Careful examination and modelling of the highway alterations by the Council and Passenger Transport Authority have indicated that the proposals should have no significant detriment to traffic flows for public or private transport and can deliver considerable benefits in road safety and pedestrian/cycle connectivity. However, the Council still needs to consult the public and other institutions e.g Sheffield

Children's Hospital and statutory undertakers on the detail of the scheme which affect the highway. Following this and working on any resolutions of objections, provided that the Council is still satisfied that the works will be of benefit to the public it is proposed that it will lead on the procurement of a contractor by competitive tender and the delivery of all public highways works under a Section 278 agreement which would secure the University's contribution.

This project represents an opportunity for the Council to lever a major contribution from the University towards the cost of the works to be undertaken by the Council with the remainder of the Council's costs being met by a grant from the Sheffield City Region Investment Fund (SCRIF). SCRIF will provide £2,891,922 and the University £3,884,000 towards the Public Highway works. The total investment including non-highway works funded entirely by the University is estimated at £8,364,215. Any potential cost overruns will first be mitigated but if unavoidable met by the University provided they are incurred with its prior agreement.

This report seeks approval in principle for the proposed University of Sheffield Campus Phase 1 project. It requests authority for officers to continue to work on the project, including carrying out a full public consultation exercise on the Traffic Regulation Orders required and wider highways implications of the University Campus Master Plan, requests delegated authority for the Cabinet Highways Committee to give final approval for the project, if it considers this appropriate having considered the outcome of the public consultation exercise.

It also seeks authority for the Council to secure a grant of £2,891,922 from the Sheffield City Region Investment Fund (SCRIF) towards the costs of the project, any funding agreement to be conditional on final approval of the project on the part of the Council and the signing of a back to back Funding Agreement with the University.

Reasons for Recommendations:

To enable work on the project to continue, pending the Council being in a position to give final approval for the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders.

To enable the Council to secure funding for the project from SCRIF.

To enable matters to be progressed as appropriate in an efficient way following the conclusion of the planned public consultation exercise on the highways implications of the University Campus Masterplan

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended:

- (1) to confirm its in principle support for the University of Sheffield Campus Phase 1 Scheme as described in this report, subject to:-
 - (a) the completion of a further detailed public consultation exercise about the Traffic Regulation Order proposals, and overall University Campus Master Plan proposals which may affect the highways the proper consideration of the results and where appropriate resolution of objections of such consultation in the course of making the final decision whether or not to proceed with the scheme; and
 - (b) all necessary planning permissions, Traffic Regulation Orders and any other required regulatory approvals or consents being obtained by the University of Sheffield;
- (2) to note that the public consultation exercise referred to in (1) (a) above has already commenced;
- (3) to authorise the Executive Director, Place, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Development , the Director of Finance, the Director of Legal and Governance, the Director of Commercial Services and the Assistant Director - Capital & Major Projects to conclude on such terms as he considers appropriate and authorise the completion of a funding agreement between the Council and the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority in relation to the SCRIF funding for the Scheme provided that any such funding agreement shall be conditional on a final decision to proceed with the Scheme being made on the part of the Council;
- (4) to authorise the Cabinet Highways Committee to consider the results of the public consultation exercise referred to in (1) (a) above, and having done so, if they are of the view that the Scheme will be of benefit to the public and it has been possible to overcome any valid objections decide to confirm the Council's final approval for the Scheme to be implemented
- (5) if the Cabinet Highways Committee does confirm the Council's final approval for the Scheme , the Executive Director, Place shall be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business, Skills & Development, the Director of Regeneration and Development , the Director of Finance, the Director of Legal and Governance, the Director of Commercial Services and the Assistant Director - Capital & Major Projects:-
 - (a) to authorise on such terms as he considers appropriate the completion of an agreement pursuant to section 278 of the Highways Act 1980 with the University of Sheffield, together with such additional agreement(s) with the University that he may consider appropriate; and
 - (b) generally to take such further steps, including (without limitation) entering into such further agreements and or arrangements with such parties and on such terms as he may consider appropriate, and approving detailed designs and materials to secure the successful delivery of the works at no

net cost to the Council and in line with the provisions of this report and to protect the Council's interests in this matter.

Background Papers: Sheffield City Master Plan (2013), Sheffield Economic Strategy (2014) and the University Campus Master Plan (2014)

Category of Report: **OPEN** (but with a **CLOSED** Appendix)

Appendix G to this report is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Paul Schofield
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Andrew Bullock
Equality of Opportunity Implications
NO
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human Rights Implications
NO
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic Impact
YES
Community Safety Implications
NO
Human Resources Implications
NO
Property Implications
NO
Area(s) Affected
Central and Broomhill
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Lead
Cllr Leigh Bramall
Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press Release
YES

REPORT TO CABINET

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD CAMPUS PHASE 1 – SHEFFIELD CITY REGION INVESTMENT FUND

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 For the last two years the City Council and the University of Sheffield have been jointly developing proposals for a project known as the University of Sheffield Campus Phase 1 works (see Appendix C). These works, first proposed in the Draft City Centre Master Plan 2013 (Appendix A & B) and further detailed in the Campus Master Plan 2014, will create a world class landscaped spine and pedestrian/cycle route linking the University's campus from the Arts Tower to St Georges, extending the 'Gold Route' and enhancing the attractiveness and functioning of the University. Some of the works would be completed by the University on its own property but the majority will improve areas of the public highway. Careful examination and modelling of the highway alterations by the Council and Passenger Transport Authority have indicated that the proposals should have no significant detriment to traffic flows for public or private transport and can deliver considerable benefits in road safety and pedestrian/cycle connectivity. However, the Council still needs to consult the public on the detailed impact on the highways users of the scheme. Following this and provided that the Council is still satisfied that the works will be of benefit to the public it is proposed that it will lead on the procurement of a contractor by competitive tender and the delivery of all public highways works under a Section 278 agreement which would secure the University's contribution.
- 1.2 This project represents an opportunity for the Council to lever a major contribution from the University towards the cost of the works to be undertaken by the Council with the remainder of the Council's costs being met by a grant from the Sheffield City Region Investment Fund (SCRIF). SCRIF will provide £2,891,922 and the University £3,884,000 towards the Public Highway works. The total investment including non-highway works funded entirely by the University is estimated at £8,364,215. Any cost overruns will be mitigated, but if unavoidable met by the University provided they are incurred with its prior agreement.
- 1.3 This report seeks approval in principle for the proposed University of Sheffield Campus Phase 1 project. It requests authority for officers to continue to work on the project, including carrying out a public consultation exercise on the Traffic Regulation Orders and the overall Campus Master Plan proposals which effect the Highway, and requests delegated authority for the Cabinet Highways Committee to give final approval for the project, if it considers this appropriate having considered the outcome of the public consultation exercise and satisfactorily resolved any valid objections to the scheme.
- 1.4 It also seeks authority for the Council to secure a grant of £2,891,922 from the Sheffield City Region Investment Fund (SCRIF) towards the costs of

the project, any funding agreement to be conditional on final approval of the project on the part of the Council and the signing of a back to back Funding Agreement with the University.

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE

- 2.1 The scheme will deliver an extension to the existing high quality Gold Route providing new and enhanced pedestrian and cycle routes.
- 2.2 New high quality public spaces will be created which will be used not only by the University's students and employees but also the people of Sheffield in general.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

- 3.1 This project will deliver one of the key proposals of the City Centre Master Plan 2013 under 'Knowledge City'. The Master Plan highlights the importance of integrating both universities campus master plans into the wider City Centre Master Plan and improving pedestrian and cycle routes to/from and through the City Centre.
- 3.2 The project will also contribute to delivering the Sheffield Economic Strategy: it will involve a considerable investment in the city by the UoS to enhance its setting, supporting its further development and so increasing its worldwide competitiveness which is acknowledged as key in the economic growth of the city.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The positive impact of public investment in a network of high quality public realm is demonstrated by the success of the 'Gold' and 'Steel' routes. This project promotes the importance of extending the Gold Route (North – South axis) to address poor connectivity between the City Centre and the Western suburbs, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 4.2 It is key for encouraging greater numbers of pedestrian and cycle journeys through a clear high quality route with relocated, enhanced and increased capacity crossings at Upper Hannover Street and Western Bank. The project has the potential to improve traffic flow on the inner relief road and onto Brook Hill roundabout.
- 4.3 The 'Gold Route' extension will pass through the heart of the University of Sheffield Campus and provides an opportunity for greater collaboration to enhance and facilitate wider public realm proposals by the University identified in their Campus Master Plan, 2014.
- 4.4 The transformation of Sheffield City Centre over the last twenty years has developed hand in hand with growth of the higher education sector including its two world class universities, one of the largest FE colleges in Europe, Learn Direct the UK's largest provider of on-line study, The

Source Retail Academy and the new University Technical College. Each has expanded its activities in and around the central area.

- 4.5 They constitute a major part of the economy both at the higher level as suppliers to the knowledge industries, as well as massively stimulating the City Centre bringing vitality, footfall, diversity and spending power of 60,000 students each year.
- 4.6 The expansion and enhancement of the two University campuses is a key component of the ten-point CCMP under the heading 'Knowledge City'. To facilitate this, the Council has been supportive of the development of new Campus Master Plans for both Universities, with a view to working in partnership to implement higher quality and connectivity for the benefit of the city as a whole. The success of this approach has been demonstrated by recent work with Sheffield Hallam in delivering high quality public realm to improve both the environment and connectivity of their City Centre campus.
- 4.7 The University of Sheffield (UoS) campus has undertaken a major building programme over the last ten years but there have been almost no corresponding improvements to the public realm or transport infrastructure to accommodate the increasing numbers of students. The CCMP identified the need to enhance the public realm and improve pedestrian and cycle links to/from the UoS and the City Centre. The UoS have developed their own more detailed Campus Master Plan covering the period 2014-2025 with public consultation in 2014 supported by the City Council. The plan sets out a programme to dramatically improve the quality, safety and connectivity of the campus, structured around an extension of the Gold Route from Devonshire Green to Weston Park and the Arts Tower.
- 4.8 The programme also provides an appropriate setting and improved accessibility for the current major investment in a new Engineering School in the Diamond and will create a new development site in the Hounsfield Triangle which will be developed for a new Science School.
- 4.9 The Scheme, therefore, represents an excellent opportunity for the Council and the UoS to work together to achieve their respective aspirations, with the bulk of the costs being funded by the UoS and the remainder being met from external SCRIF funding. In other words, there should be no net cost to the Council.

5.0 THE SCHEME

- 5.1 The project comprises a linked programme of interventions in the highway and public realm including:
 - construction of an over 1km 'core' of high quality landscaped pedestrian/cycling core connecting the four quarters of the campus and creating an attractive setting.
 - two new and two re-designed controlled pedestrian/cycle crossings

- of the major radial and ring roads which run through the campus
- diversion of three bus routes around the central campus to facilitate pedestrianisation with necessary off-site junction works and TROs
- un-locking of sites for three new Science Buildings and an extension to the Information Commons, amounting up to 48,000m² of building development in the Hounsfield Triangle / area by the University to support its continued growth.
- creation of a high quality public realm setting around the new Engineering Schools now under construction
- creation of a new public square in the Hounsfield Triangle and major improvements to the Arts Tower Forecourt, and a new permissive public pedestrian route through the North Campus providing an attractive arrival experience and many spaces for creative cross disciplinary interaction.
- The scheme will remove a number of On-Street pay and display parking spaces on Favell Road, Hounsfield Road, Leavygreave Road and Victoria Street.

5.2 See plan attached at Appendix C.

6.0 DELIVERY

6.1 To facilitate the above improvements several significant changes to the current highway arrangements are required,

The proposed works ('the Works') consist of enhancements to the following areas, most but not all of which are currently adopted Public Highway (see Appendix D):

Highway Works

- Leavygreave Rd East/Portobello St/Victoria St/Gell/ St Regent Terrace pedestrianisation, repaving, landscape and public art enhancements (remain adopted public highway subject to restriction on vehicles)
- Hounsfield Rd/Favell Rd/Leavygreave Rd West (proposed pedestrianisation, repaving, landscape and public art enhancements and eventual road closure in connection with new development but retaining a public right of way for walking/cycling and servicing)
- Mappin St/Portobello St as far East as Congress St improved surfacing, new bus stops and shelter, removal of two-way running at southern end, raised platform crossing and point closure of Portobello St at Mappin St junction, relocation of UoS surface car park access (remains as adopted public highway with Traffic Regulation Orders to restrict vehicular access)

- Two improved crossings of Upper Hanover St and the tramway including cycle facilities (remain as public adopted highway/tramway)
- Two new Crossings of Western Bank (remain as adopted public highway)
- The Whitham Rd/Clarkson St and Clarkson St/Durham Rd junctions reformed to allow bus only use including a small strip of University land within the curtilage of the Octagon (remains or becomes adopted highway)
- St George's Sq/Brook Hill footways (remains public adopted highway)

Off Highway Works

- The Arts Tower precincts, pedestrianisation, repaving, landscape and public art enhancements (remains as University property with existing public rights of way for walking and cycling)
- The former Red Hill street in the North Campus pedestrianisation, repaving, lighting, landscape and public art enhancements (UoS property to be reopened as permissive public route with improvements for walking and cycling linked to improvements to the Broad Lane cobbled area and the Montgomery Fountain (remains University property with permissive public access)
- St George's Green additional planting, landscaping and seating (remains University property with informal permissive public access)

Consultation

- 6.2 A detailed highways scheme/TRO consultation was commenced in March with a view to seeking approval at Cabinet Highways Committee in April 2015. Subject to public consultation and satisfactory resolution of any valid objections and provided that the Council is still satisfied that the works will be of benefit to the public, they will be delivered under a Section 278 agreement and Traffic Regulation Orders.
- 6.3 Officers have presented the scheme to both the South Yorkshire Bus Operators and Supertram for their consideration, as the scheme requires the rerouting of buses and improvements to an existing tram crossing at Upper Hannover Street.

The outcome of these Highways consultations will be the subject of a separate report to Cabinet Highways Committee April or May 2015.

6.4 Procurement

It is proposed that the Council would procure a contractor to deliver the highways works. It is estimated a contractor will be appointed in May 2015 with a view to commencing work in June 2015. The University will procure a contractor to deliver public realm improvements on the Arts Tower forecourt and Red Hill.

6.5 Programme

It is proposed the majority of the highways works are completed in 2015 and early 2016. Work will commence with minor enabling works to Mappin Street to enable the temporary re-routing of the number 95, 51 and 52 buses to facilitate the partial closure and introduction of a pedestrian zone on Leavygreave Road. This is to coincide with the opening of the Diamond building in September 2015.

6.6 Works at junctions on Clarkson Street and Durham Road will then allow for the 51 & 52 buses to be re-routed down Glossop Road across the relief road onto West Street.

6.7 The relocation and enhancement of the North crossing on Upper Hanover Street will be prioritised to provide a dedicated cycle crossing and accommodate increased student numbers arising from the opening of the Diamond building.

6.8 The improvements to the central crossing on Upper Hanover Street, crossings on Western Bank and public realm in the Hounsfield Quarter will follow.

7.0 FUNDING

7.1 The project is part of the SCRIF City Centre Programme. It is one of four clusters of City Centre projects that the Council secured outline business case approval for from the Sheffield City Region Infrastructure Advisory Board (IAB) in 2014. See plan attached at Appendix F.

7.2 Following the outline approval a detailed business case for UoS Campus Phase 1 was prepared by Officers (City Regeneration, Creative Sheffield) working with the UoS Estates Department and was submitted to City Region in December 2014.

7.3 On the 21st January 2015 IAB approved the UoS Campus Phase 1 Business Case. Confirmation of this funding approval and conditions is attached at Appendix D.

7.4 Based on feasibility and initial designs the total cost of the scheme is estimated to be £8,364,215. Of this £6,776,255 is for Highways works outlined above and shown on plan at Appendix D. This will be funded by SCRIF and the UoS.

7.5 SCRIF Funds

The approved business case secures £2,891,922 of SCRIF for the highways works. As accountable body the Council will be required to enter into a contract/funding agreement to draw down these funds. There will be no SCRIF contribution for the proposed public realm works on University land.

7.6 University of Sheffield Funds

The UoS is the majority funder and will contribute £5,472,292 towards the total scheme costs including £3,884,000 match funding for the highways works. It will also, through a legal agreement, reimburse the Council for all contractor costs over and above the SCRIF contribution and any increased costs arising from the detailed design process subject to mitigation and the agreement of the University to such expenditure via the Joint Project Executive Board.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The legal implications of this report and its recommendations are legally privileged and are therefore exempt from publication under Paragraph 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). They are set out in a closed Appendix to this report, Appendix G.

8.2 In considering this exemption the report author has decided that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, because of the nature of the information provided, and the importance of maintaining the principle of lawyer / client confidentiality to ensure that Cabinet is able to receive appropriate legal advice in all cases.

9.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 A summary of the estimated project costs and funding is provided in the table below

Campus Phase 1 Works	Cost (000)	SCRIF Funding (000)	UoS Funding (000)
Highway Works	£6,776	£2,891	£3,884
Public Realm	£1,587	£0	£1,587
Total	£8,364	£2,891	£5,472

9.2 Subject to public consultation and provided that the Council is satisfied that the works will be of benefit to the public the highways works are proposed to be undertaken through a Section 278 under which the UoS will agree to meet all the costs of the Scheme not funded by SCRIF, including any cost overruns. Having considered all the relevant factors, the Council does not consider it appropriate to require a bond and agreement (see 7.6 above) will include a payment schedule to ensure that the University makes its contributions available well in advance of planned

contractor payments becoming due.

- 9.3 The project does carry some risk for the Council because it will involve the Council recovering the cost from the University. The cost plan will be the key driver to ensure works can be delivered within the available resources and the costs will be capped at the budgeted amounts. Disciplined project management is essential to ensure successful mitigation of the risk.
- 9.4 The Sheffield City Region Combined Authority has approved the SCRIF funding subject to a number of conditions on procurement, cost recovery agreements, coverage of cost overruns and future maintenance commitments being satisfactorily concluded.
- 9.5 Future maintenance costs of the public highway will be met by the University through the payment of a Commuted Sum which has been included in the total cost estimate above and there will be no net cost in this respect to the Council. The University will be responsible for maintenance of its own private areas.
- 9.6 The scheme will remove approximately 90 on Street pay and display parking spaces (Favell Road, Hounsfield Road, Leavygreave Road and Victoria Street) which will result in a loss of £118,000 annual income to the Council by the end of 2016-17. This will be partially offset by additional coach parking which will leave a net loss of £100,000 from 2017-18. This pressure will have to be mitigated by the Director of Regeneration and Development Services in order to remain within budget in subsequent years. A number of mitigations are being considered.
- 9.7 The Parking Services activity has a high element of fixed costs so the removal of these spaces is unlikely to result in any significant cost saving. It follows therefore that to remain within budget, the service may need to prioritise its expenditure and some transport activities may have to be revised.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 10.1 **Do nothing** – The UoS could be left to carry out public realm and road safety improvements as and when development occurs on the campus. This would not require additional public funding or Council involvement. However, serious concerns have been raised regarding safety at the current pedestrian crossings close to Brook Hill junction which require immediate action. The campus environment also seriously lags behind some of its major competitors and requires urgent and comprehensive intervention.
- 10.2 **UoS applies directly to the combined authority for SCRIF funding** – SCC would avoid direct involvement in submitting the business case and delivering the outputs and outcomes. However, the UoS may not be eligible to apply directly as the UoS cluster is only a sub project of the Councils overall SCRIF City Centre Programme. The UoS has no experience of submitting bids for Department for Transport or City Region

funding or of creating high quality public realm to the standard achieved elsewhere in the City Centre. This approach would see the Councils influence on consistency of the overall programme weakened.

- 10.3 **SCC acts as facilitator, regulator and accountable body** – but all design, procurement, delivery and liability for cost overruns is the responsibility of the UoS. The Council would retain control of the overall SCRIF City Centre Programme and of the UoS element and would be in a strong position to drive the programme and quality, ensuring integration with other programmes e.g. Streets Ahead. However, due to the risks associated with co-ordinating these works on the strategic transport network a Council lead is deemed to be a better option
- 10.4 **The preferred option is SCC acts as lead body on delivery of Highways works, facilitator, regulator and accountable body** – but initial design up to tender, liability for cost overruns and delivery of non-highway works (Arts Tower & Red Hill) are the responsibility of the UoS. It is intended the appointment of the Design Team will be assigned or novated as appropriate to the Council who will procure a contractor for the Highways works and manage/supervise the programme ensuring quality and integration with other programmes e.g. Streets Ahead.

11.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 To enable work on the project to continue, pending the Council being in a position to give final approval for the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders.
- 11.2 To enable the Council to secure funding for the project from SCRIF.
- 11.3 To enable matters to be progressed as appropriate in an efficient way following the conclusion of the planned public consultation exercise on the highway implications of the University Campus Master Plan.

12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 Cabinet is recommended:
- (1) to confirm its in principle support for the University of Sheffield Campus Phase 1 Scheme as described in this report, subject to:-
 - (a) the completion of a further detailed public consultation exercise about the Traffic Regulation Order, and overall University Campus Masterplan proposals which may affect the highway, the proper consideration of the results and where appropriate resolution of objections of such consultation in the course of making the final decision whether or not to proceed with the scheme; and
 - (b) all necessary planning permissions, Traffic Regulation Orders and any other required regulatory approvals or consents being obtained by the University of Sheffield;








- (2) to note that the public consultation exercise referred to in (1) (a) above has already commenced;
- (3) to authorise the Executive Director, Place, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration and Development , the Director of Finance, the Director of Legal and Governance, the Director of Commercial Services and the Assistant Director - Capital & Major Projects to conclude on such terms as he considers appropriate and authorise the completion of a funding agreement between the Council and the South Yorkshire Combined Authority in relation to the SCRIF funding for the Scheme provided that any such funding agreement shall be conditional on a final decision to proceed with the Scheme being made on the part of the Council;
- (4) to authorise the Cabinet Highways Committee to consider the results of the public consultation exercise referred to in (1) (a) above, and having done so, if they are of the view that the Scheme will be of benefit to the public and it has been possible to overcome any valid objections, confirm the Council's final approval for the Scheme to be implemented
- (5) if the Cabinet Highways Committee does confirm the Council's final approval for the Scheme , to authorise the Executive Director, Place d, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Business, Skills & Development, Directors of Regeneration and Development, Finance, Legal and Governance, Commercial Services and the Assistant Director - Capital & Major Projects:-
 - (a) to authorise on such terms as he considers appropriate an agreement pursuant to section 278 of the Highways Act 1980 with the University of Sheffield, together with such additional agreement(s) with the University that he may consider appropriate; and
 - (b) generally to take such further steps, including (without limitation) entering into such further agreements and or arrangements with such parties and on such terms as he may consider appropriate, and approving detailed designs and materials to secure the successful delivery of the works at no net cost to the Council and in line with the provisions of this report and to protect the Council's interests in this matter.

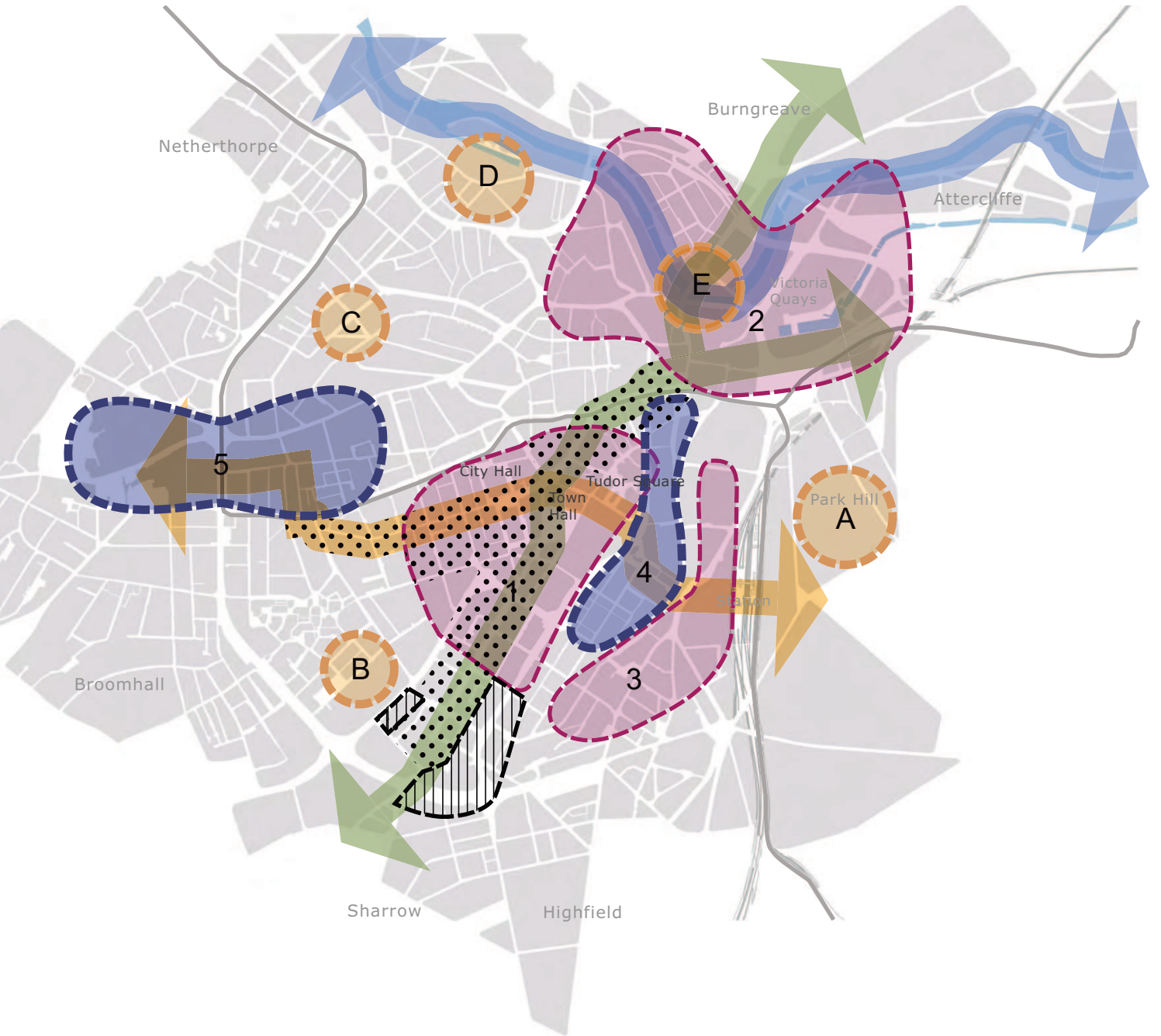
Simon Green
 Executive Director, Place
 March 2015

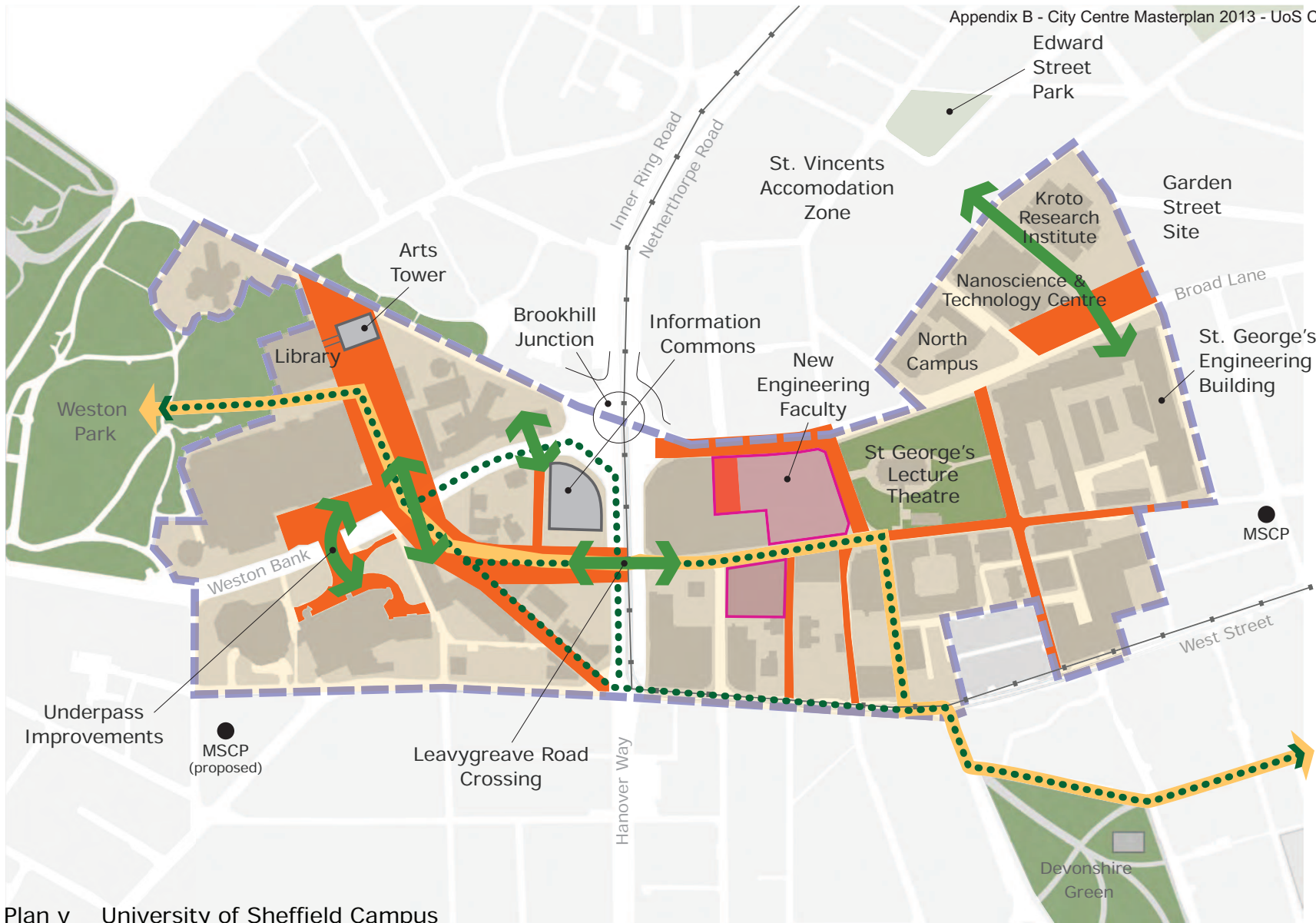
Appendix A City Centre Master Plan Spatial Principles
 Appendix B City Centre Master Plan UoS Campus
 Appendix C UoS Campus Masterplan
 Appendix D UoS Campus Highways Works

Appendix E SCRIF Funding Approval
Appendix F SCRIF City Centre Outputs
Appendix G Legal Implications




Figure 1 Spatial Principles



-  Tram Route
-  Gold Route
-  Blue Route
-  Steel Route
-  Key Business Areas
 - 1 Central Business District/Sevenstone/The Moor
 - 2 Riverside Business District
 - 3 Sheaf Valley/CIQ
-  University Campus Improvements
 - 4 Sheffield Hallam University
 - 5 University of Sheffield
-  Neighbourhood Centres
 - A Park Hill
 - B Devonshire
 - C St Vincents
 - D Kelham
 - E Wicker Riverside
-  Bulky Retail Zone
-  Consolidated Retail Core








Plan v University of Sheffield Campus

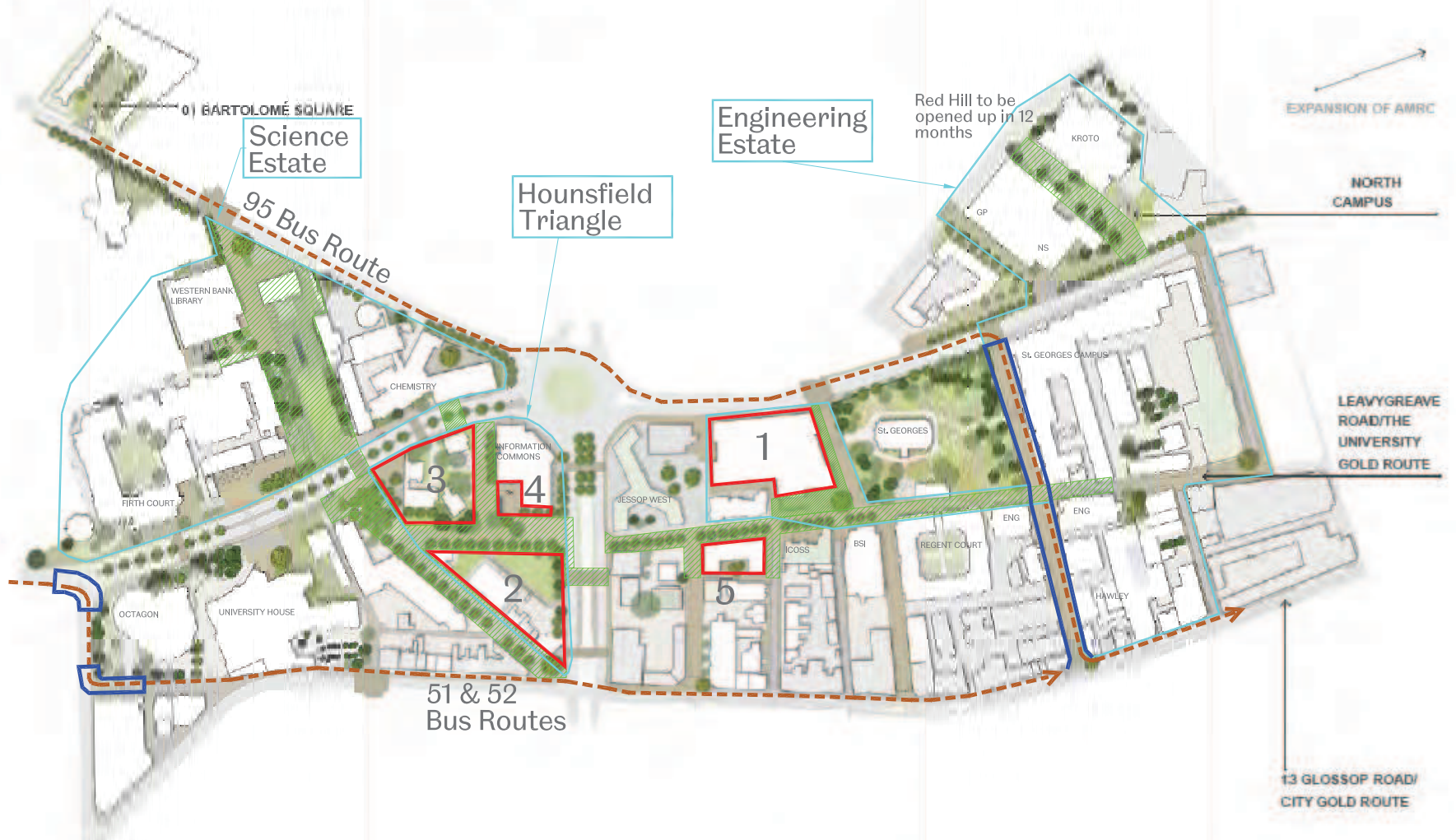
-  University Campus Boundary / General Environmental Improvements
-  Potential Development Site
-  Green Space

-  Pedestrian Links
-  Gold Route Extension

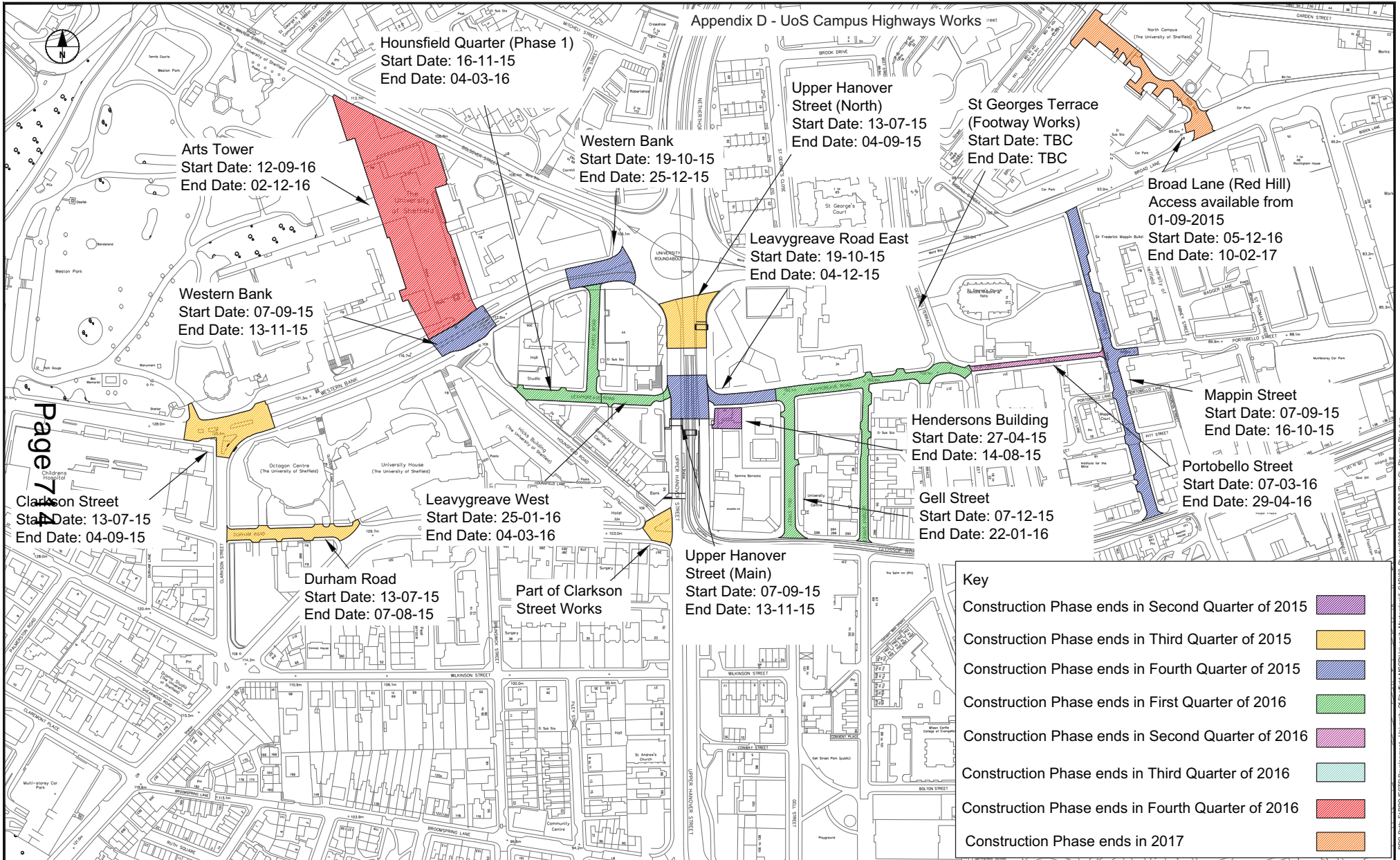
-  Tram Route
-  Improved Pedestrian Crossings
-  Campus/Public Realm Improvements

The University of Sheffield Masterplan

- 1 - The Diamond - New Engineering Building
- 2 - } New Science Buildings
- 3 - }
- 4 - Information Commons
- 5 - Development Extension Site



- 1 Development Site
- Pedestrian Spine
- Diverted Buses
- Improved Bus Routes



Client:	THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
Project:	THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD MASTERPLAN

Title:	Phasing Plan Based on Faithful and Gould Programme Rev 13 Dated 18/02/2015
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SHEFFIELD CITY REGION INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY BOARD
21 January 2015
AGENDA ITEM 3.1
Recommendation from the CIAT for scheme business cases

Summary

This paper sets out the recommendation of the CIAT for:

- Stage 1A Chesterfield Northern Gateway (outline business case)**
- Stage 1B Sheffield City Centre - University of Sheffield Campus Phase 1 (full business case)**
- Stage 2&3 Sheffield City Centre – Grey to Green Phase 1 (conditional funding approval)**

Sheffield City Centre Grey to Green Phase 1 is the first SCRIF project seeking to enter into a funding agreement, having provided the requested evidence from the Stage 1B business case review. There remain a number of conditions that need to be met ahead of the agreement being determined, but the timeline for this is expected to be complete before the Combined Authority papers are published. The board are asked to consider the recommendation alongside the timescale to resolve the conditions.

1. Issue

- 1.1. This paper sets out the current status of all schemes that are within the agreed programme and presents recommendations for **Chesterfield Northern Gateway Stage 1A, Sheffield City Centre - University of Sheffield Campus Phase 1 Stage 1B, Sheffield City Centre – Grey to Green Phase 1** business cases.

Recommendations

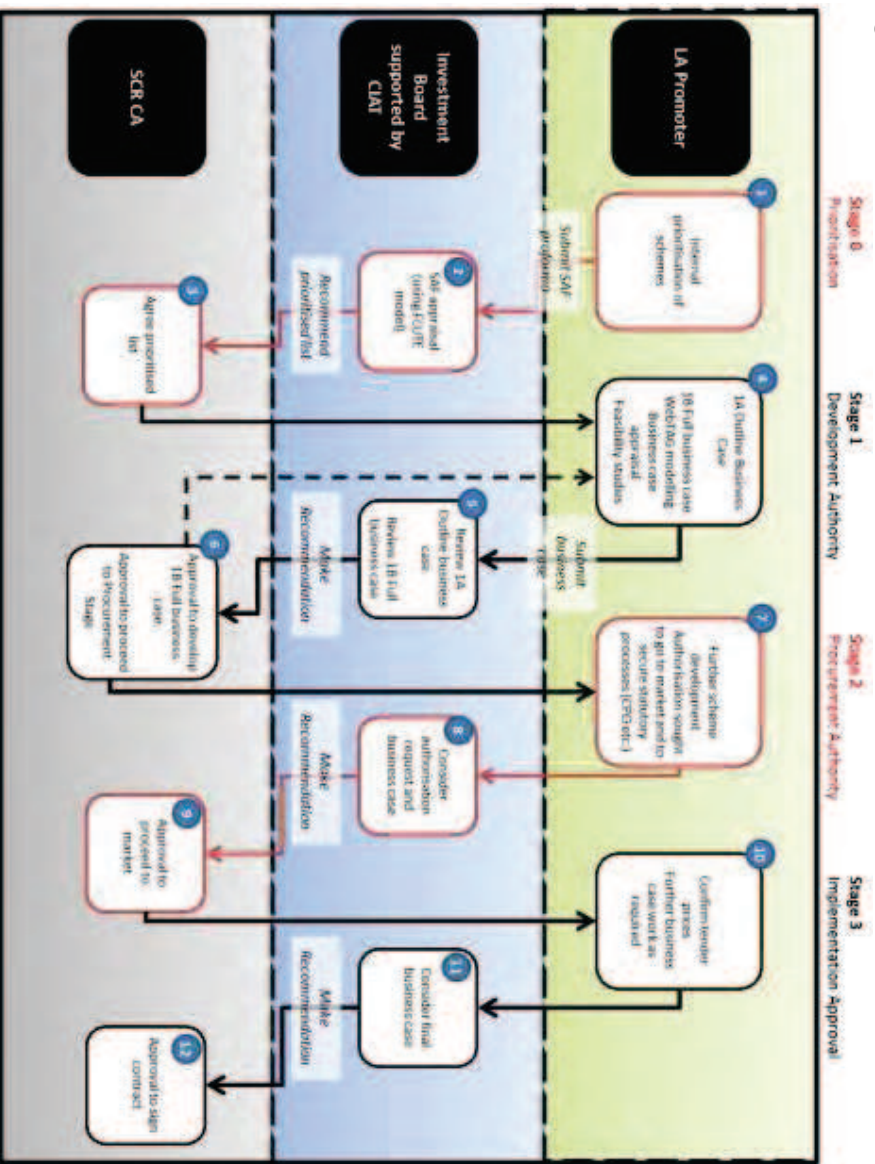
Infrastructure Advisory Board members are asked to:

- 1.2. Agree a recommendation on the **Chesterfield Northern Gateway Stage 1A** business case for consideration by the Infrastructure Investment Body.
- 1.3. Agree a recommendation on the **Sheffield City Centre - University of Sheffield Campus Phase 1 Stage 1B** business case for consideration by the Infrastructure Investment Body.
- 1.4. Agree a recommendation on the **Sheffield City Centre – Grey to Green Phase 1 Stages 2&3** for consideration by the Infrastructure Investment Body.

2. Background Information

2.1. Each of the schemes in the SCRIF programme are current being progressed through the SCR Assurance Framework. The Assurance Framework was developed in consultation with Local Authority partners, Government Departments and experts in the field of business case development and appraisal. This Framework establishes a robust, transparent and efficient process for taking investment decisions. The stages of the Assurance Framework are set out in Figure 1. The Assurance Framework Documentation is provided online <http://sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/investment-fund-assurance-framework>.

Figure 1 Assurance Framework Process



2.2. The following section summarises the recommendation for each scheme. A fuller assessment for each scheme that supports this recommendation is provided in Appendix A.

Chesterfield Northern Gateway

2.3. Chesterfield Borough Council is applying for £9m of SCRIF investment to part fund the development of infrastructure to help underpin a leisure-led mixed-use development on the Northern Gateway site. The site is located to the north of the town centre and has been identified as a key strategic development site in the SCR Strategic Economic Plan, the sub-regional Economic Development Strategy and the Chesterfield Local Plan.

2.4. **The recommendation of the CIAT is for the Chesterfield Northern Gateway project to progress to Stage 1B.**

2.5. The business case assessment has identified the need for close monitoring of the project as it emerges during Chesterfield Borough Council's competitive tendering process to secure a private sector partner.

2.6. The 1B Business Case should focus in particular on: providing evidence of occupier demand for the buildings (especially office uses); providing up-to-date evidence to demonstrate the principle and value of the viability gap; and specific details on the plans to address key project dependencies.

Sheffield City Centre - University of Sheffield Campus Phase 1

2.7. The project is identified as an opportunity to complement and capitalise upon existing large-scale growth investments being made by the University. The £2.981m investment in an improved campus environment supports the University's established plans to ensure its long-term competitiveness and growth in both teaching and research activity.

2.8. The project involves a series of interlinked public realm, highways and infrastructure works around the University's main site to the west of the City Centre. The objective is to improve the physical environment and quality of pedestrian connections around the campus and to better integrate the campus into the fabric of Sheffield City Centre. The works will extend the existing Gold Route of high-quality public realm to new public squares at the Hounsfeld Quarter and the Arts Tower court.

2.9. **The recommendation of the CIAT is for the Sheffield City Centre - University of Sheffield Campus Phase 1 project to progress to Stage 2.** A number of conditions have been identified as part of the business case appraisal that will need to be met either prior to a funding agreement being reached or to be included in the funding agreement. These are:

1. Written confirmation of the University's commitment to invest in the development of the four new Science buildings at Hounsfeld Quarter;
2. Production of an updated procurement strategy detailing specifically which procurement process will be used for each sub-project;
3. Confirmation that the University will cover any cost increases over the budget costs provided; and
4. Clarity on the maintenance requirement and responsibilities for ongoing maintenance that will be delivered by the City Council as the basis for the committed sum provided as part of the overall project costs.

Sheffield City Centre – Grey to Green Phase 1

- 2.10. Sheffield City Council is applying for £2.239m of SCRIF investment to deliver phase 1 of its Grey to Green Corridor project. This project involves the narrowing of the existing highway and the reuse of the surplus road space to construct a linear park, new cycle and pedestrian routes and a sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS) incorporating permeable surfaces and drainage channels.
- 2.11. The project will provide new pedestrian and cycle access and high-quality public realm setting for employment sites within the Riverside Business District. In particular it is intended that the phase 1 investment will catalyse the regeneration and development of the adjacent West Bar site – the largest undeveloped office site in the City Centre.
- 2.12. **The recommendation of the CIAT is for the Sheffield City Centre – Grey to Green Phase 1 project to progress to Stage 3 and conditional funding approval.** The conditions have been identified as part of the business case appraisal that will need to be met prior to a funding agreement being reached. These are:
 1. SCC Capital Programme Group approves Tender Report and authorises Letter of Appointment. Due 26 January
 2. SCC Leader’s Decision on West Bar Development Agreements. Due 30 January
 3. Novation and variation of Development Agreement completed. Due 6 February.
 4. Final comments on funding agreement terms
 5. Publication of the business case by SCR (as required by the Assurance Framework) prior to final ratification of the funding agreement by the Infrastructure Advisory Body to allow for public input alongside this recommendation.

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ASSESSOR)

Please summarise your assessment of the scheme's strategic fit and set out any recommendations

Chesterfield Borough Council is applying for £9m of SCRIF investment to part fund the development of infrastructure to help underpin a leisure-led mixed-use development on the Northern Gateway site. The site is located to the north of the town centre and has been identified as a key strategic development site in the SCR Strategic Economic Plan, the sub-regional Economic Development Strategy and the Chesterfield Local Plan.

There is a well-evidenced strategic rationale for the project, based on its potential to directly contribute new private sector employment and to support the longer-term viability of the town centre.

Overall, there appears to be a good strategic case for investment in this project. However, the strategic rationale is highly dependent upon the commercial case and realising the proposed economic benefits. In particular, the strategic case would be severely undermined if the Council is unable to secure a development agreement and/or any future developer is unable to secure sufficient market interest to make the development financially viable.

Please summarise your assessment of the scheme's market potential in relation to the delivery of jobs and GVA outcomes, and set out any recommendations

There appears to be some evidence to support headline demand for the commercial and leisure developments which will be needed, first to enable the chosen developer to raise the necessary development finance, and to support the projected GVA and employment outputs. However, the proposed development is at an early stage of planning and could be subject to significant changes during the procurement of a new developer and therefore specific demand for the proposed buildings will need to be demonstrated at Stage 1B.

In particular, specific occupier demand for office development would be needed to support the case at Stage 1B given that the majority of the employment outputs are office based jobs, and therefore sufficient demand to occupy 7,600m² of office space in Chesterfield town centre is critical to both the commercial and economic cases.

An informal appraisal discussion with Muse Developments suggests that a key component of the office element will be an innovation centre which is also likely to require underpinning by the public sector in the form of a headlease. This has not been accounted for the public sector commitments to the project.

Prior to the Council's legal advice to re-procure for a development partner, MUSE Developments conducted a reasonable amount of early project development work at their own risk. This demonstrates that, subject to gap funding, there appears to be serious interest from at least one developer in the scheme. However, should the project proceed to Stage 1B, a close review of emerging information on development viability will be needed alongside detailed costs, in order to demonstrate the principle and value of the viability gap.

Please summarise your assessment of the scheme's value for money and set out any recommendations

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The business case indicates the potential of the project to support 848 gross direct FTE jobs. On the basis of GENECON's analysis, the estimated public sector cost per gross job, if delivered would be £14,199 (£7,099 SCRIF).

This would appear to represent acceptable value for money compared to established benchmarks. The estimated public sector cost per housing unit is £42,568 (£21,284 SCRIF). This appears to represents reasonable value for money when compared to previous publicly supported housing developments.

The potential level of commercial employment, and therefore the Value for Money case is significantly dependent upon the delivery of the 555 office jobs, in turn reliant upon the commercial viability of office development, and possibly the public sector underpinning an innovation centre.

A transport value for money case has not been completed. Given the value (estimated £5m) and nature of the associated highways works to reconfigure a 1960s gyratory, it is recommended that the CIAT should expect an Appraisal Specification Report proceeding to Full Business Case Stage 1B.

Please summarise your assessment of the scheme's deliverability (in terms of the risks to scheme commencement) and set out any recommendations

Although work has been ongoing on this project over the past few years, the project is currently at an early stage in the delivery process. The Council has yet to complete an OJEU compliant competitive tendering process to identify a development partner, following legal advice that it is not able to proceed with Muse Developments as they originally bid on the basis of a retail-led scheme.

Indeed, most of the key project dependencies remain unresolved. This includes signing a Development Agreement which will be made a requirement for the publicly-funded infrastructure works to commence.

The chosen developer will need to design a suitable scheme, in outline at the very least, which will probably require appointment of sub consultants. The target date for the submission of a planning application is January 2016 and the project will need to secure planning consent. Finally, the Council will need to arrange and confirm the finance mechanism to provide its £9m share of the match funding.

In principle, assuming the public sector funding is forthcoming, the project is deliverable. However, the currently proposed timetable means that the development of the SCRIF 1B Full Business Case will have to run in parallel with the developer procurement process, for approval in November 2015. In practice therefore this means that the project presented at Stage 1B may not be the same as the current proposal.

In the best case scenario, if SCRIF funding is approved the full economic benefits would not be realised until the second half of 2018, although this timetable is at risk of delay if any of the key dependencies are not delivered on time. Should the project proceed to Stage 1B, it will require close monitoring and liaison with the Council throughout the process of developing the Full Business Case.

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Summarise your overall assessment of the scheme and recommendations for SCR

Overall, this appears to be a strategically important project for Chesterfield and the City Region, with the potential to attract significant private sector investment and contribute new jobs. The proposed project would be one of the town-city centre economic growth projects in the City Region, on an important site along the A61 corridor. Assuming the scheme can be delivered with the envisaged range of occupiers, the investment could represent reasonable value for money for SCRIF. At £9m however this is a large-scale investment for SCR.

The recommendation is that the project should proceed to Stage 1B Full Business Case, with close monitoring of the revised project as it emerges during CBC's competitive tendering process to secure a private sector partner. The 1B Business Case should focus in particular on: providing evidence of occupier demand for the buildings (especially office uses); providing up-to-date evidence to demonstrate the principle and value of the viability gap; and specific details on the plans to address key project dependencies.

Sheffield City Centre - University of Sheffield Campus Phase 1

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ASSESSOR)

Please summarise your assessment of the scheme's strategic case and set out any recommendations

The project involves a series of interlinked **public realm, highways and infrastructure works** around the University's main site to the west of the City Centre. The objective is to improve the physical environment and quality of pedestrian connections around the campus and to better integrate the campus into the fabric of Sheffield City Centre. The works will extend the existing *Gold Route* of high-quality public realm to new public squares at the Hounsfeld Quarter and the Arts Tower court.

The project has a **clear strategic rationale based in the long-term plans** for: (i) the University of Sheffield; and (ii) Sheffield City Centre, both of which are strongly aligned to the economic growth ambitions for the City Region.

The project is identified as an **opportunity to complement and capitalise upon existing large-scale growth investments being made by the University**. The investment in an improved campus environment supports the University's established plans to ensure its long-term competitiveness and growth in both teaching and research activity. The University has developed a campus masterplan including 24 projects across its estate, to develop new and improved buildings, campus environment and transport and pedestrian connections.

The project has a strong basis in local economic and spatial policy through its inclusion in Sheffield City Council's 2013 City Centre Masterplan. The overall strategic economic rationale of the City Centre programme is that public realm and infrastructure improvements will encourage and secure private investment and development, and therefore future economic growth in the City Centre. The strategic economic rationale of this project is that it could accelerate the development of the University's Science buildings and the economic benefits associated with 3,800 additional students by at least two years. The potential 250 net additional jobs which the business cases suggests could be supported by this project will make a contribution towards achieving **Sheffield City Region's strategic economic objectives**.

A number of project objectives are identified in the Strategic Case. It is recommended that these should be reviewed in line with the specific comments prior to any grant agreement, if these objectives are to be used to measure the success of the potential SCRIF investment.

The strategic options analysis is not as comprehensive or compelling as might be expected of a project at this stage in its development. In particular, the options analysis does not adequately explain the rationale behind the assumption that development will be delayed by at least two years in the absence of SCRIF funding.

Overall however, a **reasonable strategic case is presented** although it could have been stronger by focusing more on the importance of this development in the context of the overall long-term plan for the future of the University, the specific contribution Sheffield University will make to delivering the ambitions of the City Region Strategic Economic Plan, and in turn how this investment supports that key role. This is particularly relevant given the emphasis on the link to the University's planned expansion of its Science and Engineering Departments. Assuming the economic benefits can be realised (see *Economic Case*) there appears to be a reasonable strategic case for SCRIF investment in the project.

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Please summarise your assessment of the scheme's commercial case and set out any recommendations

The projected economic and employment benefits of this project mainly derive from the accelerated delivery of four new University buildings in the Hounsfeld Quarter – the spatial focus of a number of the individual public realm and highways works.

The developments are feasible, at least in principle, given that the University is committed to delivering these buildings as part of its current Estates Strategy and the programme of ongoing and proposed investment of £560m in new buildings between 2010 and 2020.

The commercial case presents a **good narrative on demand** and the past and ongoing growth of the University, evidenced by growing student numbers. The case demonstrates the demand for large-scale investment in the Science estate and the requirement for improved pedestrian connections between buildings, and between campus and the city centre. However, the ambitions and student growth targets of the Science Department and the University as a whole could have been clearer.

There is some lack of clarity regarding the procurement strategy as presented in the business case and associated documents [NB although this has been addressed in this revision of the business case provided 15/1/15]. Nevertheless, it is recommended that the CIAT and SCRIF decision-makers review the procurement arrangement prior to any potential grant agreement given the changes made in the development of the business case.

Please summarise your assessment of the scheme's economic case and set out any recommendations

The key economic impacts of the project as presented in the business case are the **creation of 250 net additional jobs** and £310m net additional GVA by 2030, although GENECON's analysis suggests **net additional GVA of £230m** based on the model provided.

The economic case is founded on a number of key assumptions about the link between the SCRIF funded public realm infrastructure and physical and economic outputs:

- (i) The planned public realm and highways infrastructure will accelerate the development of the science buildings by at least 2 years;
- (ii) The development of the science buildings will accommodate 3,838 new students (see below);
- (iii) The new students will generate additional economic outputs in the SCR economy as a result of: (1) fee income; (2) student subsistence spending; and (3) visitor spending.

The teaching capacity of the four new science buildings is estimated at **3,838 additional students**. The 3,838 additional students are estimated to generate £53.4m in tuition fee expenditure in 2020/21. The totals and breakdown of subsistence and visitor spending have not been provided.

Total student-related expenditure is estimated in the economic model as £107.08m per year from the opening of the new buildings in 2020/21. GVA and employment outputs have been calculated on the basis of this estimate using a 'top down' approach.

The chosen methodology appears to present a **reasonable approach to measuring the economic impact of developing the new University Science buildings**. However, the business case presents a high-level 'top-down' analysis, based on the methodology used for the *Diamond* economic study applied as a proxy.

The economic case is based on the argument that the developments and associated economic benefits will be accelerated by two years. Another key assumption is that student numbers will

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grow at a slower rate if the investment does not occur. These assumptions do not seem unreasonable but the case would be much stronger if the rationale had been detailed and explained. The CIAT and/or SCR Board may wish to seek further explanation of the acceleration argument prior to any grant agreement.

The final analysis could be sensitive to particular uncertainties in the assumptions and calculation methods. Therefore the economic analysis presented in the business case should not be treated as definitive. However, on the basis of the economic analysis presented, the investment would **appear to represent very good value for money**. Although the assessment of outputs is subject to some uncertainties, the investment would remain within the value for money range achieved by other projects even if it ultimately delivers fewer net additional jobs than projected.

Please summarise your assessment of the scheme's financial case and set out any recommendations

The proposed funding plan is for **£2.89m of SCRIF funds** and £5.47m from the University of Sheffield (see *Other Funding* below), with the contribution from the City Region representing 35.6% of the total project cost. It is proposed that SCRIF will fund 50% of the estimated costs of works to the public highway:

➤ 50% of Leavygreave Road (West)	£	559,472
➤ 50% of East campus streets (and Clarkson St junctions)	£	1,510,200
➤ 50% of Western Bank pedestrian crossings	£	503,400
➤ 50% of Upper Hanover Street pedestrian crossings	£	318,850
➤ Total SCRIF contribution	£	2,891,922

Non-highways works will be fully funded by the University.

The total project cost is estimated at £8,364,215. Costs appear broadly to have been assessed appropriately at this stage by the University's appointed consultants Faithful and Gould. However, costs are not based on detailed designs at this stage but the business case states that the University will meet any cost over-runs, which mitigates the risk to SCRIF. This will need to be confirmed in the Funding Agreement.

The business case indicates a number of **appropriate measures in place to manage the cost and overspend risks**, including a 10%-15% optimism bias allowance and project contingency of 10% in cost estimates of each sub-project.

There are two outstanding issues in the financial case. First, the payment of a commuted sum from the University to the Council for the future maintenance of public realm is identified as a key financial risk but the arrangement remains unclear. Second, the case indicates that the University's contribution to project costs (£5.47m) has been confirmed, but no further detail has been provided. Prior to any grant agreement, the CIAT and/or SCRIF Board may wish to seek: (1) further detail on commuted sums; and (2) an explanation of how the University intends to finance the project and if/how it has been allowed for in existing capital budgets.

Please summarise your assessment of the scheme's management case and set out any recommendations

Overall, a **reasonable management case is presented** at this stage of project development, which gives broad confidence that the project is deliverable. There appears to be a series of appropriate project management processes in place. Joint governance appears to be in place between the University and the City Council – although the responsibilities and relationship between the Project Executive Group and Joint Project Board are not entirely clear.

A detailed risk register has been developed and will be maintained by Faithful and Gould on behalf of the University. A range of risks associated with the project appear to have been properly acknowledged and planned for, with appropriate mitigating and management measures identified. The CIAT and/or SCRIF Board may wish to seek further details on monitoring and evaluation processes in order to ensure that appropriate information will be made available from which to measure the success of their investment.

Summarise your overall assessment of the scheme and recommendations for SCR

The recommendation is that the investment of £2.89m SCRIF investment in the University of Sheffield Campus Phase 1 project could proceed, subject to the comments and qualifications outlined below.

This is a reasonably comprehensive business case for the investment, which aims to improve the physical environment and quality of pedestrian connections around the campus and to better integrate the campus into the fabric of Sheffield City Centre. Strategically, this is therefore an important project for both the University and the City of Sheffield.

Should SCRIF funding proceed, it will be matched by a significant investment from the University of Sheffield of £5.47m in a project which will not only support the growth of the University, but also has the potential to make a significant positive benefit to the SCR economy, and can be linked to much more significant and wider investment plans that the University is delivering in its estate. Specifically, the proposed public realm and highways works are also intended to support the development of four new Science buildings for the University, which could deliver substantive additional economic outputs within two years. Whilst these buildings are included in the University future estates strategy, the SCRIF board may wish to seek further confirmation from the University on the value and level of commitment to these developments.

The net additional economic outputs rely on the rationale that the public realm and highways investment, particularly at the Hounsfeld Quarter, will accelerate the Science buildings. Whilst this does not appear to be a wholly unreasonable assumption, the business case does not explain the basis for this acceleration in any detail. The SCRIF Board should therefore be satisfied with the principle and logic of this argument, before taking potential economic benefits into account during decision making.

The overall procurement strategy for all of the construction works is not entirely clear, and has been subject to late changes in the development of this business case.

Our view is that the Funding Agreement should include the following Condition Precedents (as a minimum) to the drawdown of the funding:

1. Written confirmation of the University's commitment to invest in the development of the four new Science buildings at Hounsfeld Quarter;
2. Production of an updated procurement strategy detailing specifically which procurement process will be used for each sub-project;
3. Confirmation that the University will cover any cost increases over the budget costs provided; and
4. Clarity on the maintenance requirement sand responsibilities for ongoing maintenance that will be delivered by the City Council as the basis for the commuted sum provided as part of the overall project costs.

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Sheffield City Centre – Grey to Green Phase 1 Stages 2&3

The following sets out the conditions and response as part of the 1B business case approval:

1. Confirmation of the job numbers that are attributed to the scheme

The job outcomes specified in the funding agreement for this scheme will be based on the Grey to Green business case. The business case identifies 1890 net additional jobs accelerated by 2021 as a result of the investment. To ensure this level of job growth the evidence suggests that Sheffield CC will need to continue to prioritise this site as part of the delivery of the wider masterplan.

These outcomes represent very good value for money in cost per job benchmark terms.

2. Confirmation that the proposed purchase (by a third party) of the West Bar site and development rights from the receiver of the previous development partner is complete.

All legal negotiations are now complete and the documents are in final agreed form. A series of back to back agreements are about to be signed for the new developer and the City Council. This will be triggered by a City Council Leader's Decision expected to be approved on 30 January. These agreements will give the developer an exclusive option to purchase all the Castlemore land and development rights.

3. Confirmation that the Development Agreement has been finalised and is live

On the basis of the above this would be in place by 6th February

4. Confirmation of the criticality of the remaining 30% of the site held in third party ownership to the delivery of initial development on the West Bar site, and the strategy and timescale involved to resolve this (negotiated purchase or compulsory purchase orders).

Once the revised Development Agreement has been entered into the developer will prepare and submit a revised Planning Application. The developer will have two years from the signing of the agreement with the Council to acquire the third party land holdings necessary for the first phase of development and can call on the Council to seek a CPO resolution to facilitate this and the acquisition of all of the remaining third party interests if necessary.

It is anticipated that a report seeking formal Cabinet authority to make a CPO will be prepared in the next 6 months and provided that the CPO itself is confirmed the whole site should be under the control of the developer within 24 – 30 months from now. It is possible that the first phase of development could commence before the entire site assembly has been completed.

5. Confirmation that Sheffield City Council will fund any shortfall in match funding if either the ERDF £1.426m or £0.25m LSTF cannot be secured or expended in time to meet SCR's SCRIF funding requirements.

This is confirmed in the business case and will be a condition of the funding agreement.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Cabinet Report

Report of: Executive Director of Place

Date: March 18 2015

Subject: The Graves Park Charitable Trust:
Cobnar Cottage

Author of Report: Paul Billington

Summary:

This report summarises public objections to the proposed sale for residential use of Cobnar Cottage which adjoins the boundary wall of Graves Park. The full text of all the objections received is attached to this report as Appendix B. In July 2013 Cabinet acting as Trustee of the Graves Park Charity approved a recommendation to sell the freehold interest in the cottage on the open market for residential use and acknowledged the charitable obligation to reinvest the proceeds in improving the public facilities in Graves Park. Improvements to the park that could be funded by the proceeds of the sale include the animal farm, play facilities, recreation and sports areas, improved/extended footpaths, planting schemes and visitor facilities.

The charity no longer has any use for the cottage (it has stood vacant for several years) and the cost of renovation to the charity would be in excess of £100,000. Investment in the cottage has been deprioritised over several years in favour of spending on the upkeep of the park. The City Council is the only source of operational funding for Graves Park. Restoring the property to residential use will complement the adjoining park and the surrounding neighbourhood.

The cottage is in a poor state of repair and represents an increasing maintenance and financial liability to the charity. The Charity Commission had been consulted on the sale and had previously indicated that their consent would not be required for the proposed disposal, but, following an approach from someone objecting to the proposed disposal the Commission has changed their initial position and has now indicated that a formal scheme to authorise the disposal will be required, as covered in more detail in the Legal Property and Charity implications section of this report.

If the application for a scheme were to be successful it would enable the property to be sold on the open market for residential purposes and the proceeds of sale

to be invested in the park. Possible areas of improvement to the park that could be funded by the proceeds include the animal farm, play facilities, recreation and sports areas, improved/extended footpaths, planting schemes and visitor facilities.

In October 2013, the trustee decision to sell was considered by Council Scrutiny and it was agreed that dialogue would take place with a local group (Friends of Graves Park) who had expressed concerns about the sale. This resulted in the group being given 12 months to produce an alternative viable plan for the cottage. The group was asked to submit a detailed business case (including costs and funding) to demonstrate that their proposal would be of greater benefit to the charity than the proposed sale.

In November 2014, an outline proposal was submitted by the group (see Appendix A). The group's proposal is to demolish the cottage and create a 'historical/memorial garden' at a cost of £23,400. The group has been unable to indicate either confirmed funding or 'in principle' funding, apart from suggesting an undisclosed contribution of match funding.

In December 2014, the members of Cabinet met to consider the group's proposal and concluded that the interests of the charity would be best served by proceeding with the original decision to dispose of the cottage and there was no need to put a formal report to Cabinet at that time.

In January 2015, in the belief that the Council had the power to dispose of the property following the Charity Commission's advice, a public notice of the decision to sell was issued in accordance with the requirement contained in section 121 of the Charities Act 2011. A number of public objections, plus objections from the 3 ward councillors were received. An online petition objecting to the sale has also been presented (see Appendix C).

The principal objection is that the sale of the cottage would be in breach of the covenants imposed on Graves Park and/or the Council, as trustee, does not have the power to sell the cottage. Whilst there are restrictive covenants affecting the trust property, there aren't any that prevent or restrict the trustees' ability to sell the property. This point is covered in more detail in the Legal Property and Charity implications section of this report.

Objection has also been made on the basis that a disposal of Cobnar Cottage is the "thin end of the wedge" and would lead to other disposals of parts of Graves Park. This is not the case. The disposal of the cottage is a one off proposal that must be considered in isolation on its own merits. It is only fact that the cottage represents a very small proportion of the total area of the park and has not for a significant period (if ever) been used as part of the publically accessible park, which means that the ability of the Council, as trustee, to carry out the objects of the charity is not affected by its sale..

Some of the objections mention the alternative use of the cottage site put forward by the Friends of Graves Park, but this cannot be considered to be in the best interests of the charity for the reasons set out in the Financial, Legal, Property and Charity implications section of this report.

The petition does not mention any specific grounds of objection, so it is not possible to make any specific comment on this other than to note the petition.

Reasons for Recommendations:

The disposal of this surplus property on the open market would convert a current liability into an asset for the benefit of the Charity and therefore park users. It would also start a process that will lead to the cottage being restored to residential use and provide a significant investment fund for the charity to improve the park.

The objections raised to the disposal principally focus on the Council's legal right to sell the cottage, but a successful application for a scheme would deal with this issue, as set out in this report. The only alternative proposal to disposal put forward is demolition and creation of memorial garden put forward by the Friends of Graves Park, but this cannot be considered to be in the best interests of the charity for the reasons outlined in this report.

Recommendations:

That Cabinet acting as Charity Trustee:

- a. Note the objections received, but for the reasons set out in this report, authorises the Director of Legal and Governance to make an application to the Charity Commission for a scheme to give the Trustee the power to dispose of the freehold interest in Cobnar Cottage and to invest the capital receipt in improving the facilities in Graves Park, rather than holding it as a permanent endowment and just applying the income to the charitable objects; and
- b. If an appropriate scheme is made by the Charity Commission following the application, confirms its authority to proceed with the disposal in accordance with the recommendations approved following the report to Cabinet on July 17 2013.

Background Papers:

1. Reports to Cabinet (July 17 2013) and Scrutiny (October 4 2013)
2. Proposals from Friends of Graves Park
3. Objection letters and petition

Category of Report: Open

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES: Paul Schofield
Legal Implications
YES: David Blackburn
Equality of Opportunity Implications
NO
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human rights Implications
NO:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic impact
NO
Community safety implications
NO
Human resources implications
NO
Property implications
YES: Dave Wood
Area(s) affected
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader
CIlr Isobel Bowler
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in
Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO (Cabinet acting as Charitable Trustees)
Press release
NO

The Graves Park Charitable Trust: Cobnar Cottage

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report summarises public objections to the proposed sale for residential use of Cobnar Cottage which adjoins the boundary wall of Graves Park. The full text of all the objections received is attached to this report as Appendix B. In July 2013 Cabinet acting as Trustee of the Graves Park Charity approved a recommendation to sell the freehold interest in the cottage on the open market for residential use and acknowledged the charitable obligation to reinvest the proceeds in improving the public facilities in Graves Park. The charity no longer has any use for the cottage (it has stood vacant for several years) and the cost of renovation to the charity would be in excess of £100,000. Investment in the cottage has been deprioritised over several years in favour of spending on the upkeep of the park. The City Council is the only source of operational funding for Graves Park. Restoring the property to residential use will complement the adjoining park and the surrounding neighbourhood.
- 1.2

The cottage is in a poor state of repair and represents an increasing maintenance and rates liability to the charity. The Charity Commission had been consulted on the sale and had previously indicated that their consent would not be required for the proposed disposal, but, following an approach from someone objecting to the proposed disposal have changed their position and have now indicated that a formal scheme to authorise the disposal will be required, as covered in more detail in the Legal Property and Charity implications section of this report.

- 1.3
- If the application for a scheme were to be successful it would enable the property to be sold on the open market and the proceeds of sale to be invested in the park. Improvements to the park that could be funded by the proceeds of the sale include the animal farm, play facilities, recreation and sports areas, improved/extended footpaths, planting schemes and visitor facilities.
- 1.4

- In October 2013, the trustee decision to sell was considered by Council Scrutiny and it was agreed that dialogue should take place with a local group (Friends of Graves Park) who had expressed concerns about the sale. This resulted in the group being given 12 months to produce an alternative plan for the cottage. The group was asked to submit a detailed business case (including costs and funding) to demonstrate that their proposal would be of greater benefit to the charity than the proposed sale.
- 1.5

- In November 2014, an outline proposal was submitted by the group. The proposal is to demolish the cottage and create a 'historical/memorial garden' at a cost of £23,400, as estimated by the group. The group was unable to indicate either confirmed funding or in principle funding, apart from suggested, but undisclosed, match funding of its own. A copy of the group's proposal is attached to this report as Appendix A.
- 1.6

- 1.7 In December 2014, the members of Cabinet met to consider the group's proposal and concluded that the interests of the charity would be best served by proceeding with the original decision to dispose of the cottage and there was no need to put a formal report to Cabinet at that time.

- 1.8 In January 2015, in the belief that the Council had the power to dispose of the property following the Charity Commission's advice, a public notice of the decision to sell was issued in accordance with the requirement contained in section 121 of the Charities Act 2011. A number of public objections, plus objections from the 3 ward councillors were received. An online petition objecting to the sale has also been presented. Copies are included with the report.

- 1.9 The principal objection is that the sale of the cottage would be in breach of the covenants imposed on Graves Park and/or the Council, as trustee, does not have the power to sell the cottage. Whilst there are restrictive covenants affecting the trust property, there aren't any that prevent or restrict the trustees' ability to sell the property. This point is covered in more detail in the Legal Property and Charity implications section of this report.

- 1.10 Objection has also been made on the basis that a disposal of Cobnar Cottage is the "thin end of the wedge" and would lead to other disposals of parts of Graves Park. This is not the case. The disposal of the cottage is a one off proposal that must be considered in isolation on its own merits. It is only fact that the cottage represents a very small proportion of the total area of the park and has not for a significant period (if ever) been used as part of the publically accessible park, which means that the ability of the Council, as trustee, to carry out the objects of the charity is not affected by its sale.

- 1.11 Some of the objections mention the alternative use of the cottage site put forward by the Friends of Graves Park, but this cannot be considered to be in the best interests of the charity for the reasons set out in the Financial, Legal, Property and Charity implications section of this report.

The petition does not mention any specific grounds of objection, so it is not possible to make any specific comment on this other than to note the petition.

2.0 **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE**

- 2.1 The proposed sale of the cottage would start a process that should lead to the cottage being restored to a productive residential use which will complement the park and the surrounding neighbourhood. It would result in a capital receipt which would be invested in improving public facilities in the park. The alternative proposed by the Friends Group would preclude this investment and present a potential additional cost to the charity – either in the form of a capital cost and/or an on-going long term maintenance cost – and therefore potentially place further pressure on the

resources available to support the park.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 The freehold disposal of the property would start the process required to bring a redundant property, which the charity has no funds to invest in and no productive use for, back into active use and convert what is now an on-going liability for the Charity into an asset. This disposal would generate a capital receipt which would then be reinvested into Graves Park by the Council as Trustee of the Charity, in accordance with the objects of the charity.

3.2 The recommended 'sale and investment' option provides an appropriate and sustainable solution to the disused cottage and also assists with the long term sustainability of the park.

4.0 LEGAL, PROPERTY & CHARITY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The objections received to the proposed disposal of Cobnar Cottage state that it would amount to a breach of the covenants contained in the Conveyance of Graves Park to the Council made on 2nd December 1925. There are restrictive covenants in the Conveyance, but there aren't any that prevent or restrict the Council's ability to sell the property. It should also be noted that, although the purchase was funded by J G Graves, the land was purchased from B A Firth and it was Mr Firth who the Council covenanted with. One of these covenants does, however, create a restriction on use. This states that "... the land hereby conveyed shall at all times hereafter be preserved as an open space wood or park and that no buildings (other than those at present existing) shall at any time be erected thereon except as hereinafter provided..." There is a further covenant that prevents the erection of further buildings without obtaining the consent and approval of the Vendor, which is what the words "...as hereinafter provided..." are referring to.

4.2 A purchaser of the cottage would need to obtain their own advice as to whether this covenant would affect their interest in the cottage, but it does not restrict the Council's ability to sell the cottage.

4.3 There appears to be confusion between the covenants imposed in the Conveyance as a contractual obligation and the Council's duties and responsibilities as trustee of the Graves Park Charity. Graves Park is what is termed "designated land" which is land that is held by a charity for a specified purpose. As there is no express power of disposal in the charity objects, a disposal of this type of land is not normally possible without making a specific application to the Charity Commission, for a scheme to give the trustee such a power.

4.4 Recent guidance issued by the Charity Commission has, however, stated that it may not be necessary to apply for a scheme if the disposal is only a small proportion of the charity's land that will not affect the ability to carry out the purposes of the charity. The sale proceeds should also be used to support the use of the remaining land for the purposes of the charity.

Where this exception applies, the charity trustee is able to rely upon the general powers relating to the disposal of trust property contained in the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996.

4.5

The Charity Commission had been contacted in relation to the proposed disposal of Cobnar Cottage and they had advised that this exception applied and there would be no requirement to apply for a scheme to

4.6

authorise the disposal.

Following an approach from someone objecting to the proposed disposal the Charity Commission has changed its position and has now indicated that a formal scheme to authorise the disposal will be required. Such a scheme, if made, would only authorise the disposal of Cobnar Cottage. It would not give any power to dispose of any other part of Graves Park, so there is no question of this setting a precedent for future disposals as has been suggested in some of the objections. These could only be made by applying for a further scheme.

4.7

The Council, as trustee of the charity, is also under a general obligation to act in the best interests of the charity. Following the initial recommendation to dispose of Cobnar Cottage taken by Cabinet on 17th July 2013, the Friends of Graves Park were given the opportunity to come up with a viable alternative proposal for the future of Cobnar Cottage. The only suggestion made was to demolish Cobnar Cottage and create a memorial garden. The cost of this, as estimated by the Friends, would be in the region of £23,000. The group has been unable to indicate any confirmed funding or in principle funding, apart from suggested but undisclosed match funding of its own. The creation of a garden would also require on-going and long term commitment of resources for its upkeep. The group has indicated that they would provide maintenance support.

4.8

However, the cost of £23,000 and on-going maintenance – whether funded or not and by whatever means - compares unfavourably with an estimated capital receipt of £80,000 if the property were to be sold. This receipt would normally be held as a permanent endowment with the income being invested in Graves Park in furtherance of the Charity's objects. The income from such a sum would be relatively small and would not have much impact, but there are capital schemes that the receipt could be applied to that would create a significant benefit to the Park and its users, in furtherance of the Charity's objects.

4.9

Cobnar Cottage does not and as far as can be established, have never formed part of the publically accessible part of Graves Park, so the sale of it would not constitute a loss to the park. On that basis and given the benefits that could be achieved in applying the capital receipt, the sale of Cobnar Cottage must be considered to be more beneficial to the interests of the charity than the alternative proposal put forward.

4.10

In the sale of the property, a covenant will be imposed to restrict future use to residential purposes only. This will put the property back into a productive residential use and will prevent a use that will conflict with the interests of the park and the neighbourhood.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The disposal would attract a significant capital receipt. All money raised from the disposal would be re-invested into Graves Park by the trustees in accordance with the charitable objects. The alternative proposal by the Friends Group would cost an estimated £23,400 for which there is currently no confirmed or in principle funding. This initial cost and subsequent maintenance costs – whether funded or not and by whatever means - compares unfavourably with an estimated capital receipt and investment fund of £80,000 if the property were to be sold.

5.2

The City Council is the sole funder of operating costs in Graves Park. Any on-going costs relating to the cottage will place further pressure on the Council's funding for the park.

6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 The empty property is now surplus to the Council's and Charity's requirements and is an on-going liability to the Charity. A significant investment of at least £100,000 would be required to bring the property back into a habitable standard. The charity has no funds for this and even if funding were made available it has no productive use for the property. It may be possible to let the property, but the rental income would not be as beneficial to charity as the capital receipt obtained by selling the property. The Friends Group proposal requires a smaller investment of £23,400, but would create an on-going maintenance liability and not generate any possibility of deriving an income. It would also preclude any capital receipt to invest in improving the park.

7.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The disposal of this surplus property on the open market would convert a current liability into an asset for the benefit of the Charity and therefore park users. It would also start a process that will lead to the cottage being restored to residential use and provide a significant investment fund for the charity to improve the park.

7.2 The objections raised to the disposal principally focus on the Council's legal right to sell the cottage, but a successful application for a scheme would deal with this issue, as set out in this report. The only alternative proposal to disposal put forward is demolition and creation of memorial garden put forward by the Friends of Graves Park, but this cannot be considered to be in the best interests of the charity for the reasons outlined in this report.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 That Cabinet acting as Charity Trustees:

- a. Note the objections received, but for the reasons set out in this report, authorises the Director of Legal and Governance to make an application to the Charity Commission for a scheme to give the Trustee the power to dispose of the freehold interest in Cobnar Cottage and to invest the capital receipt in improving the facilities in Graves Park, rather than holding it as a permanent endowment and just applying the income to the charitable objects; and
- b. If an appropriate scheme is made by the Charity Commission following the application, confirms its authority to proceed with the disposal in accordance with the recommendations approved following the report to Cabinet on July 17 2013.

APPENDIX A

Bolehill/Cobnar Cottage

Proposed Horticultural/Memorial Garden

Description of Works

The Friends of Graves Park is proposing that the cottage is carefully taken down to approximately 1 metre in height with some variations retaining window and door positions on the rear elevation.

- Serviceable stone and lintels retained for use in developing the garden area framework (brick toilet, porch and roof of the stone outbuilding removed completely), including the internal cottage wall.
- The electricity and gas service disconnected with water and drainage retained.
- Positions of both fireplaces and the stairwell area would be transformed into stone built, soil filled sensory herb beds.
- The 500mm wide outer wall structure would be creatively finished to form a centrally soil filled container for planting i.e. with ferns, aubrietia, saxifrage etc.
- The doorway from Cobnar Road would be retained with an improved stone ramp from the road and a self-closing gate installed inside the entrance affording a 1 metre wide disabled access.
- At the rear doorway to the garden the stone jambs and lintel framework with some supporting stonework would be secured and retained with a view to it supporting climbing roses and honeysuckle.
- Internally the cottage floor is concrete; reclaimed flat stone would be bedded and laid raising the level and creating a stone paved finish, also preventing the area tanking water.
- On the top section of the reduced south facing cottage wall, 3 York stone memorial plaques would be installed, illustrating the historical significance to the Bolehill Hamlet of Robert Lindley, Ethel Gallimore, J. G. Graves and Jan Wilson.
- The boundary between the cottage garden and the car park would be fenced with a timber post and bow-topped panel fence 1.5 metres high, which would allow the garden to be viewed by the public.
- The current garden access from Cobnar Road would be used as a combined self-closing double leaf gate, retaining the historic stone gate pillar set in the boundary wall, which would afford pedestrian, wheelchair and a service vehicle access provision; the surface of the drive would be paved with reclaimed flat stone from the cottage.
- A small dry stone wall would form the framework of the access and the garden surrounds.

□ Around the outside of the reduced cottage walls a dry stone wall would be constructed forming a soil filled container 600mm wide and 300mm deep, planted with roses, jasmine, campanula and sensory herbs. This wall would
Business Plan Researched and produced by Ernest Brewin 19th December 2014

- continue alongside the Cobnar Road boundary and be planted with pyracantha, berberis and herbaceous geranium.
- The Patio area of the garden would be cleared of debris and the paving exposed and enlarged using reclaimed flat stone from the cottage.
- A use of the stone lintels would be to create some seating within the patio area.
- The remaining garden area up to the timber fence and along the park side wall would be soiled.
- The stone built store would be reduced in height; the interior filled with stone debris, soil filled and planted as a feature with a combination of poppy and crocosmia, to create a colourful floral display.
- The remaining garden area would be planted with a wide selection of flowering berry bearing shrubs, herbaceous perennials and fragrant herbs; the existing female holly being retained as a feature.
- The grassed border along the frontage of the cottage would need to be protected from car parking by the installation of reclaimed large stone from the wall of the store. The poor quality grass would be removed and the margin planted with cotoneaster and a selection of bulbs.

Mature Beech Tree Specimen

In respect of the purple beech, a tree surgeon has been consulted with a view to reducing some of the excess weight of heavy branching, shaping up the canopy to enable the better survival of the tree.

All heavy branches removed will be cut into manageable lengths to form outline bulb planting areas, the bark chippings would remain on site for mulching purposes. The established brambles will be removed from beneath the tree, the area soiled, fertilised and cultivated to improve its nutrient content.

Information Centre

The cottage outline and refurbished garden would form the base for an information centre, giving details of the history of Norton Park, the Bolehill Hamlet as it is uncovered by the "Norton in the Heart of Chantreyland" group currently working on uncovering the history and archaeology of the area. Business Plan Researched and produced by Ernest Brewin 19th December 2014

Budget Costings

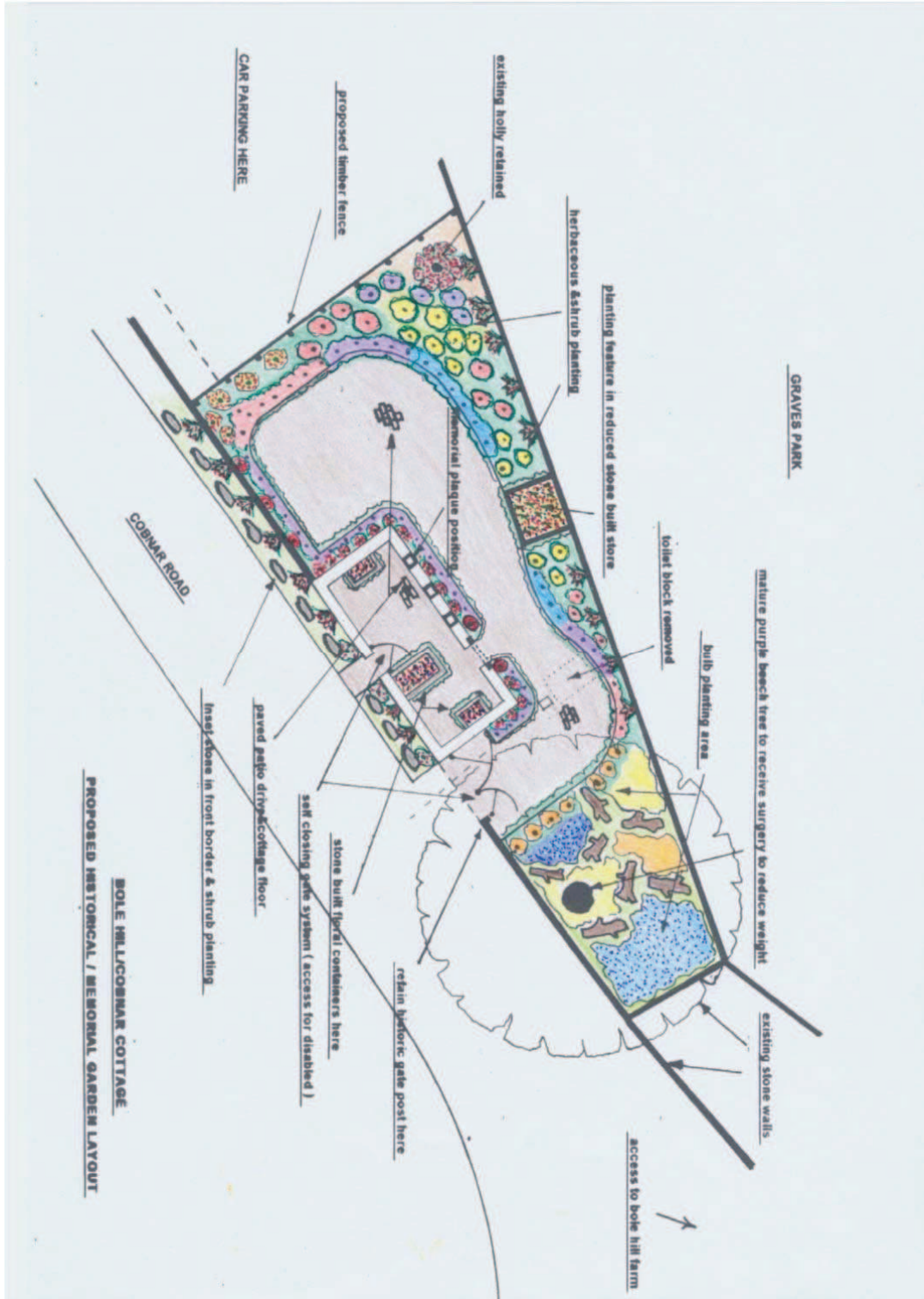
Whilst more work is required to draw up exacting costs for all the works involved, the Friends of Graves Park Trust has arrived at some realistic figures. Item

	Description	Cost £
1	To carefully take down the cottage structure, conserve all the necessary selected stone and preserve the outline of the building (private contractors). NB not a demolition	10,000.00
2	To the supply and installation of a timber post and panel fence between the car park and cottage boundary	2,048.00
3	To the supply and installation of self-closing gate systems	3,072.00
4	To clear area of general debris. Create garden feature with dry stone walls, paving of patio, drive, floor of cottage and stone built containers within the cottage. To the supply and spreading of topsoil	5,500.00
5	To supplying and fixing of 3 x York stone memorial stones to fit reduced cottage wall NB cost of wording not yet known (no cost) (estimate)	300.00
6	To the supply of selected shrubs, herbs, herbaceous plants and bulbs to be planted by Friends of Graves Park	1,500.00
7	To tree surgery required to conserve the mature beech tree	660.00
	Total budget costs =	23,080.00

Conclusion

These proposals are made by the Friends of Graves Park Trust, making the site into something of a historical, memorial, ecological and information centre, the group undertaking a considerable amount of the work including maintenance. The restored garden area will be used by members of the public; including disabled wheel-chair access. The plan incorporates the reuse of reclaimed stone from the cottage on site. Further savings may be made by encouraging the plants at item 6 to be donated for free by the public. In addition, members of the local community have already expressed an interest in providing some labour and involvement for free.

In addition the considerable impact from the Heritage sponsored "Norton in the Heart of Chantreyland" historical survey makes the whole project viable in raising finance from such as the Heritage Lottery and others.



APPENDIX B

Cobnar Road
Woodseats
Sheffield
S8 8QB

13th February 2015

Kier Asset Partnership Services Ltd
4th Floor Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD

Dear Sirs

Do not sell Cobnar Cottage

I understand it is proposed to sell Cobnar Cottage.




Alderman Graves was kind enough to leave the park and the buildings within for the benefit of the citizens of Sheffield. As very close neighbours to the cottage, we strongly disagree that it is sold. It would be going against the intention of Alderman Graves.

As it is charitable parkland and the covenants state clearly it cannot be sold, it must be kept as part of the park. It would be good to convert the site into an historical memorial garden, retaining the imprint of the cottage for posterity, at no cost to the Council. After much research, the Friends of Graves Park would do an excellent job at keeping history alive.

There are hundreds of people use the park every day, whatever the weather, and it would be a great loss to the citizens of Sheffield and an insult to Alderman Graves.

Please do not sell Cobnar Cottage

Yours sincerely

cc Sheffield City Council

Bill 


Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD

[REDACTED]
Hackthorn Road
Woodscats
Sheffield
S88TB
17/02/2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Objection to the Sale of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I object to any sale or disposal of Cobnar Cottage, this is built on land which was gifted to the people of Sheffield by J. G. Graves.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity, which clearly state that the land should be kept as parkland forever.

This land belongs to the people of Sheffield and not the City Council. Sheffield City council should be protecting this gift and not selling off parts of the land at any opportunity

It would seem that this is not the first time that Graves Park is under threat from this council. And I suspect that this won't be the last.

This is a cottage which the council has failed to maintain, any building no longer required can be demolished and the land returned to park land as per the original covenants.

I feel very strongly that once more Graves Park is under threat, after other shameful situations by this council over the years, such as selling off Chantry Cottage, trying to give away land to St Lukes, using Norton Nurseries as a rubbish dump. And now the attempted sale of Cobnar Cottage.

Once more the Council has to be reminded Graves Park is not theirs to sell.
Once more they have to be reminded it belongs to the people of Sheffield.

Please consider alternative options other than the sale of Cobnar Cottage.

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

17th Feb 2015.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to state my objection to the sale of Cobnor cottage and the land on which it stands.

Graves park is a very important part of the local area used by many for physical and psychological health benefits. As such all parts, no matter how small, should be retained and cared for.

I urge you to relook at the business plan produced regarding converting the area into a memorial garden. This would enable public access and enjoyment of the site.

I also feel this could be very beneficial when considering ~~the~~ ~~transformation~~ of the Norton nursery site into what is now

a very beautiful nature reserve enjoyed
by people and wildlife alike.

Please take this opportunity to further
enhance Graves Park rather than selling
ports which once lost will never be
regained.

Graves Park is very important both
to local people and also people throughout
Sheffield who visit (I know personally
people who travel from the north of
Sheffield and also the south east.)

I urge you to reconsider the
sale of Cobnar Cottage and once again
state my objection.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]

Mount View Rd
Sheffield
S8 8PL

16th February 2005

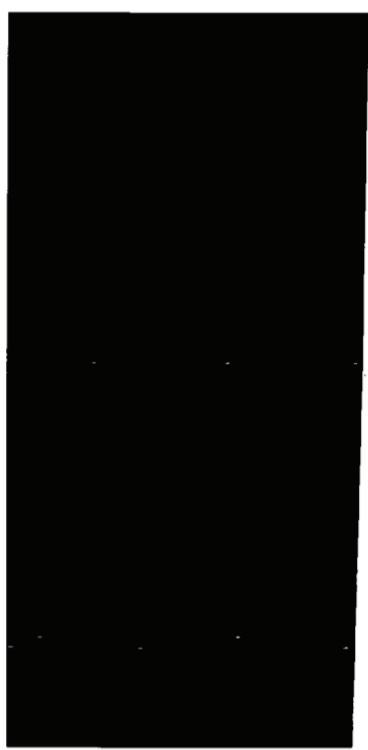
Lev Partnership Services Ltd,
1st Floor, Cathedral Court,
Ncar Lane
Sheffield
1HD

Dear Sir, Madam,

Objection to the Sale by Auction of
Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

object strongly to any sale or disposal
charitable parkland. This includes the
land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.
Cobnar Cottage and the land on which
stands are protected by the original
covenants of The Graves Park Charities
(5), which state that they should
be kept as parkland forever. Graves
Park is held in trust for the people of
Sheffield and this trust is administered

[Redacted]



by the Trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the Trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Greaves Park.

The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of the sale.

I am disappointed ~~that once again~~ local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Greaves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

~~████████████████████~~
COBROW ROAD
SHEFFIELD S18 8RE

18TH FEBRUARY 2015
KIER ASSET PARTNERSHIP SERVICES
4TH FLOOR, CATHEDRAL COURT
1 VICAL LANE
SHEFFIELD S1 7HD



To whom it may concern,

RE: PROPOSED FREEHOLD SALE OF COBROW COTTAGE, GRAVES PARK.
As local residents, we would like to make you aware of our concern regarding the proposed freehold sale of Cobrow Cottage, Graves Park by Sheffield City Council.

Cobrow Cottage is covered by the covenants associated with the charitable parkland of Graves Park. These clearly state it can not be sold.

We would hope Sheffield City Council to reconsider their decision and work in partnership with relevant organisations, including people of Sheffield, to look again at sustainable income generating projects rather than 'quick-fix' sale. This would ensure long-term socio-economic benefits for the wider community, much needed income for Parks and Countryside Dept. / Graves Park and prevent loss of the park to housing developers. (PTC)

~~_____~~
We look forward to your response regarding
the above matter.

Yours faithfully -

~~_____~~ ~~_____~~

~~_____~~

~~_____~~

Untitled document



NAME: [REDACTED]
 ADDRESS: [REDACTED] WARMINSTER PLACE,
 [REDACTED] NORTON Lees, SHEFFIELD
 S8 8PU
 [Date] 16/2/2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited
 4th Floor, Cathedral Court
 1 Vicar Lane
 Sheffield
 S1 1HD

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I/we object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park.

The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale.

I/we am/are disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

[SIGNATURE] [REDACTED]

- Copies to:-
 Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH
 Councillor Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH
 Councillor Ian Auckland, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH
 Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG

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It is bad enough that Sheffield City Council is generating an income from parking charges on the land which was left in trust for the PEOPLE of Sheffield.



F.A.O. Kier Partnership Services Limited.

Dear Sir/Madam

Objection to the sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park.

We object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which states that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park.

We are disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park to the trustees, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature block]

Untitled document

Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD



NAME, [REDACTED]
ADDRESS [REDACTED] VEBTON LANE
[Date] SHEFFIELD S11 2HE
14-02-2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I/we object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park.

The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale.

I/we am/are disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

[SIGNATURE] [REDACTED]

- Copies to:-
- Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH
- Councillor Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH
- Councillor Ian Auckland, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH
- Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG

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KIER ASSET
PARTNERSHIP
SERVICES
18 FEB 2015
Received [redacted] Cluct. Rd.,
Sheffield
SS 8GR

Kier Partnership Services Ltd
4th floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD

14 February 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I strongly object to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

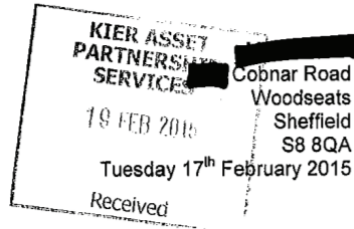
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The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale.

I am disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

[redacted signature]



Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I/we object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

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I/we am/are disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

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Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Ian Auckland, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

[REDACTED]
HEMSWORTH ROAD
SHEFFIELD
S8 8LJ

KIER ASSET
PARTNERSHIP
SERVICES
18 FEB 2015
Received

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

17th February, 2015

Bobrow Cottage

I must protest about the proposed sale by Sheffield Council of Bobrow Cottage. I have lived just around the corner from it for forty-seven years and I have long been aware that it is part and parcel of Graves Park.

To sell any portion of land, however small, which was gifted by deed of covenant is immoral and most probably illegal.

By the sale would net the Council a tiny amount compared to the millions it deals in and so I can only come to the conclusion that the purpose is to establish a precedent - Dirty tactics. Once a little cat has been raised that way, selling a much larger tract of land would become possible in future.

So I say No No NO

Yours faithfully

Kier Asset Partnership Services

[REDACTED]

Untitled document



NAME [REDACTED]
ADDRESS [REDACTED] WARMINSTER PLACE
[Date] SHEFFIELD S8 8RN
16/2/2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I/we object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park.

The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale.

I/we are disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

{SIGNATURE} [REDACTED]

- Copies to:-
- Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH
- Councillor Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH
- Councillor Ian Auckland, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH
- Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG

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Having researched J.G Graves for a school project at £15, I strongly disagree with any such sale of property or land by the council that was left to the people of Sheffield by J.G Graves. The council should also not be profiting from the carpark pay and display machine. It's the peoples land. Not theirs. 16/02/2015 16:37

Untitled document



NAME, [REDACTED]
 ADDRESS, WARMINGSTER PLACE
 NOTTON LEES
 [Date] 10/2/2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited
 4th Floor, Cathedral Court
 1 Vicar Lane
 Sheffield
 S1 1HD

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I/we object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park.

The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale.

I/we am/are disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

[SIGNATURE]



Copies to:-

Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Ian Auckland, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG

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15th February, 2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited,
4th Floor,
Cathedral Court,
1, Vicar Lane,
Sheffield
S1 1HD

Dear Sirs,

Re: Objection to the Sale of Cobnar Cottage

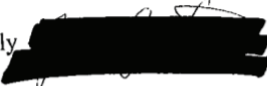

I write to object to the sale by auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park.

The charitable land on which Cobnar Cottage stands was given to the people of Sheffield by J.G. Graves in 1925 to be held in trust for the use and enjoyment of the people of Sheffield.

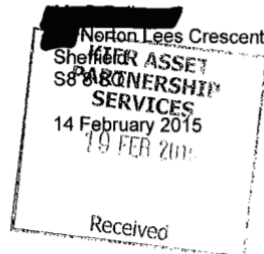
The current trustees Sheffield City Council Cabinet are not acting in the best interests of Graves Park. Once the covenants are broken and a part of the charitable land is sold this will put all of the park in danger .

I strongly object to this proposed sale, I would like Sheffield City Council to act as trustees and do their best to protect the park and its assets for the people of Sheffield and future generations.

Yours faithfully

Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD



Dear Sir/Madam

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

You will already be aware that Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Moreover, Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

I insist that instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the whole of the parkland and preserve it for the people of Sheffield. Furthermore, any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park.

I understand that the Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale.

I am very disappointed that the once again, local residents have to stress the covenants that are protecting Graves Park, rather than being able to trust Sheffield City Council to work collaboratively and invest and protect the parkland, including all of the buildings.

The whole of the parkland should be protected for future generations to enjoy and preserved in its entirety as an investment for the people of Sheffield.

Yours faithfully

CC:-

Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Ian Auckland, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG

Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane,
Sheffield
S1 1HD



Re: **Objection to the sale of Cobnar Cottage, Graves Park**

Dear KPS Ltd,



I am shocked to hear that the council is selling off part of Graves Park. This land belongs to the people of Sheffield and is NOT FOR SALE. It is part of Charitable Land gifted by JG Graves in 1925 and selling it would break the covenants. I am sure this must be ILLEGAL.

As a citizen of Sheffield, this land 'belongs' to me and I object to this sale.

The trustees of the Charitable Land have a duty to protect the Covenant and to maintain the whole of the Graves Park land for the benefit of all of the Sheffield people, for their access and use. As such, Cobnar Cottage and its land should be opened up and made into a useful space for all of us.

Please do not go ahead with this sale. Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Cobnar Road

Sheffield

S8 8QB



Kier Asset Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield, S1 1HD

Date: 18th February 2015

Ref: Cobnar Cottage sale

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to you to state my objection to the Cobnar Cottage land being sold. I am a life long resident of the Norton area and have made regular use of the Grave Park facilities all my life. As such I see myself as a citizen of the City of Sheffield. Therefore, under J G Graves original covenant I see that I have a right to be included in the decision to sell the land.

The land is "...for the purpose of the perpetual enjoyment thereof by the public for exercise and recreation and for purposes conducive to or in connection with such enjoyment..."

- "And that such buildings or any of them or any part or parts thereof may if the Corporation shall think fit be pulled down and removed." (In the original covenant, the Corporation means "The Lord Mayor Aldermen and Citizens of the City of Sheffield")

I would particularly like to see the cottage stay as a piece of local heritage and history, along side the other traditional cottages located on Cobnar Road.. Therefore, I request that Sheffield City Council make all effort to restore and preserve such heritage structures.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Henley Avenue
Sheffield S8 8JH

13th February 2015

Kier Partnership Services Ltd.,
4th Floor, Cathedral Court,
1 Vicar Lane,
Sheffield,
S1 1HD

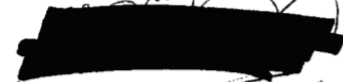


Dear Sirs,

Objection to the proposed sale by auction of Cobnar Cottage Graves Park

We write to object to this proposed sale and the land on which it stands. We are of the opinion, that these are protected by the covenants of the Graves Park charity and should be kept as part of the parkland for use by the citizens of Sheffield in perpetuity.

This proposed sale would breach the covenants of the Trust and set a precedent for the sale of further parkland in the future. It is perhaps questionable whether or not this is the intention of Sheffield City Council who acting as Trustees of the Graves Park Trust are not acting in the best interests of the charity.

Yours faithfully,

P. S. HAVE E-MAILED A COPY OF THIS TO BOTH
COUNCILLORS ISOBEL BOWLER & IAN AUKLAND.

██████████ Mount View Road,
Sheffield
S8 8PH

14th February, 2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited,
4th Floor,
Cathedral Court,
1, Vicar Lane,
Sheffield
S1 1HD

Dear Sirs,

Re: **Proposed sale by auction of Cobnar Cottage Graves Park**

I strongly object to the sale by auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park. This cottage and the land it stands on were given to the people of Sheffield by J.G. Graves.

J.G. Graves appointed trustees to uphold the covenants he had written to protect the charitable parkland he had given to the people of Sheffield. The current trustees, Sheffield City Council Cabinet are trying to break the covenants and go against the stated wishes of J.G. Graves that the land should be held in trust for the use and enjoyment of the people of Sheffield.

Yours faithfully,

██
██
██

[REDACTED] Henley Avenue,
Norton,
Sheffield,
S8 8JH

19th February 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust, is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

I am very upset that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kier Partnership Services Ltd.,
4th Floor, Cathedral Court,
Sheffield
S1 1HD



Sheffield City Council
Planning and Development
Development Services
Howden House,
1 Union Street
Sheffield S1 2SH

Norton Hall
Norton Church Road
Sheffield
S8 2JY
16/02/2015

Re: Sale of Cobnut Cottage in Graves Park - Our Objection
To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of my wife and I in regards to the recent proposal by the Sheffield City Council to sell Cobnut Cottage which, incidentally, is in the grounds of Graves Park. Graves Park is a charitable parkland and was originally presented to the City in 1925 by John George Graves for the people of Sheffield and elsewhere to walk in and enjoy the beauty of the area.

As we live at Norton Hall we do get so much pleasure when seeing families enjoying themselves whether walking, playing, relaxing or involving themselves at the special events that take place in the park throughout the year.

We are not members of the Friends of Graves Park however we also agree with their business plan, to convert the site at Cobnut Cottage into a Historical Memorial Garden, retaining the imprint of the Cottage for posterity and ^{not} allowing the Sheffield City Council now and in the future to gradually sell off parts of Graves Park, is the correct one.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

ASSET
MANAGEMENT
SERVICES
20 FEB 2015

Regeneration & Development Services	
RECEIVED	
16 FEB 2015	
COPY TO	
REPLIED TO	

Henley Avenue,
Norton,
Sheffield,
S8 8JH

19th February 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust, is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

I am very upset that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully,

Kier Partnership Services Ltd.,
4th Floor, Cathedral Court,
Sheffield
S1 1HD



[REDACTED]
Thorpe House Avenue
Norton Lees
SHEFFIELD S8 9NG

18 February 2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

We object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built. Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever.

Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park.

The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale. We are disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Copies to:-

Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall,
Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH
Councillor Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, Sheffield City
Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH
Councillor Ian Auckland, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield
S1 2HH

Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG

[REDACTED]
Brocklehurst Ave
Norton
Sheffield

17th February 2015

Kier Partnership Services Ltd
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

Dear Sir/Madam,

I object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. Any attempt to sell Cobnar Cottage is a breach of the original covenant of the Graves Park Charity(1925) and a betrayal of the people of Sheffield.

Graves Park and Cobnar Cottage were bequeathed to the citizens of Sheffield by Alderman Graves as part of his legacy, for past, current and future generations to enjoy. Cobnar Cottage is an asset of the city and should be managed as such. Attempting to sell off this asset is something I would not associate with a Labour Council and fits uncomfortably with my idea of Socialism.

I am very disappointed that Sheffield City Council have taken this stance rather than opting to work to protect the parkland and buildings within.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
CC:-

Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Isobel Bower, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Ian Auckland, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Cloonmore Drive, Norton, Sheffield, S8 8JN
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

13 February 2015

Paul Billington,
Director of Culture and Environment,
Sheffield City Council,
Town Hall,
Pinstone Street,
Sheffield
S1 2HH

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I/we object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield.

The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale.

I/we am/are disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Copies to:-

Councillor Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, Sheffield City Council,
Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Ian Auckland, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG

[REDACTED]
Olivet Road
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S8 8QR
[REDACTED]

Councillor Isobel Bowler
Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure
Sheffield City Council
Town Hall
Pinstone Street
Sheffield
S1 2HH

13 February 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I strongly object to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which states that they should be kept as parkland for ever. Graves Park is held on trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted parkland would be in breach of covenants. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park.

The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale.

I am disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

cc Charity Commission First Contact
Councillor Ian Auckland
Kier Partnership Services Limited
Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment,

[REDACTED] Cobnar Road
Sheffield S8 8QE
13th February 2015

Paul Billington,
Director of Culture and Environment Sheffield City Council, Town Hall
Pinstone Street,
Sheffield S1 2HH

Dear Paul

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

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The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale.

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Yours faithfully

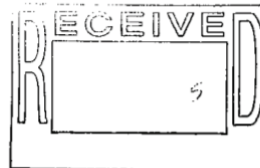
[REDACTED]

Copies to:-
Councillor Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Ian Auckland, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG

Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD



Norton Lane
SHEFFIELD
S8 8GW

17TH February 2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

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Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park.

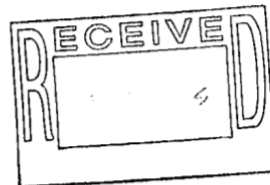
The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale. I am extremely disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

Copies to:-

✓ *Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH*
Councillor Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH
Councillor Ian Auckland, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S12HH
Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG



■ The Meadows

Norton

Sheffield

S8 8JD

18th February 2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited

4th Floor, Cathedral Court

1 Vicar Lane

Sheffield

S1 1HD

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

Dear Sir/Madam,

I object very strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

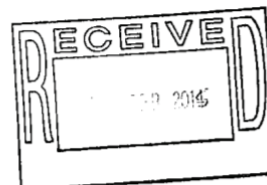
Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park.

The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale.

I am very disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

████████████████████
████████████████████



[REDACTED] Abbey View Road, Sheffield, S8 8RH

13th February 2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park.

The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale.

I am disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

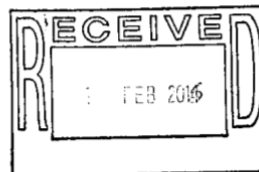
[REDACTED]
Copies to:-

Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Ian Auckland, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG



Camping Lane

Sheffield

S8 0GD

17th February 2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited

4th Floor, Cathedral Court

1 Vicar Lane

Sheffield

S1 1HD

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

Dear Sir/Madam,

I object very strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

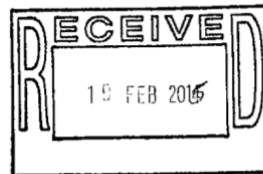
Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park.

The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale.

I am very disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]



[REDACTED]
Woodland Road
Norton Lees
Sheffield
S8 8PD

14 February 2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield S1 1HD

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built. Please don't take any of our park away.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants. You cannot sell what is not yours to sell.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park which is not acceptable.

The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale.

I am disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[Signature]

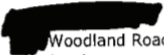
Copies to:-

Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Ian Auckland, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG


Woodland Road
Norton Lees
Sheffield
S8 8PD

14 February 2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield S1 1HD

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built. The park serves people of all backgrounds and wage brackets. People come from all over Sheffield to enjoy these facilities. It serves the whole Sheffield community.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants. You cannot sell what is not yours to sell.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park which is not acceptable.

The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale.

I am disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully



Copies to:-

✓ Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Ian Auckland, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG

✉

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Lees Hall Road

Sheffield

S8 9JL

16th February 2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited

4th Floor, Cathedral Court

1 Vicar Lane

Sheffield

S1 1HD

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park. The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale.

I am disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Copies to:-

Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG

Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD

[REDACTED]
Hackthorn Road
Woodseats
Sheffield
S88TB
17/02/2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Objection to the Sale of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I object to any sale or disposal of Cobnar Cottage, this is built on land which was gifted to the people of Sheffield by J. G. Graves.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity, which clearly state that the land should be kept as parkland forever.

This land belongs to the people of Sheffield and not the City Council. Sheffield City council should be protecting this gift and not selling off parts of the land at any opportunity

It would seem that this is not the first time that Graves Park is under threat from this council. And I suspect that this won't be the last.

This is a cottage which the council has failed to maintain, any building no longer required can be demolished and the land returned to park land as per the original covenants.

I feel very strongly that once more Graves Park is under threat, after other shameful situations by this council over the years, such as selling off Chantry Cottage, trying to give away land to St Lukes, using Norton Nurseries as a rubbish dump. And now the attempted sale of Cobnar Cottage.

Once more the Council has to be reminded Graves Park is not theirs to sell. Once more they have to be reminded it belongs to the people of Sheffield.

Please consider alternative options other than the sale of Cobnar Cottage.

Yours Faithfully
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Mount View Road
SHEFFIELD
S8 8PJ

Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD

Copies to: Paul Billington, Councillor Isobel Bowler, Councillor Ian Auckland, the Clarity
Commission

6 February 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Objections to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

The Friends of Graves Park object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland.
This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of
the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever.
Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the
trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council)
should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any
charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park.

The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities this sale.

The Friends of Graves Park are disappointed that once again we have to stress the
covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively with the Council to
improve the park.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

██████████, Park View Court,
██████████, Cobnor Road
Sheffield,
S8 8QE

17.2.2015

Dear Sir,

re: Sale of Cobnor Cottage / Graves Park.

As a resident of Park View Court for 37 years, Cobnor Cottage is a familiar part of my surroundings. In fact, I remember it from the days when it was occupied.

I understand that the Council now intends to sell Cobnor Cottage and the land on which it stands.

However, Graves Park is charitable parkland with a covenant that states that it cannot be sold.

I am therefore writing to object strongly to the sale of Cobnor Cottage.

Yours faithfully,

██████████

██████████ Cobnair Road,
Sheffield.
S8 8QD.

Thursday 17th February
2015.

Dear Sir or Madam;
I am writing
to state our objection to the
selling of the property: -
Cobnair Cottage,
Cobnair Road,
Sheffield S8.

Yours faithfully.

██████████
██████████

██████████

██████████

[REDACTED]
Abbey View Road
Sheffield S8 8RH

13th February 2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park.

The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale.

I am disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Copies to:-

Paul Billington, Director of Culture and Environment, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture Sport and Leisure, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Councillor Ian Auckland, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield S1 2HH

Charity Commission First Contact, PO Box 1227, Liverpool L69 3UG

10/2/16

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Barking, class

S8 8 TE

I would like to object to
the Proposed sale of corner
cottage, in Brames Park -
This land as never belonged
to Sheffield city council but
to the people of Sheffield,
once again you as a council
are trying to hood wine
the general public by telling
some thing that does not
belong to you, were with it and
sell the Brims Green off when
the council lets it get into disrepair,

yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

17.2.15

The purpose of my letter is to object to any sale or disposal of Parkland, Cobnar Cottage and land it stands on, which is protected by original Covenants of Graves Park Charity 1925. Graves Park was given to us by Alderman Graves and is held in trust for the people of Sheffield.

Cobnar Cottage is in a sorrowful state of repair, but could be restored and produce an income from renting it, but should not be sold.

The Council's proposal to sell Cobnar Cottage is the 'thin edge of the wedge' and one wonders what ever would be next. The Council does not own Graves Park, it belongs to the people of this City. Any sale of this charitable land, incl. Cobnar Cottage, would be a breach of the Covenants. Graves Park, the land and all that stands on it, belongs to ALL the people of Sheffield.

Hands off!

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ 58 06W

To :-

Kier Asset Partnership Services
4th Floor Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield S1 1HO

Norton church Glebe

Sheffield

S8 8JX

12 /02/2015

Cobnar Cottage

Dear Sir/Madam

I understand that Sheffield City Council proposes to sell off the Property known as Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park.

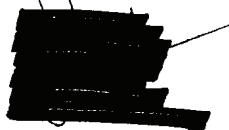
We wish to register our strongest objection to this action. Cobnar Cottage I believe, within Graves Park, is an asset of the Citizens of Sheffield and is governed by strict Covenants which forbid such actions. I am advised that, should such a sale go ahead then Sheffield City Council, as Trustees responsible for the property, would be in breach of their duties and as such could become involved in lengthy legal process which could far outweigh any financial benefit achieved through disposal of the site.

Further, the Council should not be allowed to ride rough shod over its legal and moral responsibilities.

There are alternative proposals, submitted by The Friends of Graves Park, which would benefit the condition of the site, offering "no cost" options to the City which clearly would be to the greater long term advantage of the environment and would continue to fulfil the wishes of the Graves family who donated the land and assets to the people of Sheffield in perpetuity.

I trust this letter is given due consideration along with the many views on this matter which will be held and endorsed by Citizens throughout the wider areas of the City.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature and name of the sender.

Old Park Avenue
Beauchief
Sheffield
S8 7DQ

13th of February 2015

Kier Partnership Services
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD

Dear Sir / Madam

I am contacting you to express my extreme disappointment over the decision by the Sheffield Council to sell Cobnar Cottage adjoining Graves Park in Sheffield. This is charitable parkland and the covenants state clearly that it cannot be sold. The council's view that the people of Sheffield do not care about this piece of our heritage is wrong. There are strong feelings towards this cottage and a view that its loss would be the thin end of a very big wedge. Losing one small piece of Graves Park could lead to the loss of other locations.

I urge you to discuss this situation with the people involved and seek a favourable compromise regarding its future.

The present condition of the building, a disgrace to say the least, is down to the failure to maintain the building.

I look forward to your reply

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

Mount View Road
Sheffield S8

14th February, 2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited,
4th Floor,
Cathedral Court,
1, Vicar Lane,
Sheffield
S1 1HD

Dear Sirs,

RE: Proposed sale of Cobnar Cottage

I write to object to the sale by auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park.

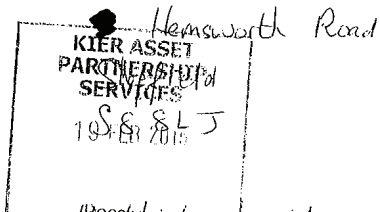
J.G. Graves gave Graves Park to the people of Sheffield, he had covenants written stating that this charitable parkland should be held in trust for the use and enjoyment of the people of Sheffield. The current trustees Sheffield City Council Cabinet are not acting in the best interests of Graves Park. Once the covenants are broken and a part of the charitable land is sold this will put all of the park in danger.

I strongly object to this proposed sale, instead of thinking of ways to break the covenants the trustees should be doing their best to protect the park and its assets for the people of Sheffield and future generations.

Yours faithfully



16th Feb. 2015



Cobnar Cottage should be ~~sold~~ ^{received by} providing the opportunity of a home for someone maybe even a 'Person of Sheffield'!

A memorial garden or similar would merely add to the problems caused locally by visitors using grass verges, restricting free flow of traffic on the main road and leaving litter because there is insufficient parking within Graves Park.

Access is only possible from the bottom of Cobnar Rd for the fit and healthy and not too near the bus stops which are ~~too~~ near the bend in the road making crossing it hazardous unless the person is very agile



workable state of disrepair & are
site for its reinstatement
that the alterations are too great/
to repair, the cottage should be
looked to a nominal height which
retain its historical imprint & a
cottage would then be removed.
is essential that gates post be returned
entirely for the future use of the
of Sheffeld

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Mr Donat Partnership Services LTD
4 floor, Beckett Road
1 Year Lane
Sheffeld S1 1HD
9 Feb 2015

Dear Sir,
Re: objection to the sale of Bohar Cottage

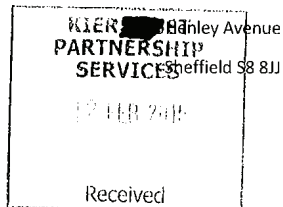
I wish to inform you of my objection to the
sale or any disposal of Beckett Parkland
whenever, especially, Bohar Cottage & the
land upon which it stands

Sheffeld City Council is not authorized to
sell off lands & buildings designated by
J.C. Green, for the citizens of Sheffeld.

(My J.C. Green letters 1925 & 1935 outlining
the Councils agreed)

In respect of Bohar Cottage, S.C.I. members
have over the years allowed it to fall into

Sheffield City Council
c/o Kier Asset Partnership Services Ltd
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield S1 1HD



10 February 2015

Dear Ms/Sir,

Sale of Cobnar Cottage

OBJECTION

On one of my regular walks around Graves Park and its environs I was horrified to note that Sheffield City Council, in its capacity as Trustee for the Graves Park charity, has given notice of its intention to sell Cobnar Cottage by auction.

The land on which the cottage stands is protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park charity which states the land should be kept as parkland in perpetuity. Any sale of this land would be in breach of the covenants.

Instead of repeatedly trying to breach the covenants by seeking to sell charitable land the Trustee should be preserving and developing all the land for the benefit of the public. The population of Sheffield will only ever increase and the use of the parkland by the public will also increase. It has been reprehensible on the part of the Trustee that Cobnar Cottage has been allowed to deteriorate over the years but this is not a satisfactory reason for breaching the covenants. If it is now too expensive to save the cottage it should be demolished and the land returned to parkland. I am sure some imaginative development is possible.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

Copies to:

Paul Billington

Councillor Isobel Bowler

Councillor

Ian Auckland

The Charity Commission

KIER ASSET
PARTNERSHIP
SERVICES
13 FEB 2015
Received

[REDACTED]
Charles Ashmore Road
Meadowhead
Sheffield S8 8GJ

Kier Partnership Services Limited

4th Floor, Cathedral Court

1 Vicar Lane

Sheffield

S1 1HD

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

As a member with Friends of Graves Park I object that Sheffield City Council trustees of the Park take gross liberties and breach the covenant and try selling Cobnar Cottage. This land and property is recreational land for the general public use not for the private ownership.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Mount View Road
Norton Lees
Sheffield
S8 8PJ
Date:- 10th February 2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited,
4th Floor,
Cathedral Court,
1, Vicar Lane,
Sheffield
S1 1HD

Dear Sirs,

Proposed Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

I strongly object to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

J.G. Graves gave the land in 1925 to the people of Sheffield. He had covenants written which state the land should be kept as parkland forever.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature is written over a thick black horizontal redaction bar. Below this bar is another thick black horizontal redaction bar.

Mr & Mrs R E Tripp
Norton Lane
Sheffield
S8 8HD

13 February 2015

Kier Partnership Services Limited
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane
Sheffield
S1 1HD

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection to the Sale by Auction of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

We object strongly to any sale or disposal of charitable parkland. This includes the land on which Cobnar Cottage is built.

Cobnar Cottage and the land on which it stands are protected by the original covenants of the Graves Park Charity (1925), which state that they should be kept as parkland forever. Graves Park is held in trust for the people of Sheffield and this trust is administered by the trustees. Any sale of this entrusted charitable parkland would be a breach of the covenants.

Instead of looking for ways of breaching the covenants, the trustees (Sheffield City Council) should be protecting the park and preserving it for the people of Sheffield. Any sale of any charitable parkland would set a precedent and threaten any or all of Graves Park.

The Charity Commission are already looking into the legalities of this sale. We are disappointed that once again local residents have to stress the covenants protecting Graves Park, rather than working collaboratively to improve the park.

Yours faithfully

Mr & Mrs R E Tripp

**Ian Auckland Liberal Democrat Graves Park Ward
Denise Reaney
Steve Ayris**

Ian Auckland
250 Norton Lane
Sheffield
S8 8HD

Home Phone 0114 2740474
Email Ian.Auckland@btinternet.com

Feb 17th 2015

On my own behalf, and that of ward colleagues, Councillors Steve Ayris and Denise Reaney, I wish to object to the proposed sale of Cobnar Cottage.

The cottage stands on parkland gifted by J G Graves to the council in 1925, as Trustee, and in furtherance of that Trust, and as a matter of principal, should not be disposed of in any way.

The cottage is in a dilapidated state due to neglect by the Trustees, or neglect by the Council, its agents, or employees, and as a consequence the Trust is certain to suffer loss on disposal, and has suffered loss through failure to make best use of the asset. The Trustees should seek to recover such losses from the responsible parties.

Due to the Governance arrangements of the Charity, the Trustees are not able to demonstrate to the beneficiaries of the Charity, independent judgement to a standard expected in present day circumstances.

Yours faithfully

Cllr Ian Auckland
Graves Park Ward

Kier Asset Partnerships Services Limited,
4th Floor, Cathedral Court,
1 Vicar Lane,
Sheffield. S1 1HD (By hand and e-mail)

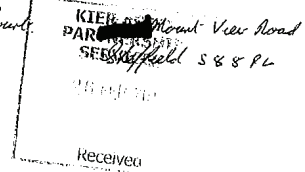
Kier Asset Partnership Services LTD

4 Floor, Cathedral Court,

1 Vicar Lane

Sheffield S1 1HD

8 Feb 2015



Dear Sir,

Objection to the Sale of Dolman Cottage
located in Graves Park - by SCC Trustees

I strongly object to any sale or disposal whatsoever of charitable Parkland & especially Dolman Cottage & the land upon which it stands.

Sheffield City Council Trustees undertook the trusteeship of all lands left by J & J Graves to the citizens of Sheffield.

(Re: J & J Graves letters 1925 & 1935 outlining the Covenants)


It did not authorise the Trustees to sell off the lands & buildings bequeathed.

s.c.c. Trustees have allowed the cottage to become neglected and to fall into disrepair.

There are two alternatives:-

- 1) renovation of the property and letting it to a council employee which would be in the best interests of the ~~trustees~~ charity.
- 2) if the dilapidation is too great, then the cottage could be demolished to a normal height so that its historical imprint is retained and a garden could be created in the enclosure.

At all cost, Green Park should be retained in its entirety for the use of future generations.

Yours Sincerely,




[Redacted]
Norton Park View,
Norton,
Sheffield,
S8 8GU.

25 February 2015

Kier Asset Partnership Services Limited,
4th Floor,
Cathedral Court,
1 Vicar Lane,
Sheffield,
S1 1HD.

re: The proposed sale of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park

Dear Kier Asset Partnership Services,

I am writing to express my opposition to the possible sale of Cobnar Cottage in Graves Park by Sheffield City Council. If the sale were allowed to take place I think that the council would try use it as a precedent to justify selling off other land within Graves Park, and other parks in the city. This land belongs to the people of Sheffield and the council should not be selling it.

It would be better to make the cottage safe and secure and leave it until everyone can agree on a plan which does not include selling it.

yours,

[Redacted signature]

Old Park Avenue
Beauchief
Sheffield
S8 7DQ

13th of February 2015

Sheffield City Council
Town Hall
Pinstone Street
Sheffield
S1 2HH

Dear Julie

I am contacting you to express my extreme disappointment over the decision by the Council to sell Cobnar Cottage adjoining Graves Park in Sheffield. This is charitable parkland and the covenants state clearly that it cannot be sold. The council's view that the people of Sheffield do not care about this piece of our heritage is wrong. There are strong feelings towards this cottage and a view that its loss would be the thin end of a very big wedge! Losing one small piece of Graves Park could lead to the loss of other locations. I urge you to speak with the officers involved and seek a favourable compromise regarding its future. The present condition of the building, a disgrace to say the least, is down to the council's failure to maintain the building.

I look forward to your reply

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

Cobnar Road
Sheffield S8 8QE
25 Feb 2015

Kier Partnership Services Ltd
4th Floor, Cathedral Court
1 Vicar Lane, Sheffield S1 1HD



Dear Sirs

Proposed sale of Cobnar Cottage, Graves Park

I wish to strongly object to the above proposed sale.

This cottage and all its curtilage is an integral part of Graves Park, and as such was gifted to the citizens of Sheffield in perpetuity and in trust by Alderman J.G. Graves almost a century ago. Cobnar Cottage is therefore meant to be protected by the charitable covenants covering the park and I take a very dim view of the City Council nominees (currently sitting as Trustees on the Graves Park Charitable Trust), instead of operating in the spirit of this precious inheritance, scheming legally to have these covenants altered so as to be able to sell the cottage!

The ruse likely being used with the Charity Commission by the City Council 'Trustees' and officials is that the Cottage and linear garden it stands in have no public amenity value. This is absolutely wrong.

Firstly, it has historical, heritage and interpretative value because the Cottage dates back more than 200 years, lies directly on the old turnpike route from Sheffield to [REDACTED] and is part of the historic hamlet of Bolehill.

Secondly, the 'Friends of Graves Park Trust' (FOGPT) has recently considered and consulted on the situation surrounding the Cottage and has proposed a partial demolition (the City Council having let the property fall into disuse and decline with the effect that it would now be prohibitively expensive to renovate it), and imaginative restoration/rejuvenation of the cottage's architectural foundations and wind-protected land packet into an interpretative/memorial/sitting garden for park users. [It should be noted that FOGPT do have resources (they have already spent a sizeable amount of money on survey work, garden clearance work etc at the Cottage site), and they have stated they are confident they can raise the money that is needed to carry out their proposed restoration/rejuvenation].

This latter proposal is particularly relevant, given that a senior citizens' apartments' complex is sited directly opposite the cottage and I know personally from speaking to residents there that such an amenity would be highly popular with them. It is also the case that Jan Wilson, the recently deceased Leader of Sheffield City Council, was brought up in Bolehill Cottage, which is just across from Cobnar Cottage - so there is an opportunity to commemorate this famous and well-regarded person in the proposed special garden.

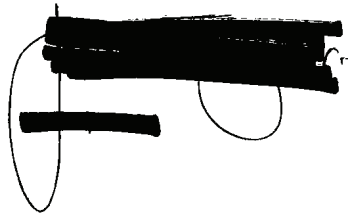
As part of their argument for privatising public property and land - which is what a private auction sale of Cobnar Cottage and its curtilage amounts to - the City Council's 'Trustees' of the Graves Park Charitable Trust have said that the sale proceeds would be re-invested in the park. Given that such monetary capital could only be spent once, whereas the social return from an interpretative/memorial/sitting garden (itself paid for via FOGPT) continues in perpetuity, it is quite clear that the latter is the superior investment.

If the City Council persists with this argument that proceeds from a sale of the Cottage can be re-invested the conclusion I would draw from this is that those proceeds are actually being pursued to mitigate existing budget pressures. That is, to use as expenditure offsets, not as real add-ons. Of course, these offsets are easily disguised in the global budgeting complexities of local government.

I will close by saying that the attempt to sell Cobnar Cottage is completely contrary to the spirit, aims and approach of Alderman J. G. Graves, who over several years kept *adding* parcels of land to Graves Park, not deleting them! And speaking as both a citizen of Sheffield who values and uses Graves Park frequently, and a local resident whose house - just yards from Cobnar Cottage - overlooks the Park, I did not purchase my house (because of its privileged location, at a premium price), on the understanding that I would one day find myself looking across at its magnificent landscape interrupted by the sight of an incongruous private residence.

Stop this sale!

Yours sincerely,

A signature that has been completely redacted with black ink. The redaction covers the name and any handwritten notes or dates that might have been present. The signature is written in a cursive style.

From:

Sent: 26 February 2015 16:02

To: Support, SheffieldP&FM (Shared)

Subject: Cobnar Cottage

I wish to lodge an objection to the disposal of Cobnar Cottage to a private bidder by auction as this was a charitable gift to the Citizens of Sheffield by JG Graves, and, as such, this proposed action is highly inappropriate and morally wrong

Cotswold Road

Sheffield

S6 4QZ

From:

Sent: 26 February 2015 21:45

To: Support, SheffieldP&FM (Shared)

Subject: Cobnar Cottage Graves Park

I wish to strongly protest against the proposed auction of Cobnar Cottage by Sheffield City Council.. This cottage along with Graves Park was gifted to the Council for the benefit of the people of Sheffield and it is totally wrong for the council to dispose of this gift. It is now only a liability because the Council have let it become one. If the cottage is beyond repair then the Council should gift it to the the Friends of Graves Park and let them replace it with a memorial garden which would be of no cost to the Council and be something which the people of Sheffield could still use.

I reiterate that the Council have no right to dispose of something that was given in trust to the people of Sheffield forever. FOREVER should mean FOREVER NOT 90 YEARS.

THIS SALE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO GO AHEAD

(Sheffield Ratepayer)

APPENDIX C

**We, the undersigned, believe that Graves Park -
which was given to the people of Sheffield to enjoy
forever - should be protected, and we oppose plans
by Sheffield Labour Council to sell off Cobnar
Cottage.**

Timestamp	Name	Email
9/19/2013 14:28:10	<u>A Sellars</u>	
11/5/2013 7:44:53	<u>A&J Greenwood</u>	
8/26/2013 14:53:22	<u>Abi Starr</u>	
8/28/2013 4:24:57	<u>Adam Funk</u>	
1/21/2015 3:55:37	<u>adam King</u>	
8/22/2013 12:55:30	<u>Adela Surowiak & Jonathan Payne</u>	
8/21/2013 9:39:57	<u>Alan Griffiths</u>	
3/26/2014 6:11:14	<u>Alison Postle-Owen</u>	
10/8/2013 0:10:18	<u>Allison Robb</u>	
9/17/2013 11:24:34	<u>Amanda Jane Griffiths</u>	
8/22/2013 1:23:08	<u>ANDREA CARNALL</u>	
3/12/2014 12:29:28	<u>Andrea Walker</u>	
9/16/2013 23:10:31	<u>Andrew Barlow</u>	
11/7/2013 9:11:12	<u>Andrew Birkby</u>	
10/7/2013 12:58:26	<u>andrew Goddard</u>	
10/29/2013 11:19:06	<u>Andrew Langner</u>	
8/21/2013 9:17:31	<u>andrew thorpe</u>	
9/16/2013 23:54:22	<u>Andrew Welsby</u>	
8/22/2013 13:12:44	<u>Angela Bennett</u>	
9/20/2013 13:11:24	<u>ann arnold</u>	
8/21/2013 13:33:44	<u>Ann Ward</u>	
9/17/2013 0:27:34	<u>Ann Wild</u>	
5/11/2014 4:04:12	<u>Anne Brundell</u>	
8/29/2013 0:45:35	<u>Anne Jennings</u>	
1/21/2015 3:56:56	<u>annette Robinson</u>	
8/21/2013	<u>Annette Walsh</u>	

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3/7/2014 11:30:37 Arthur Pidcock
3/7/2014 3:12:53 Barbara Marilyn Pidcock
8/28/2013 12:55:48 Barbara Salmon
1/13/2015 23:03:22 Barbara tollerfield
8/23/2013 7:18:00 Beris Hudson
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3/7/2014 2:04:38 Brian Crookes
10/8/2013 2:23:58 Brian Winfrow
8/21/2013 12:10:22 Brian/Hazel Deakin
8/28/2013 2:50:07 Bronwen Moss
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11/4/2013 11:53:39 C.J.STEAD
9/22/2013 12:27:57 c.wright
10/8/2013 11:03:34 c.wright
3/9/2014 5:57:44 Caroline Dewar
8/23/2013 0:46:02 Caroline Fixter
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3/7/2014 12:34:16 Caroline pendleton
1/13/2015 8:56:56 Carolyn Snowden
8/23/2013 9:45:48 CAROLYN VALENTINE
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10/8/2013 10:55:50 chris titus
9/6/2013 12:44:20 Christina wright
10/12/2013 1:15:37 Christine & David Cowen
11/4/2013 4:50:51 Christine and David Cowen
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11/4/2013 5:26:18 Connor Peck
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1:48:24 Mr & Mrs A Harrington
10/20/2013
8:13:33 Mr & Mrs Edwards
3/7/2014
13:22:10 Mr D March
9/17/2013
8:37:00 Mr Dennis Harley
3/10/2014 Mr K Shaw

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10/29/2013 4:34:40 Mr R Royston
10/21/2013 8:01:37 Mr S Needham
9/20/2013 6:40:15 Mr. G.S.Oates
3/7/2014 8:13:37 Mr. G.S.Oates Mrs J.Oates
9/17/2013 2:58:05 Mr. H. Davey
3/10/2014 14:02:54 Mrs B Barker
8/23/2013 4:04:10 Mrs Brenda Anthony
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10/21/2013 8:01:04 Mrs N Needham
12/31/2013 4:05:05 Mrs Rae Betsworth
11/4/2013 6:06:31 Mrs S March
8/31/2013 23:13:14 Mrs Sally Vardy
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9/17/2013 5:21:08 Ms Sheila Taylor
9/1/2013 4:03:42 natalie simmonite
10/8/2013 7:02:12 natalie.873@hotmail.com
11/6/2013 6:45:41 Nathan White
11/3/2013 11:50:15 Neal Johnston
1/20/2014 10:57:14 Nick Barber
8/23/2013 4:00:20 Nick Williams
4/15/2014 7:03:52 nicola barwell
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11/5/2013
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17:43:13 Gregory
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12/31/2013 5:19:26 roger bell
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 11/6/2013 2:54:39 roy phipps
 8/21/2013 10:20:25 Russell Thomas
 3/19/2014 5:23:16 S E Clarke
 9/16/2013 23:51:51 SALLY VARDY
 9/17/2013 0:57:18 sandra thackeray
 11/2/2013 3:55:20 Sara Calow
 4/15/2014 7:02:48 Sarah Barwell
 8/23/2013 12:55:23 Sharon hirshman

SHARON SCOTRICK
JERRY BOYD &
 1/13/2014 14:28:04 FRANCESCA
SCOTRICK-BOYD
 8/22/2013 6:19:50 Sheila Taylor
 8/22/2013 2:59:34 Shirley Bowskill
 10/7/2013 14:16:57 Stan&Eileen Ellis
 8/21/2013 10:22:16 Stanley Ellis
 3/11/2014 14:34:25 Stella Howe
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 8/21/2013 15:44:41 Stephen Cam
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 8/21/2013 9:41:13 Steve Ayris
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12:58:19 Virginia Richmond
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