

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of the City of Sheffield held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH, on Wednesday 4 February 2015, at 2.00 pm, pursuant to notice duly given and Summonses duly served.

PRESENT

THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR (Councillor Talib Hussain)

1	<i>Arbourthorne Ward</i> Julie Dore Mike Drabble Jack Scott	10	<i>Dore & Totley Ward</i> Joe Otten Colin Ross Martin Smith	19	<i>Mosborough Ward</i> David Barker Isobel Bowler Tony Downing
2	<i>Beauchief & Greenhill Ward</i> Simon Clement-Jones Roy Munn Richard Shaw	11	<i>East Ecclesfield Ward</i> Pauline Andrews Steve Wilson Joyce Wright	20	<i>Nether Edge Ward</i> Nasima Akther Nikki Bond Qurban Hussain
3	<i>Beighton Ward</i> Helen Mirfin-Boukouris Chris Rosling-Josephs	12	<i>Ecclesall Ward</i> Penny Baker Roger Davison Diana Stimely	21	<i>Richmond Ward</i> John Campbell Lynn Rooney Paul Wood
4	<i>Birley Ward</i> Denise Fox Bryan Lodge Karen McGowan	13	<i>Firth Park Ward</i> Sheila Constance Alan Law Chris Weldon	22	<i>Shiregreen & Brightside Ward</i> Peter Price Sioned-Mair Richards
5	<i>Broomhill Ward</i> Jayne Dunn Stuart Wattam Brian Webster	14	<i>Fulwood Ward</i> Sue Alston Andrew Sangar Cliff Woodcraft	23	<i>Southey Ward</i> Leigh Bramall Tony Damms Gill Furniss
6	<i>Burngreave Ward</i> Jackie Drayton Ibrar Hussain Talib Hussain	15	<i>Gleadless Valley Ward</i> Steve Jones Cate McDonald Tim Rippon	24	<i>Stannington Ward</i> Katie Condliffe Vickie Priestley
7	<i>Central Ward</i> Jillian Creasy Robert Murphy Sarah Jane Smalley	16	<i>Graves Park Ward</i> Ian Auckland Steve Ayris Denise Reaney	25	<i>Stocksbridge & Upper Don Ward</i> Jack Clarkson Richard Crowther Philip Wood
8	<i>Crookes Ward</i> Rob Frost Anne Murphy Geoff Smith	17	<i>Hillsborough Ward</i> Bob Johnson George Lindars-Hammond Josie Paszek	26	<i>Walkley Ward</i> Olivia Blake Ben Curran Neale Gibson
9	<i>Darnall Ward</i> Harry Harpham Mazher Iqbal Mary Lea	18	<i>Manor Castle Ward</i> Terry Fox Pat Midgley	27	<i>West Ecclesfield Ward</i> John Booker Adam Hurst Alf Meade
				28	<i>Woodhouse Ward</i> Mick Rooney Jackie Satur Ray Satur

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Lord Mayor (Councillor Peter Rippon) and Councillors Jenny Armstrong, David Baker and Ian Saunders.

In the absence of the Lord Mayor (Councillor Peter Rippon) the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Talib Hussain) chaired the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Joe Otten declared a personal interest in item of business number 19 on the Council Summons (Notice of Motion Concerning Health: Primary Care Funding) on the grounds that his wife is a General Practitioner.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Resolved: On the Motion of Councillor Pat Midgley, seconded by Councillor Gill Furniss, that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7 January 2015 be approved as a true and accurate record.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

4.1 Petitions

4.1.1 Petition Requesting the Council to Consider Moving to a System of All-Out Elections Every Four Years

The Council received an electronic petition containing 31 signatures, requesting the Council to consider moving to a system of all-out elections every four years.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Vicky Seddon who stated that the Council was requested to consider moving from elections by thirds to all out elections every 4 years. She stated that not only would this save money but it would better respect and reflect communities. Community cohesion was important and may be lost if ward size was the main criteria for determining ward boundaries. Thankfully, Sheffield had not experienced extreme community tensions which had led to riots in other places. She said that Community Assemblies had been an important way of hearing local people so they were better represented in the political system. All out elections would serve to change the number of councillors to reflect local communities.

Many places had adopted a system of elections every 4 years, including in Wales, Scotland and London Boroughs and there was evidence of a small improvement in voter turnout. This was a decision that was within the Council's own power and would require a two thirds majority, requiring cross party working. An all-out election would take place in 2016 in any case following the outcome of the

boundary review.

The Council referred the petition to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Julie Dore. Councillor Dore responded by thanking the petitioners and Sheffield for Democracy for their contribution to the Boundary Review. The Review considered the boundaries, number of councillors in each ward and the electoral timetable. The review was to conclude in the Autumn and had involved all political parties and the public. The ward boundaries in the City were determined by the Boundary Commission. Councillor Dore stated that she accepted some of the comments which had been made and said that she was proud of the strong community cohesion in the City.

Councillor Dore stated that the Local Area Partnerships, which replaced Community Assemblies aimed to bring together stakeholders in each local area to enable them to work together to deal with the issues particularly affecting those communities. Cabinet in the Community was also a method of engagement that had been introduced in the last few years. Nonetheless she wished to improve how the Council engaged with communities and said that the Council was open to new ideas. She reiterated her gratitude to Sheffield for Democracy for their engagement with the Council.

4.1.2 Petition Requesting Improvements to the Pedestrian Crossing Outside Ecclesall Junior School, Ringinglow Road

The Council received an electronic petition containing 1116 signatures requesting improvements to the pedestrian crossing outside Ecclesall Junior School, Ringinglow Road.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Louise Colegate. She stated that the post of School Crossing Patrol Warden at Ecclesall Junior School had been vacant since the previous post holder had left the post in September 2014. There were numerous incidents involving poor driving outside the School, with cars not stopping whilst children and parents attempted to cross the road and one vehicle had over taken another which had stopped to let people cross at a zebra crossing, which fortunately had not resulted in injuries to those using the crossing at that time. The petition had collected over 1000 signatures in seven weeks. A replacement School Crossing Patrol warden was needed and it was understood that an advertisement had been placed on 3 February.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Jayne Dunn, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene. Councillor Dunn confirmed that the vacancy for a School Crossing patrol Warden had been advertised and said that she hoped a successful recruitment would be made to the post. A 20 mph zone for the area was in the programme, although it was dependent upon available funding. The requests for a crossing and speed indication device would be assessed.

4.1.3 Petition Requesting Double Yellow Lines at the Junction of Westwick Road and Westwick Crescent

The Council received a petition containing 176 signatures requesting double yellow lines at the junction of Westwick Road and Westwick Crescent.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Mick Thomas who stated that the petition concerned the junction of Westwick Road and Westwick Crescent being made unsafe by vehicles parking on corners close to the junction and obscuring the view of approaching traffic. Although there were already single yellow lines, these were ignored. There had been a number of damage only accidents but there had been no reports of accidents involving injury or fatality. However, there was a real concern that it was only a matter of time before a serious accident occurred. The petition requested the painting of double yellow lines on all four corners of the junction approximately 10 to 15 metres into the adjoining roads. It was hoped that this would improve the view for motorists. Local shopkeepers had expressed the view that this would not interfere with access to their businesses.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Jayne Dunn, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene. Councillor Dunn confirmed that double yellow lines would be installed at the junction, having spoken with Council Officers about this matter.

4.1.4 Petition Requesting the Council's Support for Chapeltown Juniors FC in Taking the Tenancy of Steel City Sports Ground

The Council received a petition containing 596 signatures requesting the Council's support for Chapeltown Juniors FC in taking the tenancy of Steel City Sports Ground.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Mark Ashforth who stated that Chapeltown Juniors FC comprised 8 teams with approximately 120 players aged between 6 and 18 years. The football club had rented pitches from Sheffield Parks and Countryside for some 20 years the quality of which had slowly degraded. Top soil had been requested in order that the surface of the pitch could be maintained and it could be kept in a playable condition. However, the pitches in Ecclesfield Park were also used by other more senior teams and this caused further damage to the playing surface and meant that it was sometimes dangerous for young players.

Chapeltown Juniors would like to relocate to the Steel City Sports Ground and take over the lease from the City Council for the Steel City Sports Ground and clubhouse on Shiregreen Lane. Support for the initiative had been forthcoming from local elected members, including Councillors Alan Law and Pauline Andrews. The Council Parks and Countryside Service and local Football Association were involved in the project and were also keen to continue other sports at the Sports Ground. It was also hoped that the club house could be reopened to give a base for activities including dance and bingo and that access to football could be widened so as to include females and disabled people. In order to make a bid for Lottery funding, the football club would need a tenancy and letter of comfort. The Steel City site was in disrepair at this time and it was intended to turn this situation around. The tenancy deeds included a clause

related to retaining the site as a sports ground and further detailed discussion was required on this aspect of the site.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Isobel Bowler, the Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure. Councillor Bowler stated that it was absolutely not the intention that the Steel City Sports Ground would not be used as a sports ground and it was recognised as a valuable asset. She thanked all the people who put in time and effort in contributing to and supporting grassroots football in Sheffield. The Football Association had set up a national initiative to invest in grassroots football facilities. Sheffield was the first city in which the programme would be delivered and the first two new football hubs would be created with artificial pitches at Graves Leisure Centre and Thorncliffe Recreation Ground.

Councillor Bowler stated that whilst the pitches at the Steel City Ground were in relatively good condition, the buildings were poor. Councillors Peter Price, Alan Law and Pauline Andrews were all working in respect of a potential lease of the Steel City Ground and in securing future investment. Council officers would also continue to work with them in that regard.

4.1.5 Petition Requesting a Pelican Crossing at the Junction of Duke Street, Bernard Street and Talbot Street

The Council received a joint paper and electronic petition containing 158 signatures requesting a pelican crossing at the junction of Duke Street, Bernard Street and Talbot Street.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Graham Wroe, who stated that the junction of Duke Street, Bernard Street and Talbot Street was dangerous and older people were afraid to cross the road in the absence of a pedestrian crossing. According to information on the 'crash map' website, 16 incidents had been recorded at that location and one had involved serious injury. One lady had fallen on the junction and had received no help from other people. The left turn was not controlled and there was always moving traffic. Vehicles also mounted the pavement and drivers did not always signal.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Jayne Dunn, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene. Councillor Dunn referred to the fact that this issue had been raised with the Council in 2014 and the potential for a crossing had been assessed according to the relevant criteria. She would request that a further assessment was made of the request and noted that the Streets Ahead programme would be in that area in 2016.

4.1.6 Petition Objecting to any Proposals to Demolish Tinsley Youth Club

The Council received a petition containing 42 signatures objecting to any proposals to demolish Tinsley Youth Club.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Adil Mohammed, who stated that the Pavilion at Tinsley was the heart of the community. However, it had been suggested that the Pavilion may be demolished to make way for a car park

at the new school. He said that 40 young people attended each youth session and suggested that the activities undertaken at the Pavilion were expanded. The facility was something which the community did not want to lose and he asked if the Council would rule out any proposal to demolish the Pavilion.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Jackie Drayton, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families. Councillor Drayton thanked the Petitioners for submitting their petition and stated that she knew that young people appreciated the work which took place in the Pavilion. The Pavilion would remain in place and the plans for Tinsley Green and the new school were completely separate. She recognised that people have ideas for the future use of the Pavilion and it was felt that the building was underused at present and stated that its use might be expanded for the benefit of all members of the local community.

4.1.7 Petition Objecting to the Proposed Removal of Grit Bins in the Chancet Wood Area

The Council received a petition containing 80 signatures objecting to the proposed removal of grit bins in the Chancet Wood area.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Wendy Zealand who stated that the proposed removal of grit bins on the Chancet Wood estate would particularly affect the predominantly older population in the area, who may not be able to get out of their homes and may also affect access by carers and health services. Families had difficulty in supporting elderly relatives. The Council was asked to consider keeping the grit bins where they were and not to condemn older people to being housebound in the future. People were willing to help keep the estate accessible in the winter periods and community groups including the Tenants and Residents Association would encourage community spirit.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Jayne Dunn, Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene.

4.1.8 Petition Requesting the Reinstatement of the Grit Bin for Residents of Grassington Way and Leyburn Grove

The Council received a petition containing 36 signatures requesting the reinstatement of the grit bin for residents of Grassington Way and Leyburn Way.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Mrs Stow who stated that Grassington Road and Leyburn Way had a majority of older people aged over 60 years. The roads were located on the brow of a hill and only a 4x4 vehicle would be able to access the road in wintry conditions. There was no windbreak and the windchill made it more difficult for people. In order to access bus routes and shops people had to exit the local roads, which often became icy in colder weather and residents had relied on grit from the bin which had previously been in place. There was concern that access by emergency services, and other services such as district nurses and carers would be compromised when some older residents needed daily care or medication for life threatening illnesses. The Council was asked to consider the additional costs to the NHS in cases where

people had accidents in winter conditions caused by a lack of surface gritting.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Jayne Dunn, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene.

4.1.9 Public Questions Concerning Winter Maintenance

Janet Halse stated that she believed the quality of winter management had deteriorated and she referred to the effect of recent snow on her own family. She asked why the commissioning and monitoring of winter management of highways had left the City in a dangerous state with the Council contact number at Streets Ahead no longer taking public requests to grit very dangerous side roads; shopping areas and main access footpaths never treated; grit bins not being filled as a matter of routine and reliance upon the public identifying a need for more grit; and non-gritting of side roads, meaning that a problematic map of gritting routes had been created. She suggested that a cross city network be created between valleys to help ease gridlock on routes in the valley bottoms.

She urged the Council to review the situation and if necessary create a cross party group including other partners and stakeholders to find a solution and if necessary seek supplementary funding.

Keith Crawshaw stated that he wished to reiterate and support the petition concerning the reinstatement of a grit bin on Grassington Way.

Councillor Jayne Dunn, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene, responded to the two petitions and questions on the subject of winter maintenance. Firstly, she stated that the grit bin on Grassington Way had not met the criteria which had been adopted for the provision of grit bins. The application of the criteria had meant that approximately 120 grit bins had been removed. Councillor Dunn said that a review would be taking place of the provision of grit bins once the winter period had ended and this might result in some bins being relocated. Grit required as dry a surface as possible in order for it to be effective. It took between 8 and 9 hours to grit the network in Sheffield. Grit was most effective where the depth of snow was between 2 to 4 centimetres. It did not work effectively where the depth of snow was much greater. On Boxing Day, the weather had turned quickly from rain to snow and there was not time to grit the whole of the City's network before heavier accumulations of snow occurred. Grit also needed to be worked into the surface and on Boxing Day there were also lighter levels of traffic, so the grit did not become worked in as quickly as it might have been.

4.2 Public Questions

4.2.1 Public Questions Concerning Land Adjacent to 265 Abbey Lane

Liz Jaques stated that the site of land adjacent to 265 Abbey Lane had been identified as being suitable for development for residential use and proposals and recommendations for the disposal of this site were outlined in a report concerning surplus land. She asked why the decision had been identified as being "Non Key"

and made without proper consultation with the local community, local residents, Beauchief Abbey Congregation Committee and Beauchief Environment Group.

Objections had previously been raised in relation to the development of this land in 2008 and the issues put forward at that time were still considered to be relevant. There would be potential loss of open space in a conservation area that is one of Sheffield's oldest Heritage sites and it was argued that the land should remain undeveloped to preserve the view of the Abbey. The Beauchief Environment Group carried out a lot of work, maintenance and conservation work in the area and organised working mornings and petitions were currently being signed opposing development or planning permission.

Pamela Hodgson stated that this area of land should be preserved for the future and it was not sensible to propose alternative use such as for housing. The land adjacent to 265 Abbey Lane provided an open view to one of the City's few heritage sites. The Conservation area abutted the Golf Course and when looking at the site it was clear that it was not suitable to build upon. She asked whether permanent protection could be given to the site.

Councillor Ben Curran, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, responded that a "non key" decision was the class of decision which had been used in this case due to the relatively low land values involved and because the decision was one which would not be considered to have a significant impact on an area of two or more wards. However, it was not a judgement on the heritage value of the site. Councillor Curran stated that local Councillor Roy Munn had raised the issue with him as Cabinet Member, so he was aware of the history and importance of the site. He had now made it clear to Council Officers that he was not content with the decision process in this case both in terms of outcome and consultation. He had instructed Officers not to proceed with the disposal of the site.

4.2.2 Public Question Concerning the Site of the Primary School in Tinsley

Muzafar Rahman expressed concerns at developments in Tinsley, including the siting of industry and the decision to permit the development of an IKEA store, all of which would give rise to increased pollution. There were also other transport developments which would affect the area such as the Bus Rapid Transit link road and High Speed Rail. He referred to the recent decision to create a school in the community park and stated that he felt that the community's voice was not being heard. The park was the only green and tranquil place in the Tinsley area and helped residents with bronchial or other respiratory conditions. He said that other sites were available for the location of the school and asked why the Council was persistent in wishing to build the school within the park.

Councillor Jackie Drayton, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families, responded to the question from Mr Rahman. She thanked him for his question and said that she knew that he cared passionately about his community. There had been a long held wish for a new school in Tinsley, combining the existing infant and junior schools and moving the schools away from the M1 Motorway. All the sites in the area had been investigated in order that a proposal

could be developed. The Council had been pursuing an alternative site but had been told in writing by the owners that the site was not available. Building had to commence as soon as possible, otherwise the extra £1.4 million that was available through extra school places funding would be lost. Therefore a proposal had to be made. Tinsley School was one of the most improved in the country and it provided a wonderful education for its pupils and worked with parents, carers and the community. The proposal was not for a 'superschool' as had been referred to, but to expand the existing Tinsley Green building in the Park and to retain as much of the Park as possible. The school's outdoor areas would be multi-usage for both the school and the community's use and there would be continued community use of the building and community access to the school's amenities. When demolished, the site of the existing Junior School would be retained as green space. Although some people were not supportive of the proposals, it was considered to be the right thing to do for children now and in the future. As the proposals went forward, work with the local community would continue. Councillor Drayton stated that she hoped that Mr Rahman would continue to work for the people in his community.

4.2.3 Public Question Concerning TARA (Tenants and Residents Association)

Martin Brighton asked the following questions concerning a Tenants and Residents Association (TARA).

Mr Brighton asked for it to be noted that his questions were based upon Council public records and Council documents provided through use of the Freedom of Information Act.

He stated that when asked whether the treatment of a TARA was appropriate, the answer in this Chamber was that 'due process' had been followed. He said that disclosed Council documents show the opposite to be the case. Mr Brighton asked can this Chamber ever believe anything said by that person ever again.

Councillor Harry Harpham, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods, stated that Mr Brighton was mistaken in the claim made in the above question. He stated that TARAs were always treated in the appropriate manner. Councillor Harpham said that non-one had ever not been treated properly.

4.2.4 Public Question Concerning Racism Awareness Courses

Martin Brighton stated that when asked in this Chamber whether Racism Awareness Courses had been arranged, to much public fanfare to the attending press and TV cameras, the answer was that they had been arranged. A subsequent reason given for not having them was that holidays had prevented their arrangement. Disclosed information shows that there were never any plans to hold Racism Awareness Courses, and none of the providers had even been contacted. He asked why does this Council Chamber persistently allow such behaviour.

Councillor Harry Harpham, the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member

for Homes and Neighbourhoods, stated that Racism Awareness formed part of the Council's equalities, diversity and inclusion training which was an online training programme and was mandatory for all staff. There were also special courses and e-learning available when particular service areas wished to do it.

4.2.5 Public Questions Concerning Answers to Questions and Behaviour

Martin Brighton stated that month after month in this Chamber, citizens – not only this citizen – have persistently complained that they have not had answers to their questions, and that unanswered questions are merely being parried. Answers are then promised, as recorded in the public record. He said that those answers, despite the repeated promises, have still not been provided.

He asked whether, on this basis any citizen could ever believe anything said in this Chamber, which is brought into disrepute by such behaviour.

Mr Brighton stated that when raising the subject of behaviour, reference is made to the Council's Constitution and the duty of the Monitoring Officer. He stated that given the above, and bearing in mind that all the requisite evidence is within Council documents, why is 'due process' not applied?

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, stated that she did try to understand the questions which Mr Brighton submitted. She said she was clear that he had answers to all of his questions. Where he believed he had not had answers it was in cases where the question was not clear. She said that if Mr Brighton asked a direct question, she would be able to give a direct answer.

Councillor Dore stated that, in relation to behaviour, the Council did make reference to the Council's Constitution and to the role and duties of the Monitoring Officer. Due process was applied and followed. If Mr Brighton believed that not to be the case, Councillor Dore said that he needed to point that out to the Council.

4.2.6 Public Question Concerning Combined Authority

Nigel Slack referred to report in the press that the Derbyshire Councils have reached an agreement with the Government concerning the creation of a combined authority. He asked where this left the Sheffield City Region; will North Derbyshire Councils be 'jumping ship' or will they attempt to operate with 'a foot in each camp'; and continue to benefit from the recent City Deal that the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority had agreed?

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, stated that there had not yet been a clear decision taken about Derbyshire. There were ongoing discussions concerning the position of non-South Yorkshire local authorities in the City Region Combined Authority area. It was likely she said that Mr Slack would be able to find out about this issue relatively quickly as he was likely to attend meetings at which such issues were discussed.

4.2.7 Public Question Concerning Planning Permissions to National Chains

Nigel Slack referred to the application for planning permission for the former St John's Chapel on Sharrow Lane for signage under the Tesco Express name. He said that this would be the seventeenth such store opened in Sheffield in the last 5 years. He commented that chains of this kind took most of their income out of the local economy, as opposed to 85 percent of income retained in the local economy by independent stores and asked if the Council would press the urgent need for a more locally based economic plan alongside attempts to attract outside investment. He asked would it also press, through the Combined Authority, for planning powers to be urgently devolved to the Region to give local people and councils more say in the way development proceeds.

Councillor Leigh Bramall, the Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development, responded that national planning policy stipulated these matters. An evidence base would be required to show a saturation of a particular use. There was he stated a case for devolving some planning powers to a local level. He said that, in Sheffield, a large proportion of businesses were independent. The Council was seeking to promote independent businesses through such initiatives as the RISE Graduate Programme and emphasis on small and medium size enterprises to help them grow. Other initiatives included an export pilot for small and medium size enterprises; the Chapel Walk scheme; the Moor Market; and the imminent launch of a retail policy to promote the use of empty shops. Councillor Bramall stated that a mixture of independent and large scale businesses were required. In Darnall for example, there had been a campaign to retain the Morrison's supermarket as it contributed to the footfall of other retailers. The Council would use its policies to achieve the best outcomes for the City, as far as possible.

Councillor Julie Dore added that through the Combined Authority, greater devolution of powers would be sought in relation to planning. Councillor Dore also referred to the importance of retail chains based locally. For example, there had been a petition to retain the Tesco store on Manor Top as it provided local employment.

5. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

5.1 Urgent Business

There were no questions relating to urgent business under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6(ii)

5.2 Questions

A schedule of questions to Cabinet Members, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16, and which contained written answers, was circulated and supplementary questions under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.4 were asked and were answered by the appropriate Cabinet Members.

5.3 South Yorkshire Joint Authorities

There were no questions relating to the discharge of the functions of the South Yorkshire Joint Authorities for Fire and Rescue or Pensions under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6(i).

6. REPRESENTATION, DELEGATED AUTHORITY AND RELATED ISSUES

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Pat Midgley, seconded by Councillor Gill Furniss, that (a) approval be given to the following changes to the memberships of Boards, etc:

Central Area Lead Ward Member - Councillor Sarah Jane Smalley to replace Councillor Jillian Creasy

Appeals and Collective Disputes Committee - Councillor Brian Webster to replace Councillor Jillian Creasy

Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee - Councillor Jillian Creasy to replace Councillor Brian Webster

(b) that David Baldwin (former Health Service Executive) be re-appointed to serve as a public sector representative on the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel for a full four year term ending 6th February 2019.

7. DESIGNATION OF MONITORING OFFICER

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Julie Dore, seconded by Councillor Colin Ross, that this Council (a) notes that the Senior Officer Employment Committee, at its meeting held on 20th January 2015, appointed Gillian Duckworth to the post of Director of Legal and Governance, and (b) designates the Director of Legal and Governance as the Council's Monitoring Officer with effect from the date of the appointment.

8. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE, HRA BUDGET AND RENT INCREASE 2015-16

It was moved by Councillor Harry Harpham, seconded by Councillor Mary Lea, that the following recommendations of the Cabinet at its meeting on 14th January 2015, in relation to a joint report of the Executive Directors, Communities, Place and Resources providing the 2015/16 update to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and 2015/16 revenue budget for the HRA be approved.

RESOLVED: That this Cabinet recommends to the meeting of the City

Council on 4th February, 2015 that :-

- (a) the HRA Business Plan report for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix A to the report is approved;
- (b) the HRA Revenue Budget for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix B to the report is approved;
- (c) rents for Council dwellings are increased by 2.2% from April 2015;
- (d) rents for garages and garage sites are frozen at 2014/15 levels and not increased from April 2015;
- (e) Community Heating charges are not increased from April 2015;
- (f) the burglar alarm charge which is due to be amended during 2014/15 following a procurement is not increased from April 2015;
- (g) the Sheltered Housing service charge which is due to be amended during 2014/15 is not increased from April 2015;
- (h) charges for temporary accommodation and furnished accommodation are not increased;
- (i) the Director of Commissioning, Communities and the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods, be granted delegated authority to authorise prudential borrowing as allowed under current government guidelines; and
- (j) the specific projects proposed in the report be brought forward for Member approval in accordance with the Council's Capital Approval process as business cases are developed."

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Steve Ayriss, seconded by Councillor Penny Baker, as an amendment, that, with the exception of recommendation (e) relating to Community Heating charges, the recommendations made by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 14th January 2015, concerning the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan, HRA Budget and Rent Increase 2015/16, be approved with the following amendments:-

- (e)(1) that a community heating reserve of £1.5m be retained to address the impact of any future energy price increases and possible changes in demand resulting from the roll out of heating metering; and
- (2) that £0.2m be allocated to facilitate a reduction in the community heating charge to customers;

On being put to the vote, the amendment was negatived.

Following a Right of Reply by Councillor Harry Harpham, the original Motion was put to the vote and carried, as follows:

- RESOLVED: That, as recommended by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 14th January, 2015:-
- (a) the HRA Business Plan report for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted be approved;
 - (b) the HRA Revenue Budget for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix B to the report be approved;
 - (c) rents for Council dwellings be increased by 2.2% from April 2015;
 - (d) rents for garages and garage sites be frozen at 2014/15 levels and not increased from April 2015;
 - (e) Community Heating charges be not increased from April 2015;
 - (f) the burglar alarm charge which is due to be amended during 2014/15 following a procurement be not increased from April 2015;
 - (g) the Sheltered Housing service charge which is due to be amended during 2014/15 be not increased from April 2015;
 - (h) charges for temporary accommodation and furnished accommodation be not increased;
 - (i) the Director of Commissioning, Communities and the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods, be granted delegated authority to authorise prudential borrowing as allowed under current government guidelines; and
 - (j) the specific projects proposed in the report be brought forward for Member approval in accordance with the Council's Capital Approval process as business cases are developed.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR LEIGH BRAMALL

Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District And Sheffield International Economic Commission

It was moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs, that this Council:-

- (a) welcomes the ambitious proposals that have been brought forward by Sheffield and Rotherham to create the first Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District in the UK;

- (b) notes that the aim is to create an Advanced Manufacturing cluster of international scale as well as expertise and welcomes that the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre will soon be enhanced by the development of Factory 2050 which is a key project for the city;
- (c) recalls that Innovation Districts are a geographic area that combines research institutions, innovative firms and business incubators with the benefits of urban living, and unlike traditional science parks, these districts cluster cutting-edge research in geographic areas that are liveable, walkable, bike-able, and transit connected, to create an environment that actively fosters innovation;
- (d) welcomes that the Innovation District was announced at the first part of the Sheffield International Economic Commission launched by the present Administration;
- (e) believes that attracting Bruce Katz, Vice President of the Brookings Institute and author of "The Rise of Innovation Districts" and Kelly Kline, Economic Development Director in the city of Fremont, California, is a big coup for the City and reflects the ambitions of the Commission;
- (f) welcomes the positive reception for the Innovation District and International Economic Commission in local, regional and national media, which is important to enhancing the City's reputation on a national and international stage to attract investment into the city;
- (g) welcomes the partnership working with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, the University of Sheffield and the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre for their work on the visit and the partnership working as part of the Innovation District;
- (h) thanks Sheffield Forgemasters, Alcoa and the Tata Proving Factory at Newburgh Precision for hosting visits as part of the event;
- (i) notes that work with Bruce Katz will continue to drive forward the Innovation District;
- (j) further thanks the Centre for Cities for their support over the coming year on the Commission; and
- (k) agrees to send a letter to Mr Katz and Ms Kline on behalf of the Council thanking them for visiting the city and their contribution to Sheffield's International Economic Commission.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, seconded by Councillor Andrew Sangar, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (b) to (e) as follows, and the relettering of original paragraphs (b) to (k) as new paragraphs (f) to (o):-

- (b) welcomes the support of the Coalition Government and in particular the

Secretary of State for Business, Rt Hon Vince Cable MP, in enabling these developments to take place;

- (c) welcomes the fact that Sheffield is at the heart of a City Region reflective of our economic geography;
- (d) believes that City Regions will represent the future basis of devolved funding from central government;
- (e) notes that as a result of the Sheffield City Region Growth Deal the target is to establish approximately 30,000 more highly skilled jobs to create a more prosperous economy;

On being put to the vote, the amendment as negatived.

Following a Right of Reply by Councillor Leigh Bramall, the original Motion was the put to the vote and carried, as follows:

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) welcomes the ambitious proposals that have been brought forward by Sheffield and Rotherham to create the first Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District in the UK;
- (b) notes that the aim is to create an Advanced Manufacturing cluster of international scale as well as expertise and welcomes that the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre will soon be enhanced by the development of Factory 2050 which is a key project for the city;
- (c) recalls that Innovation Districts are a geographic area that combines research institutions, innovative firms and business incubators with the benefits of urban living, and unlike traditional science parks, these districts cluster cutting-edge research in geographic areas that are liveable, walkable, bike-able, and transit connected, to create an environment that actively fosters innovation;
- (d) welcomes that the Innovation District was announced at the first part of the Sheffield International Economic Commission launched by the present Administration;
- (e) believes that attracting Bruce Katz, Vice President of the Brookings Institute and author of "The Rise of Innovation Districts" and Kelly Kline, Economic Development Director in the city of Fremont, California, is a big coup for the City and reflects the ambitions of the Commission;
- (f) welcomes the positive reception for the Innovation District and International Economic Commission in local, regional and national media, which is important to enhancing the City's reputation on a national and international stage to attract investment into the city;

- (g) welcomes the partnership working with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, the University of Sheffield and the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre for their work on the visit and the partnership working as part of the Innovation District;
- (h) thanks Sheffield Forgemasters, Alcoa and the Tata Proving Factory at Newburgh Precision for hosting visits as part of the event;
- (i) notes that work with Bruce Katz will continue to drive forward the Innovation District;
- (j) further thanks the Centre for Cities for their support over the coming year on the Commission; and
- (k) agrees to send a letter to Mr Katz and Ms Kline on behalf of the Council thanking them for visiting the city and their contribution to Sheffield's International Economic Commission.

(Note: Councillors Pauline Andrews, Jack Clarkson and John Booker voted for paragraphs (a) to (d), (f), (g), (h) and (j) and abstained on paragraphs (e), (i) and (k) of the Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

10. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR GEORGE LINDARS-HAMMOND

Youth Issues

It was moved by Councillor George Lindars-Hammond, seconded by Councillor Adam Hurst, that this Council:-

- (a) recognises that the young people of Sheffield played no part in creating the financial crisis and is therefore appalled at the deep levels of cuts that this Government is subjecting them to;
- (b) condemns this Government's huge reduction in support for young people in all kinds of education, including the tripling of university tuition fees, the removal of Educational Maintenance Allowance, the removal of National Careers Advice funding and deep cuts to funding for 18 year olds in further education;
- (c) further opposes the deep cuts from central Government which affect this Council's ability to fund youth services and activities for young people;
- (d) believes that broken promises made to young people by The Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP and The Rt. Hon. Nick Clegg MP on many of these issues has fundamentally undermined the faith in the political process for

many young people;

- (e) contrasts this Government's cuts to this Council's record of action for young people; creating apprenticeships, starting the innovative RISE internship scheme and helping match young people and local employers through the Skills Made Easy scheme;
- (f) supports the Labour Party's guarantee of a job for every young person out of work and plans for a transformation of vocational education;
- (g) resolves to campaign to highlight the gross unfairness of these cuts and urges all young people to register to vote in the upcoming general election in order to make their voices heard; and
- (h) welcomes that The Rt. Hon. Ed Miliband, MP, highlighted the problems the Government's mismanagement of Individual Electoral Registration is causing, resulting in many people, including students, falling off the register and praised the actions of local partners in Sheffield who have taken action to address this issue including the universities, student union and the Council, and reiterates its support for the work of these organisations.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Joe Otten, seconded by Councillor Colin Ross, as an amendment, that the motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words "That this Council" and the addition of the following words:-

- (a) condemns the record of the last Labour Government of spiralling youth unemployment, rising for 16-17 year olds from a low of 18.0% in 2001 to 36.5% by April 2010, and for 18-24 year olds from 9.9% in 2001 to 17.8% by April 2010, with much of this increase happening before the financial crisis, and believes this shows that Labour do not care about young people;
- (b) welcomes the fall in youth unemployment to 32.1% for 16-17 year olds and 15.1% for 18-24 year olds under the Coalition, recognising that there is much more progress still to be made;
- (c) is concerned at what this Council believes is Labour's populist, punitive "youth tax", which would remove benefits for young people, including "NEET"s, and increase family dependency, potentially coercing many young people into unsuitable training options, with little impact on the benefits bill;
- (d) believes that this turnaround in youth unemployment is due in no small part to the Liberal Democrat priority of boosting skill-rich apprenticeships;
- (e) further believes that Liberal Democrat policies such as increasing the personal tax allowance also have a positive effect on employment rates;
- (f) notes with sadness the extremely high youth unemployment rates in Greece, Spain and Italy, and therefore we should not be seduced by the

appeal of excessive borrowing;

- (g) condemns the hypocrisy of Labour's grandstanding against cuts while at the same time promising further cuts if elected;
- (h) welcomes that despite opposition scaremongering, record numbers of young people are going to university, including record numbers from deprived backgrounds; in 2014, 512,400 applicants were placed in Higher Education through UCAS , the first time the service has placed over a half million people and acceptances from the 18-19 year old age groups increased by 2% despite a falling population in that age group; and particularly welcomes the increase in entry to HE for disadvantaged young people in England, making this group a third more likely to enter university than five years ago;
- (i) notes that Labour's proposal on tuition fees has been condemned by university leaders as implausible, due to the £10bn needed to fund it not being found;
- (j) notes that under that proposal, a cut to the headline fees rate will only benefit higher-earning graduates because lower-earning graduates never repay the full amount, and that Labour's policy therefore only benefits higher earning graduates;
- (k) notes that the previous Labour Government introduced tuition fees and subsequently tripled them;
- (l) welcomes the introduction of the pupil premium, giving extra valuable support to many pupils;
- (m) welcomes free school meals for infant children, saving many hard pressed parents £400 per year; and
- (n) welcomes the Liberal Democrat commitment to protect education spending from cradle to college and ensure that children are taught by a qualified teacher.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was negated.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Sarah Jane Smalley, seconded by Councillor Brian Webster, as an amendment, that the motion now submitted be amended by the relettering of paragraph (h) as a new paragraph (o) and the addition of new paragraphs (h) to (n) as follows:-

- (h) notes that 5th February, 2015 has been designated by Bite the Ballot as National Voter Registration Day;
- (i) believes that it is essential that all those who are eligible to vote know how to register to vote and are not denied the opportunity to exercise this fundamental democratic right;

- (j) commends the work already undertaken by Council officers and partner institutions including the city's Universities and their Students' Unions, to give young people the information they need to register to vote;
- (k) believes that these efforts are particularly important this year, as the introduction of Individual Voter Registration (IVR) risks disenfranchising millions of people, including young people, across the country;
- (l) notes reports from the Electoral Commission that "areas with a high concentration of certain demographics – students, private renters and especially young adults" are at particular risk of seeing the number of registered voters fall significantly under IVR;
- (m) therefore calls upon officers to continue working with partner organisations to ensure that information about both the practicalities and the importance of registering to vote are publicised as widely as possible to all segments of Sheffield's population in the run-up to the 7th May elections and beyond;
- (n) further, calls upon Members of the Council to exercise their responsibility as community leaders by actively promoting voter registration and participation in the democratic process in the communities they represent;

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

Following a Right of Reply by Councillor George Lindars-Hammond, the original Motion, as amended, was put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) recognises that the young people of Sheffield played no part in creating the financial crisis and is therefore appalled at the deep levels of cuts that this Government is subjecting them to;
- (b) condemns this Government's huge reduction in support for young people in all kinds of education, including the tripling of university tuition fees, the removal of Educational Maintenance Allowance, the removal of National Careers Advice funding and deep cuts to funding for 18 year olds in further education;
- (c) further opposes the deep cuts from central Government which affect this Council's ability to fund youth services and activities for young people;
- (d) believes that broken promises made to young people by The Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP and The Rt. Hon. Nick Clegg MP on many of these issues has fundamentally undermined the faith in the political process for many young people;
- (e) contrasts this Government's cuts to this Council's record of action for young

- people; creating apprenticeships, starting the innovative RISE internship scheme and helping match young people and local employers through the Skills Made Easy scheme;
- (f) supports the Labour Party's guarantee of a job for every young person out of work and plans for a transformation of vocational education;
 - (g) resolves to campaign to highlight the gross unfairness of these cuts and urges all young people to register to vote in the upcoming general election in order to make their voices heard;
 - (h) notes that 5th February, 2015 has been designated by Bite the Ballot as National Voter Registration Day;
 - (i) believes that it is essential that all those who are eligible to vote know how to register to vote and are not denied the opportunity to exercise this fundamental democratic right;
 - (j) commends the work already undertaken by Council officers and partner institutions including the city's Universities and their Students' Unions, to give young people the information they need to register to vote;
 - (k) believes that these efforts are particularly important this year, as the introduction of Individual Voter Registration (IVR) risks disenfranchising millions of people, including young people, across the country;
 - (l) notes reports from the Electoral Commission that "areas with a high concentration of certain demographics – students, private renters and especially young adults" are at particular risk of seeing the number of registered voters fall significantly under IVR;
 - (m) therefore calls upon officers to continue working with partner organisations to ensure that information about both the practicalities and the importance of registering to vote are publicised as widely as possible to all segments of Sheffield's population in the run-up to the 7th May elections and beyond;
 - (n) further, calls upon Members of the Council to exercise their responsibility as community leaders by actively promoting voter registration and participation in the democratic process in the communities they represent; and
 - (o) welcomes that The Rt. Hon. Ed Miliband, MP, highlighted the problems the Government's mismanagement of Individual Electoral Registration is causing, resulting in many people, including students, falling off the register and praised the actions of local partners in Sheffield who have taken action to address this issue including the universities, student union and the Council, and reiterates its support for the work of these organisations.

(Notes: 1. Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Richard Shaw, Rob Frost, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Penny Baker, Roger Davison, Diana Stimely,

Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Steve Ayriss, Denise Reaney, Katie Condliffe and Vickie Priestley voted for paragraphs (h) to (n) and against paragraphs (a) to (g) and (o) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.

2. Councillors Pauline Andrews, Jack Clarkson and John Booker voted for paragraphs (a) to (n) and abstained on paragraph (o) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

11. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR VICKIE PRIESTLEY

Winter Maintenance

It was moved by Councillor Vickie Priestley, seconded by Councillor Ian Auckland, that this Council:-

- (a) condemns the current Administration for its ill-considered attempt to save money whilst putting lives and property at risk by reducing the gritting network on Priority 2 routes;
- (b) welcomes the u-turn to reinstate these routes following public pressure and a campaign led by the Liberal Democrats;
- (c) recognises that it is not possible to clear all roads in the first few hours after a snow fall;
- (d) recognises that citizens of Sheffield are willing to help themselves by clearing residential roads;
- (e) however, this task is made more difficult by the removal of 121 grit bins at a saving of only £82 per bin and the undermining of the snow warden scheme; this includes grit bins that have been removed from shopping parades and areas with high numbers of elderly population;
- (f) therefore calls upon the Administration to work with local residents to identify the optimum position for each bin; and
- (g) further calls upon the Administration to immediately reinstate the grit bins and provide the snow wardens with grit.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Jayne Dunn, seconded by Councillor Karen McGowan, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words "That this Council" and the addition of the following words:-

- (a) regrets that Sheffield, like other councils across the country, was forced to find savings after the unprecedented level of cuts imposed on the Council by the Government, of which the Rt. Hon. Nick Clegg MP is Deputy Prime Minister;

- (b) notes reports of the following average reductions in gritting per region over the past 5 years - East Midlands 43.5 per cent, London 37 per cent, the North West 28.3 per cent, East of England 27.4 per cent and Yorkshire and the Humber 27 per cent, and can confirm that in Sheffield the cut is much less than average;
- (c) welcomes that the present Administration reversed cuts to gritting routes in response to the concerns that were raised;
- (d) thanks the people of Sheffield who made a fantastic effort in clearing roads and pavements;
- (e) notes that Sheffield has more grit bins than any other local authority that we are aware of and, despite reducing the number of grit bins by 121, Sheffield still has 1891 grit bins compared to Nottingham which has 180 grit bins, Manchester 180 grit bins and Leeds 1300;
- (f) is appalled at the hypocrisy of the main opposition group and recalls their incompetence in dealing with snow fall, when in 2010 they sold Sheffield's supplies of grit to Rotherham and then complained to the Government that they were running low; and
- (g) notes that issues raised by local people will be taken into consideration as part of the Winter Review, which will help to formulate the plan for next year's winter maintenance, as is the case every year.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

(Note: 1. With the agreement of Council and at the request of Councillor Jayne Dunn, paragraph (f) of the Amendment as printed on the List of Amendments was altered by the deletion of the words "had run out" and their replacement by the words: "were running low".

2. Councillors Pauline Andrews, Jack Clarkson and John Booker voted for paragraphs (c) to (g) and against paragraphs (a) and (b) and asked for this to be recorded.)

Following a Right of Reply by Councillor Vickie Priestley, the original Motion was put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) regrets that Sheffield, like other councils across the country, was forced to find savings after the unprecedented level of cuts imposed on the Council by the Government, of which the Rt. Hon. Nick Clegg MP is Deputy Prime Minister;
- (b) notes reports of the following average reductions in gritting per region over the past 5 years - East Midlands 43.5 per cent, London 37 per cent, the

North West 28.3 per cent, East of England 27.4 per cent and Yorkshire and the Humber 27 per cent, and can confirm that in Sheffield the cut is much less than average;

- (c) welcomes that the present Administration reversed cuts to gritting routes in response to the concerns that were raised;
- (d) thanks the people of Sheffield who made a fantastic effort in clearing roads and pavements;
- (e) notes that Sheffield has more grit bins than any other local authority that we are aware of and, despite reducing the number of grit bins by 121, Sheffield still has 1891 grit bins compared to Nottingham which has 180 grit bins, Manchester 180 grit bins and Leeds 1300;
- (f) is appalled at the hypocrisy of the main opposition group and recalls their incompetence in dealing with snow fall, when in 2010 they sold 200 tonnes of Sheffield's supplies of grit to Rotherham and then complained to the Government that they were running low; and
- (g) notes that issues raised by local people will be taken into consideration as part of the Winter Review, which will help to formulate the plan for next year's winter maintenance, as is the case every year.

(Notes: 1. Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Richard Shaw, Rob Frost, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Penny Baker, Roger Davison, Diana Stimely, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Steve Ayris, Denise Reaney, Katie Condliffe and Vickie Priestley voted for paragraphs (c) and (d) and against paragraphs (a), (b) and (e) to (g) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.

2. Councillors Jillian Creasy, Robert Murphy, Sarah Jane Smalley and Brian Webster voted for paragraphs (a) to (e) and (g) and abstained on paragraph (f) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

12. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JULIE DORE

Welfare Reform

It was moved by Councillor Julie Dore, seconded by Councillor Geoff Smith, that this Council:-

- (a) notes the recent report by the London School of Economics "Were we really all in it together? The distributional effects of the UK Coalition Government's tax-benefit policy changes";
- (b) notes that the analysis from the report shows:

- (i) the outcome for those in the bottom half of incomes is in contrast to those in the top half of incomes, who gained from direct tax cuts, with the exception of most of the top 5 percent – although within this 5 percent group, those at the very top gained, because of the cut in the top rate of income tax;
 - (ii) in total, the changes are cost neutral and have not contributed to cutting the deficit; rather, the savings from reducing benefits and tax credits have been offset by the costs of raising the tax-free income tax allowance and lowering the top rate of income tax allowance, giving tax cuts to millionaires; and
 - (iii) the analysis challenges the idea that those with incomes in the top tenth have lost as great a share of their incomes as those with the lowest incomes;
- (c) believes that this report conclusively proves that we are not all in it together and the Government has made these cuts not to reduce the deficit but to redistribute money from the poorest to the wealthiest in society;
 - (d) is extremely concerned about the impact that these policies are having in Sheffield and is concerned that child poverty is rising as a result and inequalities are increasing;
 - (e) notes the recent research commissioned by the Council and published by Sheffield Hallam University, about the impact of welfare reform on Sheffield, which highlighted that:
 - (i) some local communities are hit by welfare reform five times harder than others;
 - (ii) just under half of the financial loss from welfare reform will fall on working households;
 - (iii) couples with children are losing an average of nearly £1,700 a year;
 - (iv) lone parents are losing over £2,000 a year; and
 - (v) men and women with health problems or disabilities are significantly disadvantaged;
 - (f) believes this research proves conclusively that the cuts to welfare are hitting the poorest in our city the hardest;
 - (g) notes that the report proves that the welfare reform impacts most on the poorest parts of the city, including Burngreave, Manor, Southey and Firth Park;
 - (h) notes that proportionately, Sheffield is not hit harder than other big towns

and cities in the north of England by the cuts to welfare, so this is something that other comparable cities will also be experiencing, however the financial loss is far above the level in many parts of the south outside London, which is another example of the Government disproportionately targeting pain towards the north of England; and

- (i) believes it is clear that these welfare cuts are ideological; they are not about cutting the deficit but redistributing money away from some of the poorest people in our society to the richest.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Joe Otten, seconded by Councillor Steve Ayris, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraphs (b) to (i) and the addition of new paragraphs (b) to (h) as follows:-

- (b) notes however that this report did not take into account that there is less money available to spend in total because of the record public sector deficit in 2010, and that if more were to be spent on welfare, this would have to be found from other spending areas such as local government, health or education;
- (c) notes the Labour Party's risible attempts at cynical positioning on this issue of talking tough on welfare while opposing any specific measures and offering no alternatives;
- (d) notes that under the previous Government, fuel bills spiralled, Council Tax doubled, fuel duty increased on 12 occasions, inequality increased and the 10p tax rate was abolished - doubling income tax on the lowest paid;
- (e) welcomes the income tax cut of £800 for the typical tax payer, and taking 2.7 million of the poorest people out of paying any income tax at all;
- (f) welcomes free school meals for 4 to 7 year olds, saving parents £400 per year per child;
- (g) notes that in 2014, the country has seen the largest annual fall in unemployment on record, with the large majority of new jobs being full time; and
- (h) believes that there is a long way still to go in reducing unemployment and poverty and making the tax system fairer.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was negatived.

It was then moved by Councillor Sarah Jane Smalley, seconded by Councillor Jillian Creasy, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (j) to (u) as follows:-

- (j) notes from The Convenient Truth by Wilkinson and Pickett, published by the Fabian Society that " Although economic development is what has

transformed the real quality of life during the last couple of centuries.... evidence shows very clearly that in the rich countries economic growth no longer drives measures of wellbeing” and “Greater equality is then a key objective, not only because it reduces social dysfunction and improves health and wellbeing, but also because it makes it possible to overcome some of the main obstacles to sustainability”;

- (k) notes research from The Equality Trust, which states that the wealth of Britain’s richest 100 people now almost equals that of a third of all households put together;
- (l) notes Joseph Rowntree Foundation Research published in January which shows that eight million people are living on family incomes considered inadequate for a “socially acceptable standard of living”, a rise of almost a third since 2009;
- (m) notes the work which has been done to date in Sheffield to reduce inequality;
- (n) welcomes the fact that Sheffield City Council has a pay ratio of 1:10;
- (o) welcomes the launch of the “Our Fair City” campaign;
- (p) notes the Sheffield Fairness Commission recommendation that “substantial progress” be made on paying a Living Wage in the public sector by 2015 (including contractors) and for all employers in the city to be paying the Living Wage by 2023;
- (q) notes with concern that whilst Sheffield City Council has implemented a Living Wage for the staff it directly employs, work remains “on-going” with contractors and no firm overall or time-commitment has been made to ensure all contractors adopt the Living Wage;
- (r) praises Glasgow City Council for now obliging all its contractors to pay the Living Wage;
- (s) notes that Brighton & Hove City Council is accredited as a Living Wage Employer by the Living Wage Foundation, which means that they have a plan for ensuring that all contractors pay the Living Wage as and when contracts come up for renewal, and that new contractors pay the Living Wage;
- (t) makes a real commitment to reducing inequality in Sheffield by requesting that the Administration puts a plan in place to become accredited as a Living Wage Employer by the Living Wage Foundation; and
- (u) encourages its partners on the Sheffield First Partnership Board, including the Sheffield Universities, to commit to reducing inequality in Sheffield by ensuring that they have pay ratios of 1:10 or less.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was negatived.

The original Motion was then put to the vote and carried, as follows:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes the recent report by the London School of Economics “Were we really all in it together? The distributional effects of the UK Coalition Government’s tax-benefit policy changes”;
- (b) notes that the analysis from the report shows:
 - (i) the outcome for those in the bottom half of incomes is in contrast to those in the top half of incomes, who gained from direct tax cuts, with the exception of most of the top 5 percent – although within this 5 percent group, those at the very top gained, because of the cut in the top rate of income tax;
 - (ii) in total, the changes are cost neutral and have not contributed to cutting the deficit; rather, the savings from reducing benefits and tax credits have been offset by the costs of raising the tax-free income tax allowance and lowering the top rate of income tax allowance, giving tax cuts to millionaires; and
 - (iii) the analysis challenges the idea that those with incomes in the top tenth have lost as great a share of their incomes as those with the lowest incomes;
- (c) believes that this report conclusively proves that we are not all in it together and the Government has made these cuts not to reduce the deficit but to redistribute money from the poorest to the wealthiest in society;
- (d) is extremely concerned about the impact that these policies are having in Sheffield and is concerned that child poverty is rising as a result and inequalities are increasing;
- (e) notes the recent research commissioned by the Council and published by Sheffield Hallam University, about the impact of welfare reform on Sheffield, which highlighted that:
 - (i) some local communities are hit by welfare reform five times harder than others;
 - (ii) just under half of the financial loss from welfare reform will fall on working households;
 - (iii) couples with children are losing an average of nearly £1,700 a year;
 - (iv) lone parents are losing over £2,000 a year; and

- (v) men and women with health problems or disabilities are significantly disadvantaged;
- (f) believes this research proves conclusively that the cuts to welfare are hitting the poorest in our city the hardest;
- (g) notes that the report proves that the welfare reform impacts most on the poorest parts of the city, including Burngreave, Manor, Southey and Firth Park;
- (h) notes that proportionately, Sheffield is not hit harder than other big towns and cities in the north of England by the cuts to welfare, so this is something that other comparable cities will also be experiencing, however the financial loss is far above the level in many parts of the south outside London, which is another example of the Government disproportionately targeting pain towards the north of England; and
- (i) believes it is clear that these welfare cuts are ideological; they are not about cutting the deficit but redistributing money away from some of the poorest people in our society to the richest.

(Note: Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Richard Shaw, Rob Frost, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Penny Baker, Roger Davison, Diana Stimely, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Steve Ayris, Denise Reaney, Katie Condliffe and Vickie Priestley voted for paragraph (a) and against paragraphs (b) to (i) of the Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

13. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR PAT MIDGLEY

Cathedral Archer Project

RESOLVED: On Motion of Councillor Pat Midgley, seconded by Councillor Sheila Constance, that this Council:-

- (a) notes the 25th anniversary of the Cathedral Archer Project was marked on 25th November last year;
- (b) pays tribute to the contribution that the Project has made to the city, providing a range of services for homeless people including:
 - Assessment and signposting to appropriate service providers
 - 1:1 support
 - In-house nurse and dental clinics
 - Access to hot food, drinks and food parcels
 - Showers and laundry
 - A programme of activities to help people learn skills and enjoy new experiences
 - The chance to gain accredited awards
 - A structured volunteer programme which helps people to gain

- structure in their lives.
 - Support to attend drug and alcoholic treatment services
 - Access to computers and telephones
- (c) welcomes that the work of the Project has evolved over the 25 years of work, and in the words of the Project itself “it’s not just food we give anymore. In fact the most important thing we give is a new opportunity. Year by year lives change and people move on.”;
- (d) notes that the success of the Project is dependent upon the contribution of Sheffield people through their voluntary work and donations and thanks local people for their contribution to making the Project successful; and
- (e) thanks everyone involved in the Project for their contributions and directs that a copy of this motion be passed on to the Cathedral Archer Project.

14. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JOE OTTEN

Local Government Funding

It was moved by Councillor Joe Otten, seconded by Councillor Roger Davison, that this Council:-

- (a) notes the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Rt. Hon. Ed Balls MP’s admission, in The Telegraph newspaper on 5th January 2015, that he would, given the chance, cut another £3.3bn from local government;
- (b) notes that Labour Councillors noted the Shadow Chancellor’s previous comments about having to “keep all these cuts” in passing an amendment to a motion on public spending reductions at the Council meeting in February 2012;
- (c) notes a number of resolutions passed by this Council blaming the Coalition Government for the response to the fiscal consequences of the record deficit of 2008 that was created under the Labour Government;
- (d) notes the frequent grandstanding on the subject of cuts to local government by members of the Administration, and fears that some people may be misled into thinking that the Labour Party would not make further cuts to local government; and
- (e) believes that, in spite of the rhetoric in this chamber, it is clear that any statements made that give the impression that the cuts would disappear if there was a change to a Labour Government, are unlikely to be true.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Ben Curran, seconded by Councillor Cate McDonald, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words “That this Council” and the addition of the following words:-

- (a) regrets that the present Government have made unfair cuts to local government funding, targeting cuts at Sheffield, and is appalled that the Liberal Democrats have allowed the Government to cut parts of the country with the highest levels of deprivation the most;
- (b) notes that this Government have comprehensively failed to eliminate the deficit and regrets that a future Labour Government would have to deal with the position it inherits from this Government;
- (c) regrets that the cuts of this Government have been overwhelmingly targeted at northern cities such as Sheffield at the same time as some of the wealthiest parts of the country have received a fraction of the cuts;
- (d) regrets that the Liberal Democrats have stood up for the Deputy Prime Minister at the expense of standing up for Sheffield and refused to back the Fair Deal for Sheffield Campaign calling for a fairer funding distribution, which has been supported by over 10,000 Sheffield people; and
- (e) welcomes the Labour Party's announcement that they will scrap the New Homes Bonus, to provide a fairer funding formula and notes that the New Homes Bonus is another Government policy that takes money away from Sheffield to redistribute it to some of the wealthiest areas of the country and believes that this is already a demonstration of intent for how Labour would give Sheffield a fairer deal.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

The original Motion, as amended, was then put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) regrets that the present Government have made unfair cuts to local government funding, targeting cuts at Sheffield, and is appalled that the Liberal Democrats have allowed the Government to cut parts of the country with the highest levels of deprivation the most;
- (b) notes that this Government have comprehensively failed to eliminate the deficit and regrets that a future Labour Government would have to deal with the position it inherits from this Government;
- (c) regrets that the cuts of this Government have been overwhelmingly targeted at northern cities such as Sheffield at the same time as some of the wealthiest parts of the country have received a fraction of the cuts;
- (d) regrets that the Liberal Democrats have stood up for the Deputy Prime Minister at the expense of standing up for Sheffield and refused to back the Fair Deal for Sheffield Campaign calling for a fairer funding distribution,

which has been supported by over 10,000 Sheffield people; and

- (e) welcomes the Labour Party's announcement that they will scrap the New Homes Bonus, to provide a fairer funding formula and notes that the New Homes Bonus is another Government policy that takes money away from Sheffield to redistribute it to some of the wealthiest areas of the country and believes that this is already a demonstration of intent for how Labour would give Sheffield a fairer deal.

(Note: Councillors Jillian Creasy, Robert Murphy, Sarah Jane Smalley and Brian Webster voted for paragraph (c) and abstained on paragraphs (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

15. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR SARAH JANE SMALLEY

Living Wage

It was moved by Councillor Sarah Jane Smalley, seconded by Councillor Brian Webster, that this Council:-

- (a) notes from *The Convenient Truth* by Wilkinson and Pickett, published by the Fabian Society, that "Although economic development is what has transformed the real quality of life during the last couple of centuries.... evidence shows very clearly that in the rich countries economic growth no longer drives measures of wellbeing" and "Greater equality is then a key objective, not only because it reduces social dysfunction and improves health and wellbeing, but also because it makes it possible to overcome some of the main obstacles to sustainability";
- (b) notes research from The Equality Trust, which states that the wealth of Britain's richest 100 people now almost equals that of a third of all households put together;
- (c) notes Joseph Rowntree Foundation Research published in January which shows that eight million people are living on family incomes considered inadequate for a "socially acceptable standard of living", a rise of almost a third since 2009;
- (d) notes the work which has been done to date in Sheffield to reduce inequality;
- (e) welcomes the fact that Sheffield City Council has a pay ratio of 1:10;
- (f) welcomes the launch of the "Our Fair City" campaign;
- (g) notes the Sheffield Fairness Commission recommendation that "substantial progress" be made on paying a Living Wage in the public sector by 2015 (including contractors) and for all employers in the city to

be paying the Living Wage by 2023;

- (h) notes with concern that whilst Sheffield City Council has implemented a Living Wage for the staff it directly employs, work remains “on-going” with contractors and no firm overall or time-commitment has been made to ensure all contractors adopt the Living Wage;
- (i) praises Glasgow City Council for now obliging all its contractors to pay the Living Wage;
- (j) notes that Brighton and Hove City Council is accredited as a Living Wage Employer by the Living Wage Foundation, which means that they have a plan for ensuring that all contractors pay the Living Wage as and when contracts come up for renewal, and that new contractors pay the Living Wage;
- (k) makes a real commitment to reducing inequality in Sheffield by requesting that the Administration puts a plan in place to become accredited as a Living Wage Employer by the Living Wage Foundation; and
- (l) encourages its partners on the Sheffield First Partnership Board, including the Sheffield Universities, to commit to reducing inequality in Sheffield by ensuring that they have pay ratios of 1:10 or less.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Ben Curran, seconded by Councillor Mazher Iqbal, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the insertion, after the words “Fabian Society” in paragraph (a), of the words “which is affiliated to the Labour Party”;
2. the deletion of paragraphs (h) to (k) and the addition of new paragraphs (h) to (j) as follows:-
 - (h) welcomes the leadership demonstrated by the present Administration to implement the Living Wage within the Council at a time of unprecedented budget cuts;
 - (i) reaffirms that significant progress has been made in implementing the Living Wage with contractors, noting that the vast majority of the Council’s major contractors are now paying the Living Wage for staff employed as part of that contract;
 - (j) notes that the present Administration is already in dialogue with the Living Wage Foundation about Living Wage accreditation; and
3. the relettering of paragraph (l) as a new paragraph (k).

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

It was then moved by Councillor Joe Otten, seconded by Councillor Richard Shaw, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words "That this Council" and the addition of the following words:-

- (a) believes that economic growth is vital in extending opportunity and giving everyone a chance to get on in life;
- (b) believes that if Sheffield were more successful in attracting big money investment employing highly paid workers, this would be good for the city's economy and people; and
- (c) is concerned that if economic growth was curtailed as a matter of policy, deficit financing of public spending would be much more difficult, and so a low growth policy would have to be accompanied by immediate swingeing cuts to public spending to prevent a debt crisis, and would forego the proceeds of a growing economy in the future being used to improve public services.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was negated.

The original Motion, as amended, was then put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes from *The Convenient Truth* by Wilkinson and Pickett, published by the Fabian Society, which is affiliated to the Labour Party, that "Although economic development is what has transformed the real quality of life during the last couple of centuries.... evidence shows very clearly that in the rich countries economic growth no longer drives measures of wellbeing" and "Greater equality is then a key objective, not only because it reduces social dysfunction and improves health and wellbeing, but also because it makes it possible to overcome some of the main obstacles to sustainability";
- (b) notes research from The Equality Trust, which states that the wealth of Britain's richest 100 people now almost equals that of a third of all households put together;
- (c) notes Joseph Rowntree Foundation Research published in January which shows that eight million people are living on family incomes considered inadequate for a "socially acceptable standard of living", a rise of almost a third since 2009;
- (d) notes the work which has been done to date in Sheffield to reduce inequality;
- (e) welcomes the fact that Sheffield City Council has a pay ratio of 1:10;

- (f) welcomes the launch of the “Our Fair City” campaign;
- (g) notes the Sheffield Fairness Commission recommendation that “substantial progress” be made on paying a Living Wage in the public sector by 2015 (including contractors) and for all employers in the city to be paying the Living Wage by 2023;
- (h) welcomes the leadership demonstrated by the present Administration to implement the Living Wage within the Council at a time of unprecedented budget cuts;
- (i) reaffirms that significant progress has been made in implementing the Living Wage with contractors, noting that the vast majority of the Council’s major contractors are now paying the Living Wage for staff employed as part of that contract;
- (j) notes that the present Administration is already in dialogue with the Living Wage Foundation about Living Wage accreditation; and
- (k) encourages its partners on the Sheffield First Partnership Board, including the Sheffield Universities, to commit to reducing inequality in Sheffield by ensuring that they have pay ratios of 1:10 or less.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JOHN BOOKER

Housing Development

It was moved by Councillor John Booker, seconded by Councillor Jack Clarkson, that this Council:-

- (a) regrets that housing services cannot cope with constantly rising numbers of people coming to live and work in the UK;
- (b) recognises that the infrastructure is being constantly stretched by the strain on sewers, drainage, road and rail links, local amenities, and power supplies;
- (c) is frustrated by constantly changing Planning announcements, and therefore requests that the Administration prepares, produces and funds a full and comprehensive report on all brownfield sites within the City Council boundary and that the results are made public for a conciliation period in line with local draft plans for development in the area;
- (d) (i) requests that the report includes the size of brownfield sites in hectares and the ratio of houses per hectare if applied for new development; in addition the associated cost for any reclamation to make these brownfield sites usable, versus the Capital Gains Tax (or equivalent) figures per acre

compared to earmarked designated green belt sites per acre; noting that this comparison will provide prospective developers with an alternative development consideration and (ii) notes that this motion is in line with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) guidelines of using first any previously used land and preserving "Localism" by not joining well established communities into one urban landscape by destroying greenbelt;

- (e) is concerned that the NPPF can be misused by councils, giving them a free hand to redefine green belt boundaries and shelve brownfield sites, and that this allows Capital Gains Tax to be made on greenbelt land sales to developers in comparison to brownfield sites that may require reclamation in some way;
- (f) also notes that each County has its own unique system of available sites for development, and that South Yorkshire has the South Yorkshire Coalfield and the almost extinct steel industry, with hundreds of hectares of available land for redevelopment, and that these should not be left in the local government recycle bin;
- (g) agrees with local MP Clive Betts' recent statement that "The NPPF has brought welcome simplification to the planning system, but the Government must strengthen the planning framework to tackle emerging concerns about inappropriate and unsustainable development"; and
- (h) is concerned that the Government is now riding roughshod over local people's wishes, with mass house building that has become a Developers Charter, without the new services to go with it.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Harry Harpham, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words "That this Council" and the addition of the following words:-

- (a) regrets the number of new homes being built across our country has steadily dwindled to the point where this Government is presiding over the lowest level of house building in peacetime since the 1920s;
- (b) further regrets that just 115,000 homes were completed over the past year, which isn't even half the number of homes the country needs to keep up with demand, and by 2020 there will be a shortage of over 2 million homes across the country;
- (c) believes that this Motion claims that the sewerage system and power supply is under strain due to immigration, and that this is reminiscent of the Leader of the UKIP Party, Nigel Farage's claim that increased traffic on the M4 is due to immigration, and believes that this completely fails to address the real causes of the housing crisis;
- (d) confirms that the Council already has a plan with all brownfield sites

available for development as part of the Local Plan and notes that under the National Planning Policy Framework, if the Council did not put a Local Plan in place, permission could be given for developers to build on any land; and

- (e) welcomes the Lyons Housing Report and welcomes that the Labour Party is committed to getting 200,000 homes built a year by 2020 and a long term goal that will see a doubling of the number of first-time buyers within a decade and meet housing need for the first time in fifty years.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

(Note: Councillors Jillian Creasy, Robert Murphy, Sarah Jane Smalley and Brian Webster voted for paragraphs (a), (b) and (d) and abstained on paragraphs (c) and (e) of the above amendment and asked for this to be recorded.)

It was then moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, seconded by Councillor Ian Auckland, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words "That this Council" and the addition of the following words:-

- (a) notes the rise in new house building across the country over the past three years, but accepts there is still more to be done to reach the 250,000 new homes per year which many housing policy groups have been calling for over the past decade;
- (b) welcomes the Government's Affordable Homes Programme which is on track to deliver 170,000 new homes for rent and sale across the country by May 2015; and
- (c) supports Sheffield's long standing commitment to build the vast majority of new homes on brownfield land and re-affirms its commitment to this in the new Sheffield Local Plan currently being consulted upon.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was negated.

The original Motion, as amended, was then put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) regrets the number of new homes being built across our country has steadily dwindled to the point where this Government is presiding over the lowest level of house building in peacetime since the 1920s;
- (b) further regrets that just 115,000 homes were completed over the past year, which isn't even half the number of homes the country needs to keep up with demand, and by 2020 there will be a shortage of over 2 million homes across the country;
- (c) believes that this Motion claims that the sewerage system and power

supply is under strain due to immigration, and that this is reminiscent of the Leader of the UKIP Party, Nigel Farage's claim that increased traffic on the M4 is due to immigration, and believes that this completely fails to address the real causes of the housing crisis;

- (d) confirms that the Council already has a plan with all brownfield sites available for development as part of the Local Plan and notes that under the National Planning Policy Framework, if the Council did not put a Local Plan in place, permission could be given for developers to build on any land; and
- (e) welcomes the Lyons Housing Report and welcomes that the Labour Party is committed to getting 200,000 homes built a year by 2020 and a long term goal that will see a doubling of the number of first-time buyers within a decade and meet housing need for the first time in fifty years.

(Note: 1. Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Richard Shaw, Rob Frost, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Penny Baker, Roger Davison, Diana Stimely, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Steve Ayriss, Denise Reaney, Katie Condliffe and Vickie Priestley voted for paragraphs (c) and (d) and against paragraphs (a), (b) and (e) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.

2. Councillors Jillian Creasy, Robert Murphy, Sarah Jane Smalley and Brian Webster voted for paragraphs (a), (b) and (d) and abstained on paragraphs (c) and (e) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

17. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR BRIAN WEBSTER

Voter Registration

It was moved by Councillor Brian Webster, seconded by Councillor Sarah Jane Smalley, that this Council:-

- (a) notes that 5th February 2015 has been designated by Bite the Ballot as National Voter Registration Day;
- (b) believes that it is essential that all those who are eligible to vote know how to register to vote and are not denied the opportunity to exercise this fundamental democratic right;
- (c) commends the work already undertaken by Council officers and partner institutions, including the city's Universities and their Students' Unions, to give people the information they need to register to vote;
- (d) believes that these efforts are particularly important this year, as the introduction of Individual Voter Registration (IVR) risks disenfranchising millions of people across the country;

- (e) notes reports from the Electoral Commission that "areas with a high concentration of certain demographics – students, private renters and especially young adults" are at particular risk of seeing the number of registered voters fall significantly under IVR;
- (f) therefore calls upon officers to continue working with partner organisations to ensure that information about both the practicalities and the importance of registering to vote are publicised as widely as possible to all segments of Sheffield's population in the run-up to the May 7th elections and beyond; and
- (g) further, calls upon Members of the Council to exercise their responsibility as community leaders by actively promoting voter registration and participation in the democratic process in the communities they represent

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Mazher Iqbal, seconded by Councillor Cate McDonald, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by

1.the addition of a new paragraph (c) as follows, and the relettering of original paragraphs (c) to (g) as new paragraphs (d) to (h);

(c) welcomes the action taken by the present Administration, prioritising extra action for voter registration, including funding extra investment activity from the money set aside by the Administration to support the recommendations of the Fairness Commission;

2. the addition of a new paragraph (i) as follows:-

(i) is therefore appalled by the lack of leadership shown by a senior Green Councillor who admitted that he did not vote in the recent Police and Crime Commissioner Election, and believes this sets an appalling example and is nothing more than cynical political positioning, and calls on any councillor who failed to vote to apologise.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

The original Motion, as amended, was then put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes that 5th February 2015 has been designated by Bite the Ballot as National Voter Registration Day;
- (b) believes that it is essential that all those who are eligible to vote know how to register to vote and are not denied the opportunity to exercise this fundamental democratic right;

- (c) welcomes the action taken by the present Administration, prioritising extra action for voter registration, including funding extra investment activity from the money set aside by the Administration to support the recommendations of the Fairness Commission;
- (d) commends the work already undertaken by Council officers and partner institutions, including the city's Universities and their Students' Unions, to give people the information they need to register to vote;
- (e) believes that these efforts are particularly important this year, as the introduction of Individual Voter Registration (IVR) risks disenfranchising millions of people across the country;
- (f) notes reports from the Electoral Commission that "areas with a high concentration of certain demographics – students, private renters and especially young adults" are at particular risk of seeing the number of registered voters fall significantly under IVR;
- (g) therefore calls upon officers to continue working with partner organisations to ensure that information about both the practicalities and the importance of registering to vote are publicised as widely as possible to all segments of Sheffield's population in the run-up to the May 7th elections and beyond;
- (h) further, calls upon Members of the Council to exercise their responsibility as community leaders by actively promoting voter registration and participation in the democratic process in the communities they represent; and
- (i) is therefore appalled by the lack of leadership shown by a senior Green Councillor who admitted that he did not vote in the recent Police and Crime Commissioner Election, and believes this sets an appalling example and is nothing more than cynical political positioning, and calls on any councillor who failed to vote to apologise.

(Notes: 1. Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Richard Shaw, Rob Frost, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Penny Baker, Roger Davison, Diana Stimely, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Steve Ayriss, Denise Reaney, Katie Condliffe and Vickie Priestley voted for paragraphs (a) to (h) and against paragraph (i) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.

2. Councillors Jillian Creasy, Robert Murphy, Sarah Jane Smalley and Brian Webster voted for paragraphs (a) to (h) and against paragraph (i) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

18. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR PAULINE ANDREWS

Future Of Steel City Sports Ground

It was moved by Councillor Pauline Andrews, seconded by Councillor Jack Clarkson, that this Council:-

- (a) calls on the Administration to support Chapeltown Juniors Football Club, established in 1983, to enable them to take over the lease from the City Council for the Steel City Sports Ground and clubhouse on Shiregreen Lane;
- (b) notes that the lease of this site is available due to the previous tenant leaving in February 2014, and that although there are a few groups that still use the grounds to train, this isn't a problem as access could be negotiated;
- (c) recognises the need for good quality football training to take place and be increased, or our great sporting city of Sheffield will be left behind, and notes that Chapeltown Juniors play in Sheffield & District Junior Sunday League, which is possibly the biggest junior league in Europe;
- (d) notes that, for 29 years, the Football Club has played in Ecclesfield Park, which is a public park and is no longer suitable for the Club, as it is not big enough to meet the needs of 140 children, enabling them to move forward, play and progress, and also to develop the players;
- (e) believes that physical education is just as important as being academic and should be part of the learning and understanding skills for everyday life, and that physical development of young people promotes a healthy, moral, mental, positive attitude as well as self-discipline and self-worth;
- (f) calls upon the Administration to support the coaches and officials of the Football Club to carry on their great work in training these children and young people aged 5 to 18 years, noting that the Club officials are committed and deserve recognition for giving up their own free time which cannot be easy, when working full time;
- (g) welcomes that the site and the building would continue to be used, focusing on sport, and that the site could also be used for many other sporting activities such as cricket, bowls and other field sports, as well as the hub of community life, incorporating into the social club, activities such as lunch clubs, meeting places, weddings, parties, youth activities, older people's clubs, and back to work clubs;
- (h) further notes the backing of the Football Association, Children's Hospital Charity, Unison, Sheffield F.A., South Yorkshire Police and Fire and Rescue, and that funding is available to support the project, but it cannot proceed forward without the support of the Council and a proposed lease;
- (i) is concerned and bemused that, despite numerous meetings with Councillors and officers from the Parks and Countryside Service, the project seems to have come to a standstill, whereas officials of the Club are very keen to push this forward which would be a great asset to the

Shiregreen community, with the potential to bring jobs, but without the Council's support for the lease, applications for funding cannot proceed;

- (j) is further concerned that, as the months go by, the site may fall into further disrepair, being vandalised and trashed, costing more money to restore the grounds or repair the building; and
- (k) welcomes the Club's aim to start a girls/women's football team, and also a football team for people with disabilities, and, for the less active, a walking team aimed at the over 50s, to enhance their quality of life.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Alan Law, seconded by Councillor Peter Price, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words "That this Council" and the addition of the following words:-

- (a) notes that football is a major participation sport in the city, with over 800 teams, of which over 500 are junior/youth teams;
- (b) regrets that, in common with other core cities, Sheffield's football pitches and changing facilities are under severe pressure from Government budget cuts;
- (c) welcomes that the governing body for football in England, The Football Association, has recognised these pressures on grassroots football and in response has launched a national initiative to invest in grassroots facilities;
- (d) further welcomes the decision of the FA that Sheffield should be the first city in which they deliver their programme;
- (e) further welcomes the investment of £9.6 million to support grassroots football that this partnership will bring to Sheffield, as set out in the report to Cabinet on 12 November 2014;
- (f) recognises the importance of local football clubs across the city, including Chapletown Juniors, in providing sport and is pleased to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who make this possible;
- (g) notes that officers of the Council and local councillors have been working with Chapletown Juniors and the local community around the Steel City Ground to secure the immediate and long term future of the site and building;
- (h) notes that following a positive meeting on Wednesday 28th January 2015, there is a consensus between the different local interests now to work together to secure that future; and
- (i) instructs officers to continue to work with local elected Members, the football clubs who use the site and the community to seek a sustainable solution to the mutual benefit, and with the agreement of, interested parties.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

The original Motion, as amended, was then put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes that football is a major participation sport in the city, with over 800 teams, of which over 500 are junior/youth teams;
- (b) regrets that, in common with other core cities, Sheffield's football pitches and changing facilities are under severe pressure from Government budget cuts;
- (c) welcomes that the governing body for football in England, The Football Association, has recognised these pressures on grassroots football and in response has launched a national initiative to invest in grassroots facilities;
- (d) further welcomes the decision of the FA that Sheffield should be the first city in which they deliver their programme;
- (e) further welcomes the investment of £9.6 million to support grassroots football that this partnership will bring to Sheffield, as set out in the report to Cabinet on 12 November 2014;
- (f) recognises the importance of local football clubs across the city, including Chapletown Juniors, in providing sport and is pleased to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who make this possible;
- (g) notes that officers of the Council and local councillors have been working with Chapletown Juniors and the local community around the Steel City Ground to secure the immediate and long term future of the site and building;
- (h) notes that following a positive meeting on Wednesday 28th January 2015, there is a consensus between the different local interests now to work together to secure that future; and
- (i) instructs officers to continue to work with local elected Members, the football clubs who use the site and the community to seek a sustainable solution to the mutual benefit, and with the agreement of, interested parties.

19. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JILLIAN CREASY

Health Primary Care Funding

It was moved by Councillor Jillian Creasy, seconded by Councillor Robert Murphy, that this Council:-

- (a) recognises that Sheffield suffers from health inequalities across the city and that good health care can help to mitigate and treat illness;
- (b) is therefore disturbed to hear that four General Practices in Sheffield are affected by the withdrawal of a fund, the Minimum Practice Income Guarantee (MPIG), designed by the last Government to support practices serving particularly needy populations which were adversely affected by the 2004 GP contract;
- (c) notes that whilst similar practices in London have been given a two year reprieve, cuts to practices outside London have already begun and MPIG will be phased out over seven years;
- (d) notes that MPIG was always seen as a stop-gap until a fairer funding formula could be found but is now being withdrawn without any replacement;
- (e) fears that practices serving some of the most needy people in the city, including Devonshire Green in the city centre, which has a high proportion of people suffering homelessness, mental health and addiction problems, face closure;
- (f) agrees that closure of such practices would directly affect the health of their patients and have knock on effects for surrounding practices as well as emergency and hospital services;
- (g) thanks the Clinical Commissioning Group, the local area team of NHS England and the colleagues in public health for their support, but notes that the funding comes from NHS England at national level;
- (h) therefore resolves to write to David Geddes, head of primary care commissioning at NHS England, to ask him to reverse this decision; and
- (i) requests that a copy of this motion be sent to all Sheffield MPs and to the Secretary of State for Health, The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Mary Lea, seconded by Councillor Mike Drabble, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (h) and (i) as follows, and the relettering of original paragraphs (h) and (i) as new paragraphs (j) and (k):-

- (h) believes that this news makes a complete fallacy of the Government's claim that they are not cutting the NHS;
- (i) reiterates its objection, raised at previous meetings, of Government redistribution of NHS funding from areas with higher levels of deprivation and health inequalities to some of the healthiest and wealthiest areas of the

country;

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried.

It was then moved by Councillor Richard Shaw, seconded by Councillor Martin Smith, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraph (b) and the addition of a new paragraph (b) as follows:-
 - (b) recognises the difficulty some practices are placed in by the withdrawal of MPIG, but recognises that MPIG is not a needs-based payment, but merely a negotiated compensation for practices that lost out when the current needs-based formula was introduced;
2. the deletion of paragraph (d) and the addition of a new paragraph (d) as follows:-
 - (d) believes that a system of needs-based formula plus MPIG is not preferable to a pure needs-based formula, which recognises all the demands of age, deprivation, mental health, homelessness and addiction
3. the deletion of paragraph (h) and the addition of a new paragraph (h) as follows:-
 - (h) therefore resolves to write to David Geddes, head of primary care commissioning at NHS England, to ask him to back reform of the GP funding formula to take better account of the demands on GPs of deprivation, mental health, homelessness and addiction.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was negated.

The original Motion, as amended, was then put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) recognises that Sheffield suffers from health inequalities across the city and that good health care can help to mitigate and treat illness;
- (b) is therefore disturbed to hear that four General Practices in Sheffield are affected by the withdrawal of a fund, the Minimum Practice Income Guarantee (MPIG), designed by the last Government to support practices serving particularly needy populations which were adversely affected by the 2004 GP contract;
- (c) notes that whilst similar practices in London have been given a two year reprieve, cuts to practices outside London have already begun and MPIG will be phased out over seven years;

- (d) notes that MPIG was always seen as a stop-gap until a fairer funding formula could be found but is now being withdrawn without any replacement;
- (e) fears that practices serving some of the most needy people in the city, including Devonshire Green in the city centre, which has a high proportion of people suffering homelessness, mental health and addiction problems, face closure;
- (f) agrees that closure of such practices would directly affect the health of their patients and have knock on effects for surrounding practices as well as emergency and hospital services;
- (g) thanks the Clinical Commissioning Group, the local area team of NHS England and the colleagues in public health for their support, but notes that the funding comes from NHS England at national level;
- (h) believes that this news makes a complete fallacy of the Government's claim that they are not cutting the NHS;
- (i) reiterates its objection, raised at previous meetings, of Government redistribution of NHS funding from areas with higher levels of deprivation and health inequalities to some of the healthiest and wealthiest areas of the country;
- (j) therefore resolves to write to David Geddes, head of primary care commissioning at NHS England, to ask him to reverse this decision; and
- (k) requests that a copy of this motion be sent to all Sheffield MPs and to the Secretary of State for Health, The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP.

(Note: Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Richard Shaw, Rob Frost, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Penny Baker, Roger Davison, Diana Stimely, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Steve Ayris, Denise Reaney, Katie Condliffe and Vickie Priestley voted for paragraphs (a), (c), (e), (f), (g) and (k), against paragraphs (h) and (i) and abstained on paragraphs (b), (d) and (j) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)