

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 6 December 2023, at 2.00 pm, pursuant to notice duly given and Summonses duly served.

**PRESENT**

THE LORD MAYOR (Councillor Colin Ross)  
THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR (Councillor Jayne Dunn)

- |   |   |    |  |    |  |
|---|---|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | <i>Beauchief &amp; Greenhill Ward</i><br>Simon Clement-Jones<br>Sophie Thornton   | 10 | <i>East Ecclesfield Ward</i><br>Craig Gamble Pugh<br>Robert Reiss<br>Alan Woodcock     | 19 | <i>Nether Edge &amp; Sharrow Ward</i><br>Nighat Basharat<br>Maroof Raouf<br>Ibby Ullah |
| 2 | <i>Beighton Ward</i><br>Kurtis Crossland<br>Ian Horner<br>Ann Woolhouse           | 11 | <i>Ecclesall Ward</i><br>Roger Davison<br>Barbara Masters<br>Shaffaq Mohammed          | 20 | <i>Park &amp; Arbourthorne</i><br>Ben Miskell<br>Nabeela Mowlana<br>Sophie Wilson      |
| 3 | <i>Birley Ward</i><br>Denise Fox<br>Bryan Lodge<br>Karen McGowan                  | 12 | <i>Firth Park Ward</i><br>Abdul Khayum   | 21 | <i>Richmond Ward</i><br>David Barker<br>Mike Drabble<br>Dianne Hurst                   |
| 4 | <i>Broomhill &amp; Sharrow Vale Ward</i><br>Angela Argenzio<br>Brian Holmshaw     | 13 | <i>Fulwood Ward</i><br>Sue Alston<br>Andrew Sangar<br>Cliff Woodcraft                  | 22 | <i>Shiregreen &amp; Brightside Ward</i><br>Peter Price                                 |
| 5 | <i>Burngreave Ward</i><br>Talib Hussain<br>Mark Jones                             | 14 | <i>Gleadless Valley Ward</i><br>Alexi Dimond<br>Marieanne Elliot<br>Paul Turpin        | 23 | <i>Southey Ward</i><br>Mike Chaplin<br>Tony Damms<br>Jayne Dunn                        |
| 6 | <i>City Ward</i><br>Douglas Johnson<br>Ruth Mersereau<br>Martin Phipps            | 15 | <i>Graves Park Ward</i><br>Ian Auckland<br>Steve Ayris<br>Mohammed Mahroof             | 24 | <i>Stannington Ward</i><br>Penny Baker<br>Richard Williams                             |
| 7 | <i>Crookes &amp; Crosspool Ward</i><br>Tim Huggan<br>Ruth Milsom<br>Minesh Parekh | 16 | <i>Hillsborough Ward</i><br>Christine Gilligan Kubo<br>Toby Mallinson<br>Henry Nottage | 25 | <i>Stocksbridge &amp; Upper Don Ward</i><br>Julie Grocutt<br>Janet Ridler              |
| 8 | <i>Darnall Ward</i><br>Mary Lea<br>Zahira Naz                                     | 17 | <i>Manor Castle Ward</i><br>Terry Fox<br>Laura Moynahan<br>Sioned-Mair Richards        | 26 | <i>Walkley Ward</i><br>Tom Hunt<br>Laura McClean                                       |
| 9 | <i>Dore &amp; Totley Ward</i><br>Joe Otten<br>Colin Ross<br>Martin Smith          | 18 | <i>Mosborough Ward</i><br>Glynis Chapman<br>Tony Downing<br>Gail Smith                 | 27 | <i>West Ecclesfield Ward</i><br>Alan Hooper<br>Mike Levery<br>Ann Whitaker             |
|   |   |    |  | 28 | <i>Woodhouse Ward</i><br>Alison Norris<br>Mick Rooney                                  |

**1. MINUTES SILENCE - DEATHS OF COUNCILLOR VICKIE PRIESTLEY AND FORMER COUNCILLOR DIANA STIMELY**

- 1.1 The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross) reported with sadness, the death, on 7th November 2023, of Councillor Vickie Priestley who had served as a Member of the Council from 2000 to 2002 and then continuously since 2004 and was Lord Mayor during the Municipal Year 2013-14.
- 1.2 He also reported the recent deaths of former Councillor Diana Stimely who had served on the Council from 2011 to 2015, and of Dame Antonia Susan Duffy (the author, AS Byatt) who was born in Sheffield.
- 1.3 Members of the Council observed a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Priestley, former Councillor Stimely and Dame Antonia Duffy. At a later point in the meeting, several Members of the Council spoke to pay tribute to Councillor Priestley.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fran Belbin, Lewis Chinchin, Dawn Dale, Maleiki Haybe, Mazher Iqbal, Bernard Little, Abtisam Mohamed, Safiya Saeed, Richard Shaw, Garry Weatherall and Paul Wood.

**3. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

- 3.1 There were no items of business identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 4.1 There were no declarations of interest made by Members of the Council.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

5.1 Petitions and Public Questions

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross) reported that questions would be taken at the meeting from four members of the public. No petitions had been received.

5.2 Questions from Hilary Smith

*“I asked a question at the recent Strategy and Resources Policy Committee about the steps that the Council could take to reduce its complicity with Israel's system of apartheid and ethnic cleansing. In response, the Leader of the Council told me what he thought the Council was unable to do.*

*What he did not do was to tell me what steps he thought that the Council could take to reduce its financial relationship with companies or institutions that support, directly or indirectly, Israel's system of apartheid.*

*The Council is aware of the United Nations database of companies that operate in or otherwise support Israeli settlements, all illegal under international law.*

*Will the Council commit to investigating, as a matter of urgency, whether it has any financial relationship with any of those companies, directly or indirectly, and make that information public?*

*Secondly, if the Council concludes that it is unable to disengage from financial relationships with any of these companies, will the Council make that information public? Sheffield residents have a right to know if the Council's business make it complicit with Israeli apartheid and a right to know if the law explicitly prevents the Council from ending those financial relationships.*

*Thirdly, the Leader did not respond, at Strategy and Resources Committee, to my question about whether the Council would change its bank from Barclays. Will the Leader now answer that question?”*

Ms. Smith added that a genocide was currently taking place, made possible because the world gave the green light to Israeli apartheid. She asked that the Council delay no longer in taking action against Israel's system of apartheid.

In response, Councillor Tom Hunt (the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee) stated that in answering the questions, it was important to be clear about, and separate, the actions of the government of Israel and the state of Israel. He commented that the first and second questions refer to businesses within the database of business enterprises that is published by the United Nations, and he reported that the current database includes 112 businesses, of which three are UK companies. He stated that he had requested that officers investigate whether the Council had a contractual relationship with any of those companies and he would send a written response to Ms. Smith when he had been supplied with that information. He added that although he was unable to answer a question about what that information might tell us, he would commit to being fully open and transparent in relation to this matter.

In response to the third question, about the Council's banking arrangements, Councillor Hunt stated that the banking contract was procured in 2022 and the process was run as an open tender, as required by the public contracts regulations. He reported that social value commitments were considered as part of the evaluation when awarding that contract and added that contractors/suppliers are required to abide by the principles of the Council's

Ethical Procurement Policy and Ethical Code of Conduct for Suppliers. He stated that there were no plans, at present, to change the banking contract and he added that he was confident that procurement officers at the Council would continue to apply the ethical procurement policy correctly and would provide advice if any changes to contracts were needed to be made.

Councillor Hunt concluded his response by confirming that upon receipt of the further information that he had requested from officers, he would discuss with colleagues whether action needed to be taken.

5.3 Question from Val Johnson

*"I noted the comments of the Leader at the last full Council meeting, which I attended, when he referred to the need for the city to come together and there to be unity. I am also aware of some individuals attempting to characterise marches and rallies which take place in solidarity with the Palestinian people as 'hate marches'.*

*The marches and rallies which have been taking place in our city have been a model of everything which makes me proud to live in Sheffield. Far from being marches of hate, they have included people of all ages, including many families, people from Christian, Jewish, Muslim and secular backgrounds, and included speakers from many diverse backgrounds.*

*We are united not because we are on one side or the other, but because we believe in human rights, international law, and justice for all, and we will not stay silent whilst the Palestinian people are being oppressed by a military occupation and ethnic cleansing of the most brutal kind.*

*My question is to ask members of this Council if they will attend a rally, listen to the speakers, and then reflect on their responsibilities to defend human rights and to uphold international law."*

In response, Councillor Tom Hunt (the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee) stated that the description of 'hate marches' that the former Home Secretary has used is offensive and one he utterly rejects. He commented that tarring everybody with the same words was dangerous and divisive rhetoric from a Conservative party that had sought to stoke up a manufactured culture war. He believed that if the Government spent more time focused on finding a diplomatic solution to the conflict and less on seeking to divide people, then he was sure that we would all be in a better place. He added that the only positive thing he could say on this matter was that Suella Braverman was no longer Home Secretary, and he sincerely hoped that next year the rest of the Cabinet would follow her out of the exit door and be replaced by a Labour party that takes its responsibilities at home and abroad more seriously.

Councillor Hunt stated that members of this Council have attended rallies, vigils, solidarity walks, and have organised fundraisers to raise money for humanitarian relief efforts in Gaza. He commented that every member of the

Chamber takes their responsibilities extremely seriously and added that it was incumbent on all of us to work together to bring people together at this difficult time.

5.4 Questions from Annie O’Gara

*“For context: Sheffield was the first Local Authority in the UK to declare itself an Apartheid Free Zone in 1981 in the days of South African Apartheid – The Council members took a bold, principled stance against this crime, creating a reputation for Sheffield that is celebrated to this day.*

*In the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee of November 20th, I asked a question arising from the Council’s resolution of November 1st, regarding the Sheffield Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid.*

*In response, the Leader promised that “officers will prepare a thorough report for consideration by the Strategy and Resources Committee,” following which a “recommendation” will be made to the Committee.*

*The Leader also said that he himself would meet the Coalition and he would tell Leaders of other Parties details of that meeting, with “no expectations on them whether they want to attend.” He added that he himself would read the material submitted by the Coalition and he would “circulate” it to others – presumably with no expectation that they would read it. (The materials comprise our launch pamphlet and the Executive Summary of Amnesty International’s report “Israeli Apartheid against Palestinians: a cruel system of domination and a crime against humanity”)*

*Questions:-*

*1. Will the report by Officers on this issue, including the recommendation(s), be given to the Coalition in advance of the relevant Strategy and Resources Policy Committee meeting in the New Year?*

*2. Are we correct in interpreting the Leader’s words as meaning the following:-*

- That he will be the one and only officer or elected member who commits to meeting the Coalition*
- That he places no expectation on anyone else to join him in that discussion, or even to read succinct materials on an important citizens’ movement and on Israel’s Crime against Humanity of Apartheid.*
- That the Council’s Strategy and Resources Committee will rely on a report and recommendation by officers only, whilst elected members have no responsibility to engage with this city’s response to Apartheid, as their predecessors in 1981 did?*

*3. If we are correct in our interpretation of his words, will the Leader now assure us that any meeting between the Council and the Coalition reflects the magnitude of the moral and legal issues involved by guaranteeing that this meeting isn’t marginalised, as his words suggest?*

4. *Lastly, has the Chief Executive sent a letter to the Government, as resolved on November 1st?*

- *We request both a copy of that letter to the Government and a copy of any reply received.*
- *How has the Chief Executive enacted what she was clearly asked to do by the City Council?"*

In response, Councillor Tom Hunt (the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee) stated that he would share the officer report with the Coalition once it had been written and would ask his office to arrange a meeting with the Coalition at which the report can be discussed. He added that, as he had said last month at the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee meeting, he will share the details of the meeting with the other party leaders once it has been arranged and invite them to attend. They would be very welcome, but he was not able to mandate that they attend. He reiterated that he was happy to meet with representatives of the Coalition to discuss the report.

Councillor Hunt reported that in advance of any committee meeting, it was standard practice for elected members to meet with officers to discuss and shape the contents of reports, and he stated that this was what would happen in this instance, before the committee meeting takes place in the new year.

Councillor Hunt stated that the meeting that he was to have with the Coalition will be to discuss matters that are of significant importance to a great many people in the city.

In relation to the final question, Councillor Hunt reported that the Chief Executive had written to the Prime Minister on 8<sup>th</sup> November and he added that a copy of the letter would be sent to Ms. O’Gara. He stated that the letter was to make the Prime Minister aware of the resolution that was passed in the Council Chamber on 1<sup>st</sup> November, as had been requested in the resolution. This was the only action that was requested of the Chief Executive in relation to this matter and had been enacted. He added that no reply to the letter had yet been received.

*(NOTE: After that answer had been given at the meeting by the Leader of the Council, it was discovered that a response from the Government, to the letter sent by the Council’s Chief Executive, had been received on the matter within the Chief Executive’s office, by way of a written hard copy letter from the Minister of State for the Middle East. The Leader had not been made aware of the letter at the point that he gave the answer in the full Council meeting. Both letters have been published on the website - [Agenda for Council on Wednesday 1 November 2023, 2.00 pm | Sheffield City Council](#) - attached to the Resolution on “Stopping Genocide in Gaza”.)*

#### 5.5 Questions from Simon Jenkins

*“Regarding the reduction of the MUGA at Hillsborough Park to enable a new*

*“proposed activity hub and cafe”.*

*What consultation was taken place on this?*

*There was a petition against, with 2000 signatures taken by Friends of Hillsborough Park who have now disbanded due to the lack of support from the Council.*

*Also, were relevant local businesses, such as already operating cafes, consulted? Also were groups who rely on MUGA, such as Friends2gether, taken into consideration, as they were clearly not consulted?”*

In response, Councillor Richard Williams (Chair of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee) stated that, as regards the reduction of the MUGA at Hillsborough Park, a report was submitted to the meeting of the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 which set out the proposal for the Activity Hub in the Park and included full details of the consultation held in relation to the proposed Hub. He added that the report was available on the Council’s website and he would provide a link to it within the written response that he would provide to Mr Jenkins after the meeting. Councillor Williams stated that the report was over 200 pages in length, but a summary of the consultation was set out on pages 26-28 of the agenda pack.

With regard to the Friends of Hillsborough Park, Councillor Williams indicated that he was sorry that the Friends had decided to dissolve the group, but fully respected their decision to do so, stating that volunteer groups had the right to decide their own destiny. He commented that he had thanked the Friends group for the work they had done, over many years, which had been incredibly valuable and resulted in significant changes seen in the Park, including the investment into the Coach House, improvements to the playground, installation of the all wheels track, and more. Councillor Williams stated that part of the announcement made by the group on their disbanding was that they felt they had not been listened to, but he believed they were doing themselves a disservice. He stated that, as a result of the questions which were raised at the Committee by representatives of the Friends group, an on-site meeting had been held with the group, involving some members of the Committee as well as local Ward Councillors, and as a direct result of the concerns relayed at that meeting, particularly by Andy Chaplin, the way that the MUGA was to be used in the future was changed. Credit was due to the Friends for this.

Councillor Williams added that he was aware that some of the former Friends volunteers were forming another group, specifically focussing on the Walled Garden, and he hoped that they would continue to have a good relationship with the Council. He concluded by acknowledging that parks across the city rely on Friends groups for support and help and without their support the parks would not flourish as well as they do.

## **6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

### **6.1 Urgent Business**

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

### **6.2 South Yorkshire Joint and Combined Authorities**

6.2.1 The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross) reported that Councillors Sophie Thornton, Richard Shaw and Ian Horner had given advance notice of questions relating to the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, and Councillor Bernard Little had given advance notice of four questions relating to the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority. The advance notice of the questions had enabled Councillor Tom Hunt, the Council's representative on the Mayoral Combined Authority, and Councillor Jayne Dunn, the Council's Spokesperson on the Pensions Authority, to provide written answers, and copies of the questions and responses had been circulated at the meeting and published on the Council's website.

6.2.2 Supplementary questions were asked by Councillors Thornton and Horner, and were answered by Councillor Hunt.

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

### **6.3 Written Questions**

A schedule of questions to Chairs of Policy Committees, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16, and which contained written answers, was circulated. Supplementary questions, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.4, were asked and were answered by the appropriate Policy Committee Chairs until the expiry of the time limit for Members' Questions (in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.7).

## **7. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "SHEFFIELD'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES STANDING TOGETHER" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR BARBARA MASTERS AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR SOPHIE THORNTON**

7.1 It was moved by Councillor Barbara Masters, and seconded by Councillor Sophie Thornton, that this Council:-

(a) notes:-

- (i) Sheffield's cultural and religious diversity – we are a growing and diverse city with around 120 languages spoken and people from a



range of backgrounds living and contributing to every part of the city; our diversity is part of what makes Sheffield such an amazing place;

- (ii) our heritage as the UK's first City of Sanctuary and pride in offering a welcoming home to people seeking safety, demonstrated in how we've welcomed those affected by the war in Ukraine;
  - (iii) that in developing our City Goals, our communities have shown how much they value Sheffield's diversity and its people; celebrating and respecting histories, heritage and cultures and finding common ground is embedded in the draft Goals;
  - (iv) the progress that has been made, together with partners, on implementing the recommendations of the Race Equality Commission, and the importance of holding course towards the aim of being an anti-racist city; and
  - (v) the contributions of many diverse communities to the UK, in particular, the service of millions of Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Jews, those of no faith, LGBTQ+ and others, in defeating the evil of the Nazis in the Second World War and upholding the values of civil rights, democracy and rule of law;
- (b) believes:-
- (i) that this Council stands with all our communities in their rights to live peacefully and safely;
  - (ii) that even in difficult circumstances, Sheffield's communities have shown amazing strength and unity, standing together to be kind and support one another; as they did 12 months ago, when the Stannington gas and water emergency turned people's lives upside down, and we saw community groups, businesses, and local politicians including the late Councillor Vickie Priestley, working hard for each other;
  - (iii) that our city provides the perfect stage for celebrating diversity, bringing people together into our city centre, local high streets and public spaces to celebrate, respect and learn about our cultures; next year this includes celebrating the Lunar/Chinese New Year of the Dragon, Easter, Eid-al-Fitr and our whole calendar of cultural events from Pride to Black History Month; and
- (c) resolves to:-
- (i) encourage communities, partners and Councillors to support the development of the city's new Cohesion Framework, taking its lead from the City Goals, so that we have a shared approach for

respecting and supporting each other now and for the long term;  
and

- (ii) wish everyone a belated happy Diwali, and Happy Hanukkah, Happy Christmas and Happy New Year.

7.1.1 (NOTE: With the agreement of the Council and at the request of the mover of the Motion (Councillor Barbara Masters), the Motion as published on the agenda was altered by the substitution of the words “Stannington gas and water emergency” for the words “Stannington floods” in sub-paragraph (b)(ii) of the Motion.)

7.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Laura Moynahan, and seconded by Councillor Karen McGowan, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of the following words at the end of sub-paragraph (a)(ii) “and in welcoming refugees who have fled previous wars including in Chile, Somalia, Kashmir, Burma, Palestine and Yemen, among many other countries”;
2. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (a)(iv) as follows, and the re-lettering of original sub-paragraphs (a)(iv) and (v) as new sub-paragraphs (a)(v) and (vi):-
  - (iv) that Equality, Diversity and Inclusion will be a central feature of the new Council Plan;
3. the addition of the following words at the end of sub-paragraph (b)(i) “and will continue to do everything it can to bring communities together”;
4. the addition of new sub-paragraphs (b)(ii) and (iii) as follows, and the re-lettering of original sub-paragraphs (b)(ii) and (iii) as new sub-paragraphs (b)(iv) and (v):-
  - (ii) diversity in representation makes for good decision-making;
  - (iii) it is important that all elected bodies and political parties take steps to ensure that political representation reflects the diversity within the communities that they represent, particularly ensuring that people with protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation) are supported to play a full part in the democratic process;
5. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (b)(vi) as follows:-
  - (vi) that our city is delighted to welcome the MOBO Awards, the UK’s biggest celebration of Black music and culture, to Sheffield in February 2024.

7.3 It was then moved by Councillor Alexi Dimond, and seconded by Councillor Henry Nottage, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of new sub-paragraphs (a)(vi) to (viii) as follows:-
  - (vi) that all our residents, no matter their nationality, call this local authority their home and enrich Sheffield;
  - (vii) that the Council estimates that up to 750 refugees could be affected by the Streamlined Asylum Process up to 15th December, which may put them at risk of homelessness;
  - (viii) that denying people seeking asylum the right to work is dehumanising for the individual and harmful for the economy;
2. the addition of new sub-paragraphs (b)(iv) and (v) as follows:-
  - (iv) every Sheffield resident should have equal democratic rights and be able to vote in our local elections;
  - (v) all Sheffield residents and members of all communities have a right to shelter, security, warmth and sustenance;
3. the addition of new sub-paragraphs (c)(i) to (v) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original sub-paragraphs (c)(i) and (ii) as new sub-paragraphs (c)(vi) and (vii):-
  - (i) raise the alarm locally about the refugee homelessness crisis and request the Housing Policy Committee to engage with VCS, faith groups, universities and housing providers to urgently discuss this;
  - (ii) request the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee to write to the Government to demand a fully resourced national homelessness prevention programme;
  - (iii) promote the right to vote and democratic participation opportunities to all communities in Sheffield through cultural-sensitive approaches such as:-
    - (A) delivering training to councillors and officers on the changes brought by the Elections Act;
    - (B) working collaboratively with the VCS to reach residents about current voter eligibility rules and how to vote; and
    - (C) promoting voter registration and photo ID requirements to residents;

- (iv) apologise for flying the Israeli flag which caused hurt and division in Sheffield;
- (v) encourage all councillors to attend the launch of the local “Lift the Ban” campaign in the Town Hall on December 15th;

7.4 After contributions from six other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Barbara Masters, the amendment moved by Councillor Laura Moynahan was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

7.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Alexi Dimond was then put to the vote and was carried, but in part. Parts 1 and 2 and sub-paragraphs (i), (ii), (iii) and (v) of Part 3 of the amendment were carried, and sub-paragraph (iv) of Part 3 of the amendment was lost.

7.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 72 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. Although Labour and Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, they abstained from voting on sub-paragraph (iv) of Part 2 of the amendment and voted against sub-paragraph (iv) of Part 3 of the amendment.)

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

**RESOLVED:** That this Council:-

(a) notes:-

- (i) Sheffield’s cultural and religious diversity – we are a growing and diverse city with around 120 languages spoken and people from a range of backgrounds living and contributing to every part of the city; our diversity is part of what makes Sheffield such an amazing place;
- (ii) our heritage as the UK’s first City of Sanctuary and pride in offering a welcoming home to people seeking safety, demonstrated in how we’ve welcomed those affected by the war in Ukraine and in welcoming refugees who have fled previous wars including in Chile, Somalia, Kashmir, Burma, Palestine and Yemen, among many other countries;
- (iii) that in developing our City Goals, our communities have shown how much they value Sheffield’s diversity and its people; celebrating and respecting histories, heritage and cultures and finding common ground is embedded in the draft Goals;
- (iv) that Equality, Diversity and Inclusion will be a central feature of the new Council Plan;

- (v) the progress that has been made, together with partners, on implementing the recommendations of the Race Equality Commission, and the importance of holding course towards the aim of being an anti-racist city;
  - (vi) the contributions of many diverse communities to the UK, in particular, the service of millions of Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Jews, those of no faith, LGBTQ+ and others, in defeating the evil of the Nazis in the Second World War and upholding the values of civil rights, democracy and rule of law;
  - (vii) that all our residents, no matter their nationality, call this local authority their home and enrich Sheffield;
  - (viii) that the Council estimates that up to 750 refugees could be affected by the Streamlined Asylum Process up to 15th December, which may put them at risk of homelessness; and
  - (ix) that denying people seeking asylum the right to work is dehumanising for the individual and harmful for the economy;
- (b) believes:-
- (i) that this Council stands with all our communities in their rights to live peacefully and safely and will continue to do everything it can to bring communities together;
  - (ii) diversity in representation makes for good decision-making;
  - (iii) it is important that all elected bodies and political parties take steps to ensure that political representation reflects the diversity within the communities that they represent, particularly ensuring that people with protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation) are supported to play a full part in the democratic process;
  - (iv) that even in difficult circumstances, Sheffield's communities have shown amazing strength and unity, standing together to be kind and support one another; as they did 12 months ago, when the Stannington gas and water emergency turned people's lives upside down, and we saw community groups, businesses, and local politicians including the late Councillor Vickie Priestley, working hard for each other;
  - (v) that our city provides the perfect stage for celebrating diversity, bringing people together into our city centre, local high streets and public spaces to celebrate, respect and learn about our cultures; next year this includes celebrating the Lunar/Chinese New Year of the Dragon, Easter, Eid-al-Fitr and our whole calendar of cultural

- events from Pride to Black History Month;
- (vi) that our city is delighted to welcome the MOBO Awards, the UK's biggest celebration of Black music and culture, to Sheffield in February 2024;
  - (vii) every Sheffield resident should have equal democratic rights and be able to vote in our local elections; and
  - (viii) all Sheffield residents and members of all communities have a right to shelter, security, warmth and sustenance; and
- (c) resolves to:-
- (i) raise the alarm locally about the refugee homelessness crisis and request the Housing Policy Committee to engage with VCS, faith groups, universities and housing providers to urgently discuss this;
  - (ii) request the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee to write to the Government to demand a fully resourced national homelessness prevention programme;
  - (iii) promote the right to vote and democratic participation opportunities to all communities in Sheffield through cultural-sensitive approaches such as:-
    - (A) delivering training to councillors and officers on the changes brought by the Elections Act;
    - (B) working collaboratively with the VCS to reach residents about current voter eligibility rules and how to vote; and
    - (C) promoting voter registration and photo ID requirements to residents;
  - (iv) encourage all councillors to attend the launch of the local "Lift the Ban" campaign in the Town Hall on December 15th;
  - (v) encourage communities, partners and Councillors to support the development of the city's new Cohesion Framework, taking its lead from the City Goals, so that we have a shared approach for respecting and supporting each other now and for the long term; and
  - (vi) wish everyone a belated happy Diwali, and Happy Hanukkah, Happy Christmas and Happy New Year.

7.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 72 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. Although

Labour and Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, they abstained from voting on sub-paragraph (b)(vii) of the Substantive Motion.)

**8. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "13 YEARS OF CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT FAILURE" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR FRAN BELBIN AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ZAHIRA NAZ**

8.1 It was moved by Councillor Zahira Naz, and seconded by Councillor Tony Downing, that this Council:-

(a) notes that:-

- (i) Sheffield City Council has been hammered since 2010, first by the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition and now by the Conservatives;
- (ii) Sheffield Council has almost 30% or £856 per household less to spend in real terms, compared to 2010/11, and further notes that this massive cut is well above the national average of 20% or £581 per dwelling;
- (iii) some wealthy councils like Surrey have only seen a reduction of 8%;
- (iv) when you take out local taxation, the cut in funding for Sheffield is approximately 50% in real terms since 2010/11; and
- (v) the most intense cuts happened to Local Government during the Coalition years of 2010-15;

(b) believes that:-

- (i) the Autumn Statement lifted the lid on 13 years of Conservative economic failure with growth revised down for 2024, 2025 and 2026;
- (ii) real wages are set to fall, we will see the biggest hit to living standards on record, and taxes have risen;
- (iii) yet again, the Conservatives failed to help with any of the challenges that councils like Sheffield face, with local authorities left picking up the pieces of years of underinvestment in health and social care, homelessness, and housing;
- (iv) just as public services face more cuts, it is shameful that the Rt. Hon. Lord David Cameron is back in the Cabinet after the damage his Government caused to our city and the country;

- (v) despite the Conservatives holding us back, Sheffield is a city on the up; we are setting out ambitious plans for economic growth, delivering massive regeneration projects, building thousands more affordable homes, and restoring our public transport network; and
  - (vi) we could do so much more if we had stable, long-term funding; and
- (c) resolves to:-
- (i) unlike the Conservatives, always manage every pound of public money wisely;
  - (ii) do everything we can to protect public services that people rely on, grow the local economy, and secure more investment;
  - (iii) call on every member of the Council to condemn the successive governments since 2010 for the damage they have done to Sheffield; and
  - (iv) support Labour's position on:-
    - (A) introducing a Take Back Control Act to give places like Sheffield the tools needed to develop long-term growth plans;
    - (B) setting up a National Wealth Fund, with the British taxpayers owning a share of that wealth;
    - (C) providing certainty by setting out a modern industrial strategy; and
    - (D) introducing a publicly invested Green Prosperity Plan, to bring in private sector investment to the industries of the future.

8.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Robert Reiss, and seconded by Councillor Roger Davison, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of sub-paragraphs (a)(i) to (v) and the addition of new sub-paragraphs (i) to (iv) as follows:-
  - (i) Labour is not proposing any additional funding for local government, with Shadow Local Government Minister, Sarah Owen MP, quoted in the Manchester Evening News saying "the party does not want to talk about extra funding";
  - (ii) in a speech on Monday, Sir Keir Starmer advised that Labour will not "turn on the spending taps", arguing that austerity might not be



just a “choice” after all;

- (iii) the webpage containing the 10 pledges based on the “moral case for socialism” used in Keir Starmer’s leadership election has been taken down, and the pledges themselves largely reversed; and
  - (iv) Keir Starmer praised Margaret Thatcher in the Sunday Telegraph for bringing “meaningful change” and seeking “to drag Britain out of its stupor by setting loose our natural entrepreneurialism”;
2. the substitution, in sub-paragraph (b)(i), of the number “8” for the number “13”;
  3. the insertion, in sub-paragraph (b)(iv) of the word “second” immediately before the word “Government”;
  4. the insertion, in sub-paragraph (c)(i) of the words “and Labour” after the word “Conservatives”;
  5. the deletion of sub-paragraph (c)(iii) and the addition of a new sub-paragraph (c)(iii) as follows:-
    - (iii) call on members of the Council to represent their electors according to their best judgment, instead of condemning policies they are about to adopt;
  6. the deletion of sub-paragraph (c)(iv) and the addition of a new sub-paragraph (c)(iv) as follows:-
    - (iv) support the Liberal Democrats policy on:-
      - (A) implementing a federal United Kingdom to move control and finance away from Whitehall and into local communities;
      - (B) committing to building 150,000 social homes a year;
      - (C) fixing our broken relationship with Europe, forge a new partnership built on cooperation, and move to conclude a new comprehensive agreement which removes as many barriers to trade as possible;
      - (D) invest in infrastructure and skills to create prosperity in every region of the UK, while tackling the climate emergency; and
      - (E) ensuring that tax burdens don’t fall disproportionately on low earners and reversing the Conservatives’ tax cuts for big banks.

8.3 It was then moved by Councillor Paul Turpin, and seconded by Councillor Brian Holmshaw, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of new sub-paragraphs (a)(vi) to (ix) as follows:-
  - (vi) austerity has failed on its own terms as national debt has increased along with poverty and inequality, while public services have been decimated to the brink of failure or beyond;
  - (vii) Labour supported austerity in 2010 through 2015;
  - (viii) the Shadow Chancellor has committed to arbitrary and restrictive “fiscal rules” that would effectively continue austerity; and
  - (ix) Labour channelled Margaret Thatcher in 2010 and now Keir Starmer is doing the same;
2. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (b)(vii) as follows:-
  - (vii) Keir Starmer has made it clear that he “won’t turn on spending taps” if Labour win the next general election, and Labour do not have policies which will address the scale of the problems the UK faces;
3. the addition of new sub-paragraphs (c)(v) to (viii) as follows:-
  - (v) request the relevant Policy Committees to consider placing on their work programmes consideration of backing income-generating schemes like the Employers’ Workplace Parking Levy, and review parking fees and charges, to help fund public transport, road safety and active travel measures;
  - (vi) request the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to consider placing on its work programme investigating the establishment of a wholly-owned Council company to help deliver the Council’s objectives and raise income to deliver reliable services for Sheffield residents;
  - (vii) request the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to consider placing on its work programme consideration of every opportunity for investing in renewable energy projects on Council land and buildings to generate energy and income;
  - (viii) request the Chief Executive to write to both Keir Starmer and Rishi Sunak, calling for:-
    - (A) proper funding of Councils to deliver local services and to implement the recommendations of the Taxing Wealth Report;

- (B) remove the two child cap on benefits, and to raise Universal Credit by £40; and
- (C) proper funding of a Green New Deal, education, emergency services, health and legal services.

8.4 It was then moved by Councillor Bryan Lodge, and seconded by Councillor Julie Grocutt, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (d) to (f) as follows:-

- (d) is disappointed that the Labour Group seem to be more interested in national politics rather than presenting Notices of Motions that deal with issues that affect the communities of Sheffield, including the cost of living crisis, rising energy costs and fuel poverty, and the decimation of public transport, but is not really surprised when the direction of the Labour Group in Sheffield is being driven by the Labour Party nationally through the imposed Campaign Improvement Board;
- (e) is astounded that at the same time that the Labour Group are criticising the Conservative Governments of the last 13 years, Sir Keir Starmer is singing the praises of Margaret Thatcher's role as Prime Minister, on the approach to the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2024 of the devastating Miners' Strike of 1984-85, when, in this Council's belief, her governments wreaked havoc on the steel and coal mining industries that impacted on the jobs and wellbeing of thousands of Sheffield residents, and destroyed the public transport system that was the envy of the country, and with the impacts of this still being felt today; and
- (f) does not agree with Sir Keir Starmer's comments, nor thinks that they are reflected across the country, nor by members of our communities here in Sheffield.

8.5 After contributions from three other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Zahira Naz, the amendment moved by Councillor Robert Reiss was put to the vote and was carried, but in part. Parts 1, 4, 5 and 6 of the amendment were carried [Parts 1 and 5 to be as additional sub-paragraphs to the Substantive Motion, not replacement sub-paragraphs, and Part 6 to be the deletion of the sub-paragraph only] were carried, and Parts 2 and 3 of the amendment were lost.

8.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 38 Members; AGAINST - 27 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 6 Members. Although Green Group Members voted for, they voted against Parts 2 and 3 of the amendment; that part of Part 1 of the amendment that proposed the deletion of sub-paragraphs (a)(i) to (v); that part of Part 5 of the amendment that proposed the deletion of sub-paragraph (c)(iii); and that part of Part 6 of the amendment that proposed the addition of a new sub-paragraph (c)(iv). Although Councillor Sophie Wilson voted against, she voted for the new sub-paragraphs (a)(i) to (iv) in Part 1 of the amendment to be additional sub-paragraphs (not replacement sub-paragraphs), and for sub-paragraphs (iv)(B), (D) and (E) in Part 6 of the amendment.)

8.6 The amendment moved by Councillor Paul Turpin was then put to the vote and was carried, but in part. Sub-paragraph (vi) in Part 1, Part 2 and sub-paragraphs (vii) and (viii)(B) and (C) in Part 3 of the amendment were carried, and sub-paragraphs (vii) to (ix) in Part 1 & sub-paragraphs (v), (vi) and (viii)(A) in Part 3 of the amendment were lost.

8.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 13 Members; AGAINST - 25 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 34 Members. Although Labour Group Members voted against, they voted for sub-paragraph (vi) in Part 1 of the amendment, and abstained from voting on sub-paragraphs (v), (vi) and (vii) in Part 3 of the amendment. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members abstained, they voted for Part 2 and sub-paragraphs (vii) and (viii)(B) and (C) in Part 3 of the amendment, and voted against sub-paragraphs (v), (vi) and (viii)(A) in Part 3 of the amendment. Although Councillor Sophie Wilson voted for, she voted against sub-paragraph (v) in Part 3 of the amendment.)

8.7 The amendment moved by Councillor Bryan Lodge was then put to the vote and was carried.

8.7.1 The votes on that Amendment were ordered to be recorded and were as follows:-

For the Amendment (46) - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross), and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Sophie Thornton, Ian Horner, Kurtis Crossland, Ann Woolhouse, Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Angela Argenzio, Brian Holmshaw, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Tim Huggan, Joe Otten, Martin Smith, Robert Reiss, Alan Woodcock, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Paul Turpin, Ian Auckland, Mohammed Mahroof, Steve Ayris, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage, Terry Fox, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Maroof Raouf, Sophie Wilson, Dianne Hurst, Tony Damms, Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Julie Grocutt, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery and Ann Whitaker.

Against the Amendment (26) - The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Karen McGowan, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Minesh Parekh, Ruth Milsom, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Craig Gamble Pugh, Abdul Khayum, Sioned-Mair Richards, Laura Moynahan, Tony Downing, Ibby Ullah, Nighat Basharat, Ben Miskell, Nabeela Mowlana, David Barker, Mike Drabble, Peter Price, Mike Chaplin,

Janet Ridler, Laura McClean, Tom Hunt, Mick Rooney and Alison Norris.

Abstained from voting on - None.  
the Amendment (0)

8.8 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:-

- (i) Sheffield City Council has been hammered since 2010, first by the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition and now by the Conservatives;
- (ii) Sheffield Council has almost 30% or £856 per household less to spend in real terms, compared to 2010/11, and further notes that this massive cut is well above the national average of 20% or £581 per dwelling;
- (iii) some wealthy councils like Surrey have only seen a reduction of 8%;
- (iv) when you take out local taxation, the cut in funding for Sheffield is approximately 50% in real terms since 2010/11;
- (v) the most intense cuts happened to Local Government during the Coalition years of 2010-15;
- (vi) Labour is not proposing any additional funding for local government, with Shadow Local Government Minister, Sarah Owen MP, quoted in the Manchester Evening News saying “the party does not want to talk about extra funding”;
- (vii) in a speech on Monday, Sir Keir Starmer advised that Labour will not “turn on the spending taps”, arguing that austerity might not be just a “choice” after all;
- (viii) the webpage containing the 10 pledges based on the “moral case for socialism” used in Keir Starmer’s leadership election has been taken down, and the pledges themselves largely reversed;
- (ix) Keir Starmer praised Margaret Thatcher in the Sunday Telegraph for bringing “meaningful change” and seeking “to drag Britain out of its stupor by setting loose our natural entrepreneurialism”; and
- (x) austerity has failed on its own terms as national debt has

increased along with poverty and inequality, while public services have been decimated to the brink of failure or beyond;

(b) believes that:-

- (i) the Autumn Statement lifted the lid on 13 years of Conservative economic failure with growth revised down for 2024, 2025 and 2026;
- (ii) real wages are set to fall, we will see the biggest hit to living standards on record, and taxes have risen;
- (iii) yet again, the Conservatives failed to help with any of the challenges that councils like Sheffield face, with local authorities left picking up the pieces of years of underinvestment in health and social care, homelessness, and housing;
- (iv) just as public services face more cuts, it is shameful that the Rt. Hon. Lord David Cameron is back in the Cabinet after the damage his Government caused to our city and the country;
- (v) despite the Conservatives holding us back, Sheffield is a city on the up; we are setting out ambitious plans for economic growth, delivering massive regeneration projects, building thousands more affordable homes, and restoring our public transport network;
- (vi) we could do so much more if we had stable, long-term funding; and
- (vii) Keir Starmer has made it clear that he “won’t turn on spending taps” if Labour win the next general election, and Labour do not have policies which will address the scale of the problems the UK faces;

(c) resolves to:-

- (i) unlike the Conservatives and Labour, always manage every pound of public money wisely;
- (ii) do everything we can to protect public services that people rely on, grow the local economy, and secure more investment;
- (iii) call on every member of the Council to condemn the successive governments since 2010 for the damage they have done to Sheffield;
- (iv) call on members of the Council to represent their electors according to their best judgment, instead of condemning policies they are about to adopt;

- (v) request the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to consider placing on its work programme consideration of every opportunity for investing in renewable energy projects on Council land and buildings to generate energy and income; and
- (vi) request the Chief Executive to write to both Keir Starmer and Rishi Sunak, calling for:-
  - (A) remove the two child cap on benefits, and to raise Universal Credit by £40; and
  - (B) proper funding of a Green New Deal, education, emergency services, health and legal services;
- (d) is disappointed that the Labour Group seem to be more interested in national politics rather than presenting Notices of Motions that deal with issues that affect the communities of Sheffield, including the cost of living crisis, rising energy costs and fuel poverty, and the decimation of public transport, but is not really surprised when the direction of the Labour Group in Sheffield is being driven by the Labour Party nationally through the imposed Campaign Improvement Board;
- (e) is astounded that at the same time that the Labour Group are criticising the Conservative Governments of the last 13 years, Sir Keir Starmer is singing the praises of Margaret Thatcher's role as Prime Minister, on the approach to the 40th Anniversary in 2024 of the devastating Miners' Strike of 1984-85, when, in this Council's belief, her governments wreaked havoc on the steel and coal mining industries that impacted on the jobs and wellbeing of thousands of Sheffield residents, and destroyed the public transport system that was the envy of the country, and with the impacts of this still being felt today; and
- (f) does not agree with Sir Keir Starmer's comments, nor thinks that they are reflected across the country, nor by members of our communities here in Sheffield.

8.8.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 72 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they voted against sub-paragraphs (a)(vi) to (ix), (b)(vii), (c)(i), (iv) and (vi) and paragraphs (d) to (f), and abstained from voting on sub-paragraph (c)(v) of the Substantive Motion. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, they voted against sub-paragraph (c)(iii) and abstained from voting on sub-paragraphs (a)(i) to (v) and (x) and (b)(i) and (iv) of the Substantive Motion. Although Councillor Sophie Wilson voted for, she voted against sub-paragraphs (c)(i) and (iv) of the Substantive Motion.)

## **9. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "OPPOSING MINIMUM SERVICE LEVELS" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR SOPHIE WILSON AND TO BE**

**SECONDED BY THE LORD MAYOR (COUNCILLOR COLIN ROSS)**

9.1 RESOLVED: On the motion of Councillor Paul Turpin, seconded by Councillor Marieanne Elliot, that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1, the order of business as published on the Council Summons be altered by taking item 10 on the agenda (Notice of Motion Regarding “Opposing Minimum Service Levels”) at this point in the proceedings.

9.2 It was moved by Councillor Sophie Wilson, and formally seconded by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross), that this Council:-

(a) notes:-

- (i) the right to strike is a fundamental British freedom which is protected by international law; this can be seen in the Human Rights Act, Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the International Labour Organisation’s Convention 87 and Article 6(4) of the European Social Charter;
- (ii) the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 sets out that when employees in relevant sectors democratically vote to strike they can be required to work and sacked if they don’t comply;
- (iii) the Joint Committee on Human Rights has expressed concern that this legislation is not compatible with the UK’s commitments to human rights for workers and trade union members; and
- (iv) the Regulatory Policy Committee has determined that the impact assessment for this Bill was ‘not fit for purpose’;

(b) believes:-

- (i) the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 is a direct attack on the right to strike fundamental freedom;
- (ii) that consecutive Conservative Governments have been carrying out brutal attacks on trade unions for decades, culminating with this most recent attack on the right to strike;
- (iii) that this Government, instead of tackling the causes of the cost-of-living crisis, are attempting to cut through the recent wave of strikes by trying to shift the blame from profiteering bosses who have manufactured unsustainable levels of inflation, on to ordinary workers who are exercising their right to fight for dignity and fair pay at work and in their lives;
- (iv) the regime initiated by the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 is draconian, unnecessary and unworkable;
- (v) the Act undermines constructive industrial relations and is likely to



inflame and prolong disputes; and

- (vi) that this Act is a direct attack on the freedoms of the ordinary, hardworking residents of our city; and

(c) resolves:-

- (i) to ask the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to consider how the Council will, if it can use provisions in the Act, including the discretion not to issue work notices, continue to protect the rights of its workers to strike and how it should be reflected in our policies, such as the ethical procurement policy;
- (ii) to raise these concerns with all relevant bodies - including the Fire and Rescue Authority, Health boards, and any other relevant bodies with employee status;
- (iii) to work with local unions and our trades council to oppose this legislation together as effectively as possible; and
- (iv) to write to the Rt. Hon. Sir Keir Starmer and demand he pledges an incoming Labour government to reverse fines and other measures taken against any union under the terms of the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023.

9.2.1 (NOTE: With the agreement of the Council and at the request of the mover of the Motion (Councillor Sophie Wilson), the Motion as published on the agenda was altered by the insertion of the words “, including the discretion not to issue work notices,” between the words “to consider how the Council will, if it can use provisions in the Act” and the words “continue to protect the rights of its workers to strike”, in sub-paragraph (c)(i) of the Motion.)

9.3 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Peter Price, and seconded by Councillor Mike Chaplin, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraph (c) and the addition of new paragraphs (c) to (f) as follows:-

- (c) notes that an incoming Labour government would repeal the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act and that Labour has been vocal in their opposition to this piece of legislation;
- (d) notes that an incoming Labour government would, from day one, implement a New Deal for Working People – which will strengthen the rights and protections for all workers, and believes that a strengthening of rights and improved working conditions is not only the right thing to do for employees but is also the right thing for our economy and wider society;
- (e) supports Labour’s approach to provide people with real help right now and a vision for the future of work where working people enjoy dignity,

gain security, receive respect, and are supported to prosper; and

- (f) resolves to work with trades unions and other relevant bodies to do everything we can to avoid the prospect of work notices being issued, whilst supporting the fundamental right of workers to strike and to fight for dignity and fair pay at work.

9.4 It was then moved by Councillor Joe Otten, and seconded by Councillor Sophie Thornton, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the deletion of sub-paragraph (b)(iii) and the addition of a new sub-paragraph (b)(iii) as follows:-

- (iii) that this Government, instead of developing a unifying vision for national success and shared prosperity, is engaging in a divisive blame game over the state of public services against a movement dominated by political opponents;

- 2. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (c)(iv) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original sub-paragraph (c)(iv) as a new sub-paragraph (c)(v):-

- (iv) to welcome the Liberal Democrat policy “Strengthening the ability of unions to represent workers effectively by broadening the right to collective bargaining in pay and conditions, including pay and pensions, working time and holidays, equality issues, health and safety, training and development, work organisation and the nature and level of staffing.”;

- 3. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (c)(vi) as follows:-

- (vi) in so doing, to remind Sir Keir of his leadership election pledge (since deleted) to “Repeal the Trade Union Act. Oppose Tory attacks on the right to take industrial action and the weakening of workplace rights.”.

9.5 It was then moved by Councillor Toby Mallinson, and seconded by Councillor Martin Phipps, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (a)(iii) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original sub-paragraphs (a)(iii) and (iv) as new sub-paragraphs (a)(iv) and (v):-

- (iii) that the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 exposes Trade Unions to being liable to pay damages of up to £1 million, and forces Trade Unions to act as enforcement agents on behalf of employers and the government;

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

- (vi) that today, 6th December, Green Party Baroness, Natalie Bennett, will move a Fatal Motion in the House of Lords on the Government's Anti-Strike Regulations;
3. the addition of new sub-paragraphs (b)(vii) to (ix) as follows:-
- (vii) that if Keir Starmer's Labour refuse to back the Green Fatal Motion it will further demonstrate his betrayal of British workers, his contempt for democracy and basic democratic rights and further expose his duplicity when campaigning to be the leader of the Labour Party;
  - (viii) existing anti-union and anti-strike laws introduced since 1979 should be repealed, including bans on secondary picketing, and bans on industrial action for political objectives including climate and ecological justice; and
  - (ix) these laws should be replaced with a positive charter of workers' and trade union rights, enshrining the fundamental right to organise and strike, drawn up in consultation with trade unions;
4. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (c)(iv) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original sub-paragraph (c)(iv) as a new sub-paragraph (c)(v):-
- (iv) to urge members of the House of Lords to support the motions to reject the Strikes Minimum Service Levels regulations for the Code of Practice for Unions, for the NHS Ambulance Services and NHS Patient Transport Service, for Border Security and Passenger Rail services;
- 9.6 After a contribution from one other Member, and following a right of reply from Councillor Sophie Wilson, the amendment moved by Councillor Peter Price was put to the vote and was lost, with the exception of paragraph (f) of the amendment which was carried.
- 9.6.1 The votes on the Amendment were ordered to be recorded and were as follows:-
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| For paragraph (f) of the Amendment (70) | - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross), the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Sophie Thornton, Ian Horner, Kurtis Crossland, Ann Woolhouse, Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Karen McGowan, Angela Argenzio, Brian Holmshaw, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Tim Huggan, Minesh Parekh, Ruth Milsom, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Joe Otten, Martin Smith, Robert Reiss, Craig Gamble Pugh, Alan Woodcock, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, |
|---|---|

Abdul Khayum, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Ian Auckland, Mohammed Mahroof, Steve Ayriss, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage, Sioned-Mair Richards, Terry Fox, Laura Moynahan, Tony Downing, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Ibbi Ullah, Maroof Raouf, Nighat Basharat, Ben Miskell, Nabeela Mowlana, Sophie Wilson, David Barker, Mike Drabble, Dianne Hurst, Peter Price, Mike Chaplin, Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Julie Grocutt, Janet Ridler, Laura McClean, Tom Hunt, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery, Ann Whitaker, Mick Rooney and Alison Norris.

- Against paragraph (f) of the Amendment (0) - None.
- Abstained from voting on paragraph (f) of the Amendment (0) - None.
- For the rest of the Amendment (31) - The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Karen McGowan, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Minesh Parekh, Ruth Milsom, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Craig Gamble Pugh, Abdul Khayum, Sioned-Mair Richards, Terry Fox, Laura Moynahan, Tony Downing, Ibbi Ullah, Nighat Basharat, Ben Miskell, Nabeela Mowlana, David Barker, Mike Drabble, Dianne Hurst, Peter Price, Mike Chaplin, Julie Grocutt, Janet Ridler, Laura McClean, Tom Hunt, Mick Rooney and Alison Norris.
- Against the rest of the Amendment (39) - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Sophie Thornton, Ian Horner, Kurtis Crossland, Ann Woolhouse, Angela Argenzio, Brian Holmshaw, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Tim Huggan, Joe Otten, Martin Smith, Robert Reiss, Alan Woodcock, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Ian Auckland, Mohammed Mahroof, Steve Ayriss, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Maroof Raouf, Sophie Wilson, Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery and Ann Whitaker.

Abstained from voting on the rest of the Amendment (0) - None.

9.7 The amendment moved by Councillor Joe Otten was then put to the vote and was carried on the basis that Part 1 of the amendment was to be an additional sub-paragraph to the Substantive Motion, not a replacement sub-paragraph.

9.7.1 The votes on the Amendment were ordered to be recorded and were as follows:-

For Part 1 of the Amendment (58) - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross), the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Sophie Thornton, Ian Horner, Kurtis Crossland, Ann Woolhouse, Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Karen McGowan, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Tim Huggan, Minesh Parekh, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Joe Otten, Martin Smith, Robert Reiss, Craig Gamble Pugh, Alan Woodcock, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Abdul Khayum, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Mohammed Mahroof, Steve Ayriss, Sioned-Mair Richards, Terry Fox, Laura Moynahan, Tony Downing, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Ibbi Ullah, Nighat Basharat, Ben Miskell, Nabeela Mowlana, Sophie Wilson, David Barker, Mike Drabble, Dianne Hurst, Peter Price, Mike Chaplin, Tony Damms, Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Janet Ridler, Laura McClean, Tom Hunt, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery, Ann Whitaker, Mick Rooney and Alison Norris.

(NB. Labour Group Members and Councillor Sophie Wilson voted for the new sub-paragraph (b)(iii) in Part 1 of the amendment to be an additional sub-paragraph to the Substantive Motion, not a replacement sub-paragraph.)

Against Part 1 of the Amendment (11) - Councillors Angela Argenzio, Brian Holmshaw, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage and Maroof Raouf.

Abstained from voting on Part 1 of the Amendment (0) - None.

For Part 2 of the - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross) and

- Amendment (32) Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Sophie Thornton, Ian Horner, Kurtis Crossland, Ann Woolhouse, Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Tim Huggan, Joe Otten, Martin Smith, Robert Reiss, Alan Woodcock, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Mohammed Mahroof, Steve Ayris, Terry Fox, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Dianne Hurst, Tony Damms, Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery and Ann Whitaker.
- Against Part 2 of the Amendment (11) - Councillors Angela Argenzio, Brian Holmshaw, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage and Maroof Raouf.
- Abstained from voting on Part 2 of the Amendment (26) - The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Karen McGowan, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Minesh Parekh, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Craig Gamble Pugh, Abdul Khayum, Sioned-Mair Richards, Laura Moynahan, Tony Downing, Ibbly Ullah, Nighat Basharat, Ben Miskell, Nabeela Mowlana, Sophie Wilson, David Barker, Mike Drabble, Peter Price, Mike Chaplin, Janet Ridler, Laura McClean, Tom Hunt, Mick Rooney and Alison Norris.
- For Part 3 of the Amendment (44) - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Sophie Thornton, Ian Horner, Kurtis Crossland, Ann Woolhouse, Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Angela Argenzio, Brian Holmshaw, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Tim Huggan, Joe Otten, Martin Smith, Robert Reiss, Alan Woodcock, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Ian Auckland, Mohammed Mahroof, Steve Ayris, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage, Terry Fox, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Maroof Raouf, Sophie Wilson, Dianne Hurst, Tony Damms, Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery and Ann Whitaker.
- Against Part 3 of the Amendment (25) - The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Karen McGowan, Talib

Hussain, Mark Jones, Minesh Parekh, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Craig Gamble Pugh, Abdul Khayum, Sioned-Mair Richards, Laura Moynahan, Tony Downing, Ibbly Ullah, Nighat Basharat, Ben Miskell, Nabeela Mowlana, David Barker, Mike Drabble, Peter Price, Mike Chaplin, Janet Ridler, Laura McClean, Tom Hunt, Mick Rooney and Alison Norris.

Abstained from voting on Part 3 of the Amendment (0) - None.

9.8 The amendment moved by Councillor Toby Mallinson was then put to the vote and was carried, but in part. Parts 1, sub-paragraphs (viii) and (ix) in Part 3, and Part 4 of the amendment were carried, and Part 2 and sub-paragraph (vii) in Part 3 of the amendment were lost.

9.8.1 The votes on the Amendment were ordered to be recorded and were as follows:-

For Part 1 and sub-paragraph (ix) in Part 3 of the Amendment (42) - The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Karen McGowan, Brian Holmshaw, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Minesh Parekh, Ruth Milsom, Mary Lea, Craig Gamble Pugh, Abdul Khayum, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage, Sioned-Mair Richards, Terry Fox, Laura Moynahan, Tony Downing, Ibbly Ullah, Maroof Raouf, Nighat Basharat, Ben Miskell, Nabeela Mowlana, Sophie Wilson, David Barker, Mike Drabble, Dianne Hurst, Peter Price, Mike Chaplin, Tony Damms, Julie Grocutt, Janet Ridler, Laura McClean, Tom Hunt, Mick Rooney and Alison Norris.

Against Part 1 and sub-paragraph (ix) in Part 3 of the Amendment (0) - None.

Abstained from voting on Part 1 and sub-paragraph (ix) in Part 3 of the Amendment (25) - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Sophie Thornton, Ian Horner, Kurtis Crossland, Ann Woolhouse, Tim Huggan, Joe Otten, Martin Smith, Robert Reiss, Alan Woodcock, Roger Davison, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Mohammed Mahroof, Steve Ayris, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith,

Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery and Ann Whitaker.

For Part 2 and sub-paragraph (vii) in Part 3 of the Amendment (17)

- Councillors Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Brian Holmshaw, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage, Terry Fox, Maroof Raouf, Sophie Wilson, Dianne Hurst, Tony Damms and Julie Grocutt.

Against Part 2 and sub-paragraph (vii) in Part 3 of the Amendment (25)

- The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Karen McGowan, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Minesh Parekh, Ruth Milsom, Mary Lea, Craig Gamble Pugh, Abdul Khayum, Sioned-Mair Richards, Laura Moynahan, Tony Downing, Ibbly Ullah, Nighat Basharat, Ben Miskell, Nabeela Mowlana, David Barker, Mike Drabble, Peter Price, Mike Chaplin, Janet Ridler, Laura McClean, Tom Hunt, Mick Rooney and Alison Norris.

Abstained from voting on Part 2 and sub-paragraph (vii) in Part 3 of the Amendment (25)

- The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Sophie Thornton, Ian Horner, Kurtis Crossland, Ann Woolhouse, Tim Huggan, Joe Otten, Martin Smith, Robert Reiss, Alan Woodcock, Roger Davison, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Mohammed Mahroof, Steve Ayris, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery and Ann Whitaker.

For Part 4 and sub-paragraph (viii) in Part 3 of the Amendment (17)

- Councillors Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Brian Holmshaw, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage, Terry Fox, Maroof Raouf, Sophie Wilson, Dianne Hurst, Tony Damms and Julie Grocutt.

Against Part 4 and sub-paragraph (viii) in Part 3 of the Amendment (0)

- None.

Abstained from voting on Part 4 and sub-paragraph (viii) in Part 3 of the Amendment (50)

- The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross), the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Sophie Thornton, Ian Horner, Kurtis Crossland, Ann Woolhouse, Karen McGowan, Talib Hussain,



Mark Jones, Tim Huggan, Minesh Parekh, Ruth Milsom, Mary Lea, Joe Otten, Martin Smith, Robert Reiss, Craig Gamble Pugh, Alan Woodcock, Roger Davison, Abdul Khayum, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Mohammed Mahroof, Steve Ayriss, Sioned-Mair Richards, Laura Moynahan, Tony Downing, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Ibbi Ullah, Nighat Basharat, Ben Miskell, Nabeela Mowlana, David Barker, Mike Drabble, Peter Price, Mike Chaplin, Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Janet Ridler, Laura McClean, Tom Hunt, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery, Ann Whitaker, Mick Rooney and Alison Norris.

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

**RESOLVED:** That this Council:-

(a) notes:-

- (i) the right to strike is a fundamental British freedom which is protected by international law; this can be seen in the Human Rights Act, Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the International Labour Organisation's Convention 87 and Article 6(4) of the European Social Charter;
- (ii) the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 sets out that when employees in relevant sectors democratically vote to strike they can be required to work and sacked if they don't comply;
- (iii) that the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 exposes Trade Unions to being liable to pay damages of up to £1 million, and forces Trade Unions to act as enforcement agents on behalf of employers and the government;
- (iv) the Joint Committee on Human Rights has expressed concern that this legislation is not compatible with the UK's commitments to human rights for workers and trade union members; and
- (v) the Regulatory Policy Committee has determined that the impact assessment for this Bill was 'not fit for purpose';

(b) believes:-

- (i) the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 is a direct attack on the right to strike fundamental freedom;

- (ii) that consecutive Conservative Governments have been carrying out brutal attacks on trade unions for decades, culminating with this most recent attack on the right to strike;
  - (iii) that this Government, instead of tackling the causes of the cost-of-living crisis, are attempting to cut through the recent wave of strikes by trying to shift the blame from profiteering bosses who have manufactured unsustainable levels of inflation, on to ordinary workers who are exercising their right to fight for dignity and fair pay at work and in their lives;
  - (iv) that this Government, instead of developing a unifying vision for national success and shared prosperity, is engaging in a divisive blame game over the state of public services against a movement dominated by political opponents;
  - (v) the regime initiated by the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023 is draconian, unnecessary and unworkable;
  - (vi) the Act undermines constructive industrial relations and is likely to inflame and prolong disputes;
  - (vii) that this Act is a direct attack on the freedoms of the ordinary, hardworking residents of our city;
  - (viii) existing anti-union and anti-strike laws introduced since 1979 should be repealed, including bans on secondary picketing, and bans on industrial action for political objectives including climate and ecological justice; and
  - (ix) these laws should be replaced with a positive charter of workers' and trade union rights, enshrining the fundamental right to organise and strike, drawn up in consultation with trade unions;
- (c) resolves:-
- (i) to ask the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to consider how the Council will, if it can use provisions in the Act, including the discretion not to issue work notices, continue to protect the rights of its workers to strike and how it should be reflected in our policies, such as the ethical procurement policy;
  - (ii) to raise these concerns with all relevant bodies - including the Fire and Rescue Authority, Health boards, and any other relevant bodies with employee status;
  - (iii) to work with local unions and our trades council to oppose this legislation together as effectively as possible;
  - (iv) to welcome the Liberal Democrat policy "Strengthening the ability

of unions to represent workers effectively by broadening the right to collective bargaining in pay and conditions, including pay and pensions, working time and holidays, equality issues, health and safety, training and development, work organisation and the nature and level of staffing.”;

- (v) to urge members of the House of Lords to support the motions to reject the Strikes Minimum Service Levels regulations for the Code of Practice for Unions, for the NHS Ambulance Services and NHS Patient Transport Service, for Border Security and Passenger Rail services;
  - (vi) to write to the Rt. Hon. Sir Keir Starmer and demand he pledges an incoming Labour government to reverse fines and other measures taken against any union under the terms of the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023; and
  - (vii) in so doing, to remind Sir Keir of his leadership election pledge (since deleted) to “Repeal the Trade Union Act. Oppose Tory attacks on the right to take industrial action and the weakening of workplace rights.”; and
- (d) resolves to work with trades unions and other relevant bodies to do everything we can to avoid the prospect of work notices being issued, whilst supporting the fundamental right of workers to strike and to fight for dignity and fair pay at work.

9.9.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 69 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they voted against sub-paragraphs (c)(vi) and (vii), and abstained from voting on sub-paragraphs (b)(viii) and (c)(iv) and (v) of the Substantive Motion. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, they abstained from voting on sub-paragraphs (a)(iii), (b)(iii), (viii) and (ix) and (c)(v) of the Substantive Motion. Although Green Group Members voted for, they voted against sub-paragraph (c)(iv) of the Substantive Motion.)

**10. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "BANNING SINGLE USE VAPES ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH GROUNDS" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR SUE ALSTON AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR IAN HORNER**

10.1 It was formally moved by Councillor Sue Alston, and formally seconded by Councillor Ian Horner, that this Council:-

- (a) notes that, in relation to environmental considerations:-
  - (i) disposable vapes are a hazard for waste and litter collection and cause fires in bin lorries;

- (ii) single use vapes are designed as one unit so batteries cannot be separated from the plastic, making them almost impossible to recycle without going through special treatment;
  - (iii) the lithium batteries inside the plastic can sharply increase in temperature if crushed and can become flammable; this comes at a cost to the council taxpayer through fire damage to equipment and the specialist treatment needed to deal with hazardous waste; and
  - (iv) with 1.3 million disposable vapes thrown away every week, they have also become a regular and obvious item of litter on our streets;
- (b) notes that, in relation to health considerations:-
- (i) there is concern about the impact vaping is having on children and young people; the marketing of vapes with designs and flavours that may appeal to children, in particular those with fruity and bubble gum flavours, and colourful child-friendly packaging, is inappropriate;
  - (ii) it is worrying that more and more children – who have never smoked – are starting vaping;
  - (iii) in the past few years, vaping among young people has risen; Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) data shows that 8.6% of 11- to 18-year-olds in England vaped in 2022, compared with 4% in 2021, and the Charity also reported that among those who tried vaping, 40.1% had never smoked before; and
  - (iv) the Local Government Association has called on its members to step up enforcement to deal with growing numbers of shops selling vapes to children despite the 18-age limit, with many “especially concerned” by child-friendly marketing, including colourful packages; and
- (c) therefore asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State asking for single use vapes to be banned and note that, with the EU proposing a ban in 2026 and France rolling out a ban in December 2023, there is a risk that, as markets close, disposable vapes will flood into the UK.

10.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Ruth Milsom, and formally seconded by Councillor Alison Norris, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the substitution, in sub-paragraph (a)(i), of the word “single-use” for the word “disposable”;

2. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (a)(iii) as follows, and the re-lettering of original sub-paragraphs (a)(iii) and (iv) as new sub-paragraphs (a)(iv) and (v):-
  - (iii) single use vapes are wasteful of critical elements needed in the clean energy transition, with lithium and other critical minerals from vapes discarded in the UK over one year equivalent to 6,200 EV batteries (according to "*The Energy Mix*" news site);
3. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (b)(i) as follows:-
  - (i) notes Labour's support for a phased smoking ban, increasing the minimum age for buying cigarettes, and its commitment to tackle marketing of vape products to children, and backs their proposals;
4. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (b)(ii) as follows:-
  - (ii) the health advice is clear; vaping is never recommended for children, carrying a risk of future harm and addiction, and young people and those who have never smoked should not vape or be encouraged to vape;
5. the re-lettering of the original sub-paragraph (b)(i) as a new sub-paragraph (b)(iii).
6. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (b)(iv) as follows:-
  - (iv) Sheffield Youth Cabinet have made combating vaping one of their key priorities and have, with regional partners in collaboration with ASH UK, produced a comprehensive toolkit of resources on how to stop children vaping in response to demands from parents and teachers, and reaffirms this Council's support for their work;
7. the re-lettering of original sub-paragraphs (b)(ii) to (iv) as new sub-paragraphs (b)(v) to (vii);
8. the addition of a new paragraph (c) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original paragraph (c) as a new paragraph (d):-
  - (c) calls on the Government to ban the marketing of vaping to children and for flavour descriptors and packaging that resemble confectionary, and images and advertisements designed specifically to target and appeal to children and young people, to be prohibited;
9. the addition of a new paragraph (e) as follows:-

- (e) notes that the Council Leader and the Chief Executive wrote to Sheffield's MPs on 17<sup>th</sup> October asking them to support government plans to raise the age of sale for tobacco by one year every year, urging them to pledge their support by voting yes to increasing the age of sale of tobacco, and notes that Labour has reaffirmed that its MPs will support the proposed legislation.

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

10.3.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 69 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. Although Green Group Members voted for, they voted against Part 3 of the amendment.)

10.4 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, in relation to environmental considerations:-

- (i) single-use vapes are a hazard for waste and litter collection and cause fires in bin lorries;
- (ii) single use vapes are designed as one unit so batteries cannot be separated from the plastic, making them almost impossible to recycle without going through special treatment;
- (iii) single use vapes are wasteful of critical elements needed in the clean energy transition, with lithium and other critical minerals from vapes discarded in the UK over one year equivalent to 6,200 EV batteries (according to "The Energy Mix" news site);
- (iv) the lithium batteries inside the plastic can sharply increase in temperature if crushed and can become flammable; this comes at a cost to the council taxpayer through fire damage to equipment and the specialist treatment needed to deal with hazardous waste; and
- (v) with 1.3 million disposable vapes thrown away every week, they have also become a regular and obvious item of litter on our streets;

(b) notes that, in relation to health considerations:-

- (i) notes Labour's support for a phased smoking ban, increasing the minimum age for buying cigarettes, and its commitment to tackle marketing of vape products to children, and backs their proposals;

- (ii) the health advice is clear; vaping is never recommended for children, carrying a risk of future harm and addiction, and young people and those who have never smoked should not vape or be encouraged to vape;
  - (iii) there is concern about the impact vaping is having on children and young people; the marketing of vapes with designs and flavours that may appeal to children, in particular those with fruity and bubble gum flavours, and colourful child-friendly packaging, is inappropriate;
  - (iv) Sheffield Youth Cabinet have made combating vaping one of their key priorities and have, with regional partners in collaboration with ASH UK, produced a comprehensive toolkit of resources on how to stop children vaping in response to demands from parents and teachers, and reaffirms this Council's support for their work;
  - (v) it is worrying that more and more children – who have never smoked – are starting vaping;
  - (vi) in the past few years, vaping among young people has risen; Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) data shows that 8.6% of 11- to 18-year-olds in England vaped in 2022, compared with 4% in 2021, and the Charity also reported that among those who tried vaping, 40.1% had never smoked before; and
  - (vii) the Local Government Association has called on its members to step up enforcement to deal with growing numbers of shops selling vapes to children despite the 18-age limit, with many “especially concerned” by child-friendly marketing, including colourful packages;
- (c) calls on the Government to ban the marketing of vaping to children and for flavour descriptors and packaging that resemble confectionary, and images and advertisements designed specifically to target and appeal to children and young people, to be prohibited;
- (d) therefore asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State asking for single use vapes to be banned and note that, with the EU proposing a ban in 2026 and France rolling out a ban in December 2023, there is a risk that, as markets close, disposable vapes will flood into the UK; and
- (e) notes that the Council Leader and the Chief Executive wrote to Sheffield's MPs on 17th October asking them to support government plans to raise the age of sale for tobacco by one year every year, urging them to pledge their support by voting yes to increasing the age of sale of tobacco, and notes that Labour has reaffirmed that its MPs will support the proposed legislation.

- 10.4.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 67 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. Although Green Group Members voted for, they voted against sub-paragraph (b)(i) of the Substantive Motion.)

*(Footnote: At the meeting of the Council held on 7th February 2024 when approving these minutes, it was agreed that a footnote be inserted into the minutes, under the resolution at item 10, suggesting that, to more accurately reflect the collaborative nature of the work in question, the words “, working alongside Public Health,” should have been included in the text in sub-paragraph (b)(iv), after the words “Sheffield Youth Cabinet”. This also applies to Part 6 of the amendment moved by Councillor Ruth Milsom in section 10.2 of these minutes.)*

## 11. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

- 11.1 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** On the motion formally moved by Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards and formally seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 4th October 2023 be approved as a true and accurate record.

## 12. MEMBERSHIPS OF COUNCIL BODIES, REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON OTHER BODIES AND RELATED ISSUES

- 12.1 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** On the motion formally moved by Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards and formally seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, that:-

(a) approval be given to the following changes to the memberships of Committees, Boards, etc.:-

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Strategy and Resources Policy Committee   | - Councillors Marieanne Elliot, Brian Holmshaw and Paul Turpin to fill vacancies as substitute members.                       |
| Economic Development and Skills Committee | - Councillor Paul Turpin to fill a vacancy as substitute member.  |
| Finance Committee                         | - Councillor Angela Argenzio to fill a vacancy as substitute member.  |
| Governance Committee                      | - (1) Councillor Alison Norris to replace Councillor Minesh Parekh; (2) Councillor Minesh Parekh to replace Councillor Alison |



Norris as substitute member; and (3) Councillor Brian Holmshaw to fill a vacancy as substitute member.

- Senior Officer Employment Committee - Councillor Angela Argenzio to fill a vacancy.
- Corporate Joint Committee - Councillors Penny Baker, Dianne Hurst and Shaffaq Mohammed to be appointed as members.
- Monitoring and Advisory Board - Councillor Angela Argenzio to fill a vacancy.

(b) representatives be appointed to serve on other bodies as follows:-

- Sheffield Conservation Advisory Group - Councillor Henry Nottage to fill a vacancy.
- Sheffield Lyceum Theatre Trust Ltd – Directors and Members - Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards to replace Councillor Paul Wood.
- Sheffield Health and Social Care Foundation Trust – Council of Governors - Councillor Nighat Basharat to replace Councillor Garry Weatherall.

(c) it be noted that (i) the Senior Officer Employment Sub-Committee, at its meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023, appointed Jane English as Director of People and Culture, and that Ms. English is expected to start in post on 8th January 2024 and (ii) the salary package for the post, which is above £100,000, was approved by the Council at its meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023.