

# Council

---

**Wednesday 7 February 2024  
2.00 pm**

**Council Chamber, Town Hall,  
Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH**

**The Press and Public are Welcome to Attend - Please see "PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING" below, for details of how to access the meeting, and the safety measures which apply.**

---

## COUNCIL

---

**Wednesday 7 February 2024, at 2.00 pm**

### MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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

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

Contact: Paul Robinson, Democratic Services  
Tel: 0114 2734029  
[paul.robinson@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:paul.robinson@sheffield.gov.uk)

---

## **PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING**

---

The Council is composed of 84 Councillors with one-third elected three years in four. Councillors are democratically accountable to the residents of their Ward. The overriding duty of Councillors is to the whole community, but they have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them.

All Councillors meet together as the Council. Here Councillors decide the Council's overall policies and set the budget each year. The Council appoints the Leader and at its Annual Meeting will appoint Councillors to serve on its Committees. It also appoints representatives to serve on joint bodies and external organisations.

A copy of the agenda and reports is available on the Council's website at <http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=154>. You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain confidential information. These items are usually marked \* on the agenda.

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

Council meetings are normally open to the public but sometimes the Council may have to discuss an item in private. If this happens, you will be asked to leave. Any private items are normally left until last.

Meetings of the Council have to be held as physical meetings. If you would like to attend the meeting, please report to an Attendant in the Foyer at the Town Hall where you will be directed to the meeting room. However, it would be appreciated if you could register to attend, in advance of the meeting, by emailing [committee@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:committee@sheffield.gov.uk), as this will assist with the management of attendance at the meeting.

Please do not attend the meeting if you have COVID-19 symptoms. It is also recommended that you undertake a Covid-19 Rapid Lateral Flow Test within two days of the meeting. To aid safe access and protect all attendees, you are welcome to wear a face covering within the venue.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Public Gallery in the Town Hall Council Chamber can accommodate 50 persons. Social distancing may not be possible in the Gallery depending on the numbers of members of the public in attendance at the meeting. An overspill area will be provided in the event that more than 50 members of the public attend - the webcast of the meeting will be live streamed to that room.

We are unable to guarantee entrance to the Public Gallery for observers, as priority will be given to registered speakers and those that have registered to attend.

Alternatively, you can observe the meeting remotely by clicking on the 'view the webcast' link provided on the [meeting page](#) of the website.

---

## **FACILITIES**

---

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

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

---

**COUNCIL AGENDA  
7 FEBRUARY 2024**

**Order of Business**

---

**1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members to declare any interests they have in the business to be considered at the meeting.

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

To receive any questions or petitions from the public, or communications submitted by the Lord Mayor or the Chief Executive and to pass such resolutions thereon as the Council Procedure Rules permit and as may be deemed expedient.

(NOTE: There is a time limit of one hour for the above item of business. In accordance with the arrangements published on the Council's website, questions/petitions are required to be submitted in writing, to [committee@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:committee@sheffield.gov.uk), by 9.00 a.m. on Monday 5 February 2024. Questions/petitions submitted after the deadline will be asked at the meeting subject to the discretion of the Chair.)

**6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

6.1 Questions relating to urgent business – Council Procedure Rule 16.6(ii).

6.2 Questions relating to the discharge of the functions of the South Yorkshire Joint Authorities (under the provisions of Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985) and of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority – Council Procedure Rule 16.6(i).

6.3 Supplementary questions on written questions submitted at this meeting – Council Procedure Rule 16.4.

**7. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUSINESS PLAN AND HRA BUDGET 2024/25**

To approve, with or without amendment, the recommendations made by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee, at its meeting held on 24th January 2024, in relation to the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and Budget for 2024/25, as set out in the report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services, published with this agenda.

**8. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "EXTENDING THE HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR DAWN DALE AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR RUTH MILSOM**

That this Council:-

- (a) notes that the Government has decided to end funding for the Household Support Fund from the end of March 2024, and further notes with concern that the Government did not use the Autumn Statement or the Local Government Finance Settlement to confirm an extension of the Fund;
- (b) notes that Sheffield received £10.4m from the Household Support Fund in 2023/24 which is used to provide financial support to low-income and vulnerable households who are struggling to afford the essentials;
- (c) notes that the Fund is used to provide Free School Meal vouchers to 32,000 households during the school holidays;
- (d) notes that the support that the Council has provided through the Household Support Fund has helped tens of thousands of households in Sheffield who have struggled to afford energy, food, and other essentials;
- (e) notes that the Household Support Fund is a key part of the Council's Cost of Living response which has brought together partners from the public sector, business, and the voluntary, community and faith sector to help those in need;
- (f) notes that the average number of Household Support Fund applications received per day in November 2023 is 112, which is a 148% increase on the same month last year, and that in 2023 there was an overall 47% increase in applications compared to 2022;
- (g) notes that the Chair of the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee has written to the Government to call for the Household Support Fund to be extended;

- (h) believes that ending the Household Support Fund will reduce vital support for people in our city who need it most;
- (i) believes that a cliff-edge in welfare provision in March 2024 must be avoided; and
- (j) calls on the Government to urgently provide clarity and reassurance to households in Sheffield, and to extend the Household Support Fund beyond March 2024.

**9. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "TACKLING EMPTY HOMES" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR SOPHIE THORNTON AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MIKE LEVERY**

That:-

This Council notes:-

- (a) the national housing crisis, with the housing shortage elevating private rent costs;
- (b) housing becoming increasingly unaffordable, particularly for lower-income, vulnerable and younger households;
- (c) concern for the numerous families currently in temporary accommodation;
- (d) the Council's current policy which applies the Long-Term Empty Premium to Council Tax (LTEP) on properties left empty;
- (e) that in Sheffield, 1317 properties have been empty for 1-2 years, 973 properties are currently subject to the LTEP, and 295 properties are second homes;
- (f) the lack of incentives to renovate and retrofit empty properties;
- (g) the need for considered and sensitive policy-setting, considering complex circumstances that can leave homes empty for long periods, including: bereavement, declining or ill-health, diminished capacity, a building's listed status and delays in planning permission;
- (h) the hard work of teams across the Council working to ensure fit and proper private rental property in the city, supporting credible and responsible landlords;

This Council believes:-

- (i) the housing crisis requires urgency and a strategic approach to prevent wasted property;
- (j) this Council has a duty as a responsible local authority to increase affordable rental accommodation;
- (k) incentives and support should be developed to encourage renovating and retrofitting empty homes;
- (l) that people purchasing empty homes should not be liable for increased council tax rates predating their ownership;
- (m) that tackling empty homes is vital for tangible climate action, with the benefits of retrofitting existing properties over the pressures on land use and materials that come with new builds;

This Council therefore resolves to:-

- (n) support responsible and credible landlords;
- (o) request the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to consider adding to its work programme:-
  - (i) investigation of ways to increase council tax on empty properties and second homes, ensuring thorough consideration for complex circumstances; and
  - (ii) formulating policy to incentivise the renovation and retrofit of empty homes, such as resetting to standard council tax rates upon sale;
- (p) request the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee to consider adding to its work programme, investigation of ways to tackle unnecessary delays in obtaining planning permission in the city; and
- (q) write to the Government to:-
  - (i) advocate for reform to end discounts for empty and derelict properties;
  - (ii) seek support for the Liberal Democrat policy of restricting the sale of newbuilds as second homes; and
  - (ii) request support for local authorities to ensure they have the skills and resources to maximise economic benefits from tackling empty homes.



**10. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "FIVE YEARS SINCE DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR PAUL TURPIN AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ALEXI DIMOND**

That:-

This Council notes:-

- (a) Sheffield City Council (SCC) has declared a Climate Emergency and has an ambition to become a zero-carbon city by 2030;
- (b) in 2019, The Tyndall Centre produced a report stating that Sheffield City Council must reduce its carbon emissions by 14% each year to achieve zero carbon by 2030;
- (c) the latest 2022 CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions data indicates that Sheffield City Council has reduced emissions by 3% since 2019, and needs to reduce emissions by a further 77% by 2030 to be in line with the Sheffield-wide 80% reduction on 2019 emissions that the Pathways to Decarbonisation Report suggested could be achievable by 2030;

This Council believes:-

- (d) Green involvement in the Council Administration has been central to the climate action the Council has taken: from introducing Climate Impact Assessments, to the creation of the Ten Point Plan for Climate Action, to ensuring major schemes like Connecting Sheffield and the Clean Air Zone progress in the face of political opposition;
- (e) that unrelenting action to tackle the climate emergency is the only way to achieve zero carbon by 2030, and the Council should be working at all Policy Committees on urgently reducing emissions;

This Council resolves to:-

- (f) ask the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee to consider adding to its work programme, implementation of a workplace parking levy to leverage funding for active and public transport at comparable levels to Nottingham City Council, who raised around £680 million over 10 years;
- (g) request the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to consider adding to its work programme, development of an advertising policy which does not support high carbon

industries and products harmful to people and nature, such as promoted by Adfree Cities;

- (h) request the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee to consider adding to its work programme, the completion of the Green Jobs and Skills Strategy initiated by Greens during the Cooperative Executive;
- (i) call on the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to make more funding available for Green Skills;
- (j) remind all Policy Committees to ensure the Climate Impact Assessment is used to develop all SCC decisions and actions;
- (k) ask the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee to consider adding to its work programme, an update on progress against the Renewable Energy strategy proposed by Greens in November 2022's full Council meeting;
- (l) ask the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to consider adding to its work programme as a matter of urgency, investigation of the practicalities of issuing Green Bonds to raise extra funding to support climate action;
- (m) ensure that all Councillors undertake Climate Literacy training, and to ask the Member Development Working Group to oversee the delivery of that training; and
- (n) ask the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to consider adding to its work programme, requiring all Policy Committees to set targets and prove they are reducing emissions across the portfolio, including publication of any increases.

**11. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "INCREASING THE NUMBER OF COUNCIL HOMES AND THE QUALITY OF EXISTING STOCK" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR TONY DAMMS AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR DIANNE HURST**

That this Council:-

- (a) notes that decent housing is linked closely to physical and mental wellbeing and that in a cost of living crisis people depend even more on the comfort, decency and security of their home, yet increasing numbers of residents are losing their homes because their landlords can no longer afford the mortgage or they themselves can no longer afford to pay increased private rents or

mortgages; and further notes that 3,020 people presented as homeless between April and December 2023, and of these, 584 were assessed as being owed a full homelessness duty;

- (b) notes that in Sheffield we need to build 3,018 net new homes a year to satisfy increasing demand and yet, through right to buy and disposals, social housing stock is decreasing each year, and further notes that regeneration is good for the local economy, it brings in business, creates jobs and generates pride in the local economy;
- (c) deplores that because of increasing building costs, our Housing Service bought homes off plan this municipal year and struggled to maintain the decency of existing stock; notes that many tenants are living in homes with damp, mould and leaking roofs and this affects their mental and physical health; and further notes that during the current municipal year disrepair claims cost the Council dearly;
- (d) notes that during a climate emergency the Council has a role to play and, as a local authority, has pledged to meet by 2030, yet is still talking about devising a route map to invest in bringing homes up to a C grade of environmental efficiency and has a programme to retrofit just 355 homes by external cladding on the principle of worst first and this will draw to an end next financial year;
- (e) asserts that this catalogue of failure displays a lack of ambition that is unworthy of our citizens; and
- (f) therefore resolves to:-
  - (i) re-commit to building council homes;
  - (ii) invest in existing council stock to improve warmth, security and energy efficiency; and
  - (iii) ask the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to consider for its work programme consideration of the performance of the Housing Policy Committee against these aims.

## **12. REVIEW OF THE PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH STANDARDS COMPLAINTS AND COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT**

To approve, with or without amendment, the recommendations in the report of the General Counsel (and Monitoring Officer), published with this agenda, regarding changes proposed to be made to the Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints and to the Councillor Code of Conduct.

**13. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

To approve, with or without amendment, the recommendations in the report of the General Counsel (and Monitoring Officer), published with this agenda, regarding the proposed appointment of two Independent Persons (that assist the Monitoring Officer in dealing with Standards complaints) and one non-voting Co-opted Member to join the Audit and Standards Committee.

**14. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS**

To receive the records of the proceedings of the meetings of the Council held on 1st November and 6th December 2023 and to approve the accuracy thereof.

**15. MEMBERSHIPS OF COUNCIL BODIES, REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON OTHER BODIES AND RELATED ISSUES**

To consider any changes to the memberships and arrangements for meetings of Committees etc., delegated authority, and the appointment of representatives to serve on other bodies, which may be proposed at the meeting.



James Henderson  
Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement  
(Proper Officer)

Dated this 30 day of January 2024

**The next meeting of the Council will be held on 6 March 2024 at the Town Hall**

---

## ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

---

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

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

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

You **must**:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

You have a personal interest where –

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

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

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

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

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

Further advice can be obtained from David Hollis, General Counsel by emailing [david.hollis@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:david.hollis@sheffield.gov.uk).

This page is intentionally left blank



## HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUSINESS PLAN & HRA BUDGET 2024/25

1. Approval of the Housing Revenue Account is a function reserved to full Council.
2. At its meeting on 24th January 2024, the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services, setting out the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and HRA Budget for 2024/25. Each year, the HRA Business Plan is reviewed and updated to set budgets and charges for the year ahead and to provide an updated 5-year plan and 30-year affordability profile.
3. The report provided the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee with an update on the current national and local housing context, regulatory requirements, and the priorities for Committee action, alongside capital and revenue spending plans for 2024/25, and indicated that the Housing Policy Committee would be responsible for overseeing the scrutiny and delivery of those plans on behalf of the Council housing tenants of Sheffield.
4. The HRA Business Plan had also been considered by the Housing Policy Committee at its meeting on 14th December 2023.
5. The resolution passed by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee is set out below.

**RESOLVED:** That the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee recommends to the meeting of the Council on 7th February 2024 that:-

- (a) the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan report for 2024/25 and the HRA Business Plan priorities for 2024/25, as set out in the Financial Appendix to this report, are approved;
- (b) the HRA Revenue Budget 2024/25, as set out in the Financial Appendix to this report, is approved;
- (c) it be noted that once adopted by the City Council, monitoring the delivery of HRA Business Plan priorities will be within the remit of the Housing Policy Committee and a regular performance reporting schedule will be approved;
- (d) rents for council dwellings are increased by 7.7% from April 2024, in line with the Regulator of Social Housing's Rent Standard;
- (e) garage rents for garage plots and sites are increased by 7.7% from April 2024;
- (f) the sheltered housing charge is increased by 6.7% from April 2024;
- (g) the burglar alarm charge is increased by 6.7% from April 2024;
- (h) the furnished accommodation charge is increased by 6.7% from April 2024;
- (i) there is no increase to the community heating charge at this time; and
- (j) rents for temporary accommodation are increased by 7.7% for 2024/25.

6. Paragraph (j) in the resolution passed by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee was an additional recommendation to those set out in the report. Due to an administrative error, this had not been included as a recommendation in the report, although paragraph 2.16 in the report (set out below, in italics) specifically addresses the proposed increase for temporary accommodation. This oversight was reported at the meeting, enabling the recommendation to be approved by the Committee.

*2.16. Members are also asked to recommend an increase in temporary accommodation charges and in charges for garage sites and garage plots in line with dwelling rents at 7.7%. Other fees and charges for burglar alarms, sheltered housing and furnished accommodation are proposed to increase by 6.7% in line with September 2023 inflation.*

## **Recommendation**

That the Council approves the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and budget including the increases to rents and charges set out in the recommendations made by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee, as above.

## **Options**

Full Council may:-

- (i) approve in full the recommendations made by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee; or
- (ii) approve with modification the recommendations made by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee, subject to the caveats below.

In considering the options, Full Council must have full regard to the contents of the report to the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee including, in particular, the implications that are highlighted in the report. Full Council's attention is drawn to the statutory requirements noted in the report, that the Authority must:-

- (A) comply with the Regulator of Social Housing's Rent Standard, as a Registered Provider of Social Housing, and accordingly increase dwelling rents in accordance with the Government's Rent Policy Statement. The Policy Statement sets a ceiling on the rent increase for 2024/25 of no more than 7.7% and the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities has issued a Direction to the Regulator to that effect.
- (B) formulate proposals relating to HRA income and expenditure no later than February each year in accordance with Part VI of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

(NOTE: A copy of the report submitted to the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee, is attached together with a copy of the Council's Social Housing Asset Value Data 2022/23 published in accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code 2015.)

Ajman Ali, Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services



## Report to Policy Committee

**Author/Lead Officer of Report:** Janet Sharpe,  
Director of Housing

**Tel:** 0114 2735493

---

**Report of:** Executive Director, Neighbourhood Services  
**Report to:** Strategy & Resources Policy Committee  
**Date of Decision:** 24 January 2024  
**Subject:** Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan 2024/25

Type of Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken	Initial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Full <input type="checkbox"/>
EIA reference 2398 covers the impact of the Rent Standard. This is the main planning assumption for this report. Individual EIAs have also been completed for other savings and pressures being considered by Strategy and Resources Committee in a related report.		
Has appropriate consultation/engagement taken place?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Purpose of Report:

This report sets out the 2024/25 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan. Each year the HRA Business Plan is reviewed and updated to set budgets and charges for the year ahead and to provide an updated 5-year plan and 30-year affordability profile.

The purpose of this report is to provide the Strategy & Resources Policy Committee with an update on the current national and local housing context, regulatory requirements, the priorities for Committee action alongside capital and revenue spending plans for 2024/25. The Housing Policy Committee will then be responsible for overseeing the scrutiny and, delivery of those plans on behalf of the Council housing tenants of Sheffield.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Strategy & Resources Policy Committee recommends to the meeting of the City Council on 7 February 2024 that: -

- a) The HRA Business Plan report for 2024/25 and the HRA Business Plan priorities for 2024/25 as set out in the Financial Appendix to this report are approved;
- b) The HRA Revenue budget 2024/25 as set out in the Financial Appendix to this report is approved;
- c) notes that once adopted by the City Council, monitoring the delivery of HRA Business Plan priorities will be within the remit of Housing Policy Committee and a regular performance reporting schedule will be approved.
- d) Rents for council dwellings are increased by 7.7% from April 2024 in line with the Regulator of Social Housing's Rent Standard.
- e) Garage rents for garage plots and sites are increased by 7.7% from April 2024.
- f) The sheltered housing charge is increased by 6.7% from April 2024.
- g) The burglar alarm charge is increased by 6.7% from April 2024.
- h) The furnished accommodation charge is increased by 6.7% from April 2024.
- i) There is no increase to the community heating charge at this time.

**Background Papers:****Appendix A - Summary of Tenant Consultation on the Priorities****Appendix B - HRA Business Plan and Financial Appendices 2024/25**

Lead Officer to complete:-	
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed.
	Finance: Helen Damon
	Legal: Meurig Tiley
	Equalities & Consultation: Louise Nunn
	Climate: Nathan Robinson

	<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	<b>SLB member who approved submission:</b>	<i>Ajman Ali, Executive Director for Neighbourhoods</i>
3	<b>Committee Chair consulted:</b>	<i>Douglas Johnson, Chair, Housing Policy Committee</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> <i>Janet Sharpe</i>	<b>Job Title:</b> <i>Director of Housing</i>
	<b>Date: 12th January, 2024</b>	

## **1. PROPOSAL**

- 1.1.** This report sets out the 2024/25 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan. Each year the HRA Business Plan is reviewed and updated to set budgets and charges for the year ahead and to provide an updated 5-year plan and 30-year affordability profile.
- 1.2** The purpose of this report is to provide the Strategy & Resources Policy Committee with an update on the current national and local housing context, regulatory requirements, the priorities for Committee action alongside capital and revenue spending plans for 2024/25. The Housing Policy Committee will then be responsible for overseeing the scrutiny and, delivery of those plans on behalf of the Council housing tenants of Sheffield.
- 1.3** The HRA Business Plan is included as Appendix B to this report. It provides a more detailed analysis of the current operating environment, the priorities for the HRA over the next 12 months and an overview of revenue and capital spending proposals over both the 5 and 30-year life of the Business Plan.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** The HRA is the financial account of the Council as a landlord. It is ring-fenced in law for income and expenditure in respect of council housing and housing land and certain activities in connection with the provision of council housing only. Other council services are funded through council tax and central government support which benefits all citizens of Sheffield regardless of tenure.
- 2.2** This HRA Business Plan report sets out how the estimated £181m income, predominantly from tenant rents, will be spent on delivering repairs, capital improvements and tenant services to more than 38,000 council homes across the city during 2024/25. It also includes a longer-term forecast looking forward over the next 5 years.
- 2.3** The focus for 2024/25 will be on restructuring the long-term Business Plan to ensure that there is a sustainable investment programme for council homes in Sheffield. The plan also focuses on improving the services that we provide to tenants to meet rising expectations, both of our customers and of the new regulatory environment.
- 2.4** The HRA Business Plan operates within a political environment therefore changes in both national and local policy can have a major impact and influence on the plan. The main impacts affecting this year's review include increased regulation of the social housing sector; increased costs to the HRA linked to inflation, a continued cost of living crisis impacting our tenants and the level of income we can generate for the HRA based on current Rent Policy.
- 2.5** Sheffield, like many other Local Authorities in the country, is facing increasing financial pressures and the impact of more stringent regulation. Income is not keeping up with costs making it increasingly difficult to

ensure that homes are well managed and maintained by the Council. Increased investment in repairs and long-term capital improvement is now required to ensure homes remain compliant with the Decent Homes Standard. Recent Government directives restricting providers ability to set rents in line with inflation have reduced overall funding for the Council's HRA and is impacting on its 30-year viability. Tenant engagement is a priority to ensure that the Council is delivering on tenant commitments, working collaboratively across the Council and community to improve the overall quality of neighbourhoods in the city.

- 2.6** The HRA also has significant financial pressures. Projections indicate that significant savings of around £14.2m are required in 2024/25. These pressures will impact on the ability of the HRA Business Plan to remain affordable over the course of the 30-year business plan. Both the Strategy and Resources and Housing Committee have considered mitigation proposals and further details of these HRA pressures and saving proposals can be found in the table below. The level of these savings may be partly mitigated by any rent increase that the Council decide to make for 2024/25 as set out in paragraph 2.15 below.

<b>Pressure</b>	<b>BIP Ref</b>	<b>£000's</b>
Undelivered 23/24 BIP Savings: Vacant rent loss	1.E1	1,000
One-off income from sale of sundry properties needs replacing with ongoing revenue funding	1.E2	2,000
Housing and Neighbourhoods Service and RMS - Pay Award 4% for 2024/25	1.E4, 2.E2, 3.E2, 3.E3 4.E2 5.E5, 6.E2	2,508
Inflationary increases on Staffing Recharges to HRA	1.E5	500
Fees and charges for new Regulatory Framework	1.E6	300
Professional fees for Housing staff	1.E7	125
Overspend on Repairs and Maintenance budget	3.E1	800
Additional team to manage disrepair claims	3.E4	625
10-year cyclical painting programme	3.E7	1,250
Technical training for gas staff	3.E8	100
Replacement funding for Voids Team	3.E10	250
Inflationary increases in door entry costs	3.E11	30
Undeliverable BIP for reduction in disrepair claims	3.E12	270

Council Tax increase on vacant properties	3.E13	100
Housing Growth Team - Commissioned work for HRA	3.E14	260
Increase in vehicle and transport costs	3.E15	150
Increase in tipping and waste costs	3.E16	150
Increase in legal fees for disrepair	3.E17	100
Undeliverable BIP in 2023/24 to reduce costs in Repairs and Maintenance Service (RMS)	3.E18	1,500
Inflationary increase on supplies and materials in RMS	3.E19	1,100
Undeliverable BIP Rechargeable Repairs	3.E20	200
Increase resources to manage safeguarding cases	4.E3, 4.E4	90
Implementation of Storm Telephony - IMFIT	4.E5	80
Funding for Citizen's Advice Bureau debt worker to provide tenant cost of living support	4.E8	50
Investments into enhanced cleaning of estates	5.E2	500
Undeliverable BIP Saving 2023/2024 - Community Buildings	5.E3	200
<b>Total</b>		<b>14,238</b>

<b>Saving</b>	<b>BIP Ref</b>	<b>£000's</b>
Savings from ICT costs through delivery of Place Systems Review	1.B1	400
Reduction in non-staffing overheads	1.B4	400
Rent policy increase to rent and non-dwelling rent	1.C1	12,765
Increase in Service Charge income	1.C4	285
Cost savings following implementation of changes to the repairs policy	3.B1	400
Savings from community buildings programme	5.B1	400
<b>Total</b>		<b>14,650</b>

The full HRA Budget Implementation Plans (BIPS) are available here [Budget and spending | Sheffield City Council](#)

- 2.7** The annual update of the Business Plan provides the opportunity to review our current priorities for both service delivery and investment in council homes. A revised set of priorities were agreed for the Business Plan in 2023/24 to ensure that it remained responsive to tenants needs and to the economic situation at that time. These priorities have been reviewed as part of this plan and the



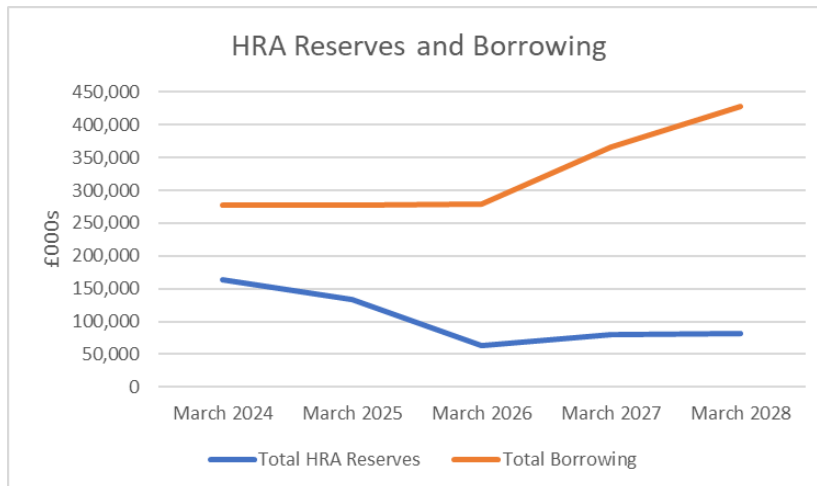
recommendation is that these remain as the key focus for 2024/25.

- 2.8** The Housing Capital Investment Strategy focuses on a ‘fabric first’ approach to protect council housing assets, to reduce our ongoing and long-term repairs and maintenance obligations and increase tenants’ satisfaction with their homes. We have now commenced an area-based investment approach to reflect local priorities that are important to residents and tenants. Close working arrangements are in place with the Council’s Repairs Services to ensure alignment across Capital and Revenue investment.
- 2.9** The proposed 5-year Housing Capital Investment Programme including inflation is £450m for investing in existing Council homes and the current proposed stock increase programme is £255m (including external grants and funding), giving a total programme value for the forthcoming 5 years of £705m. This reflects the additional investment needed to improve Council housing stock and reduce over time the responsive repair budgets. The Financial Tables in Appendix B provide a breakdown of the main elements of the programme and their associated costs through to 2029.
- 2.10** This review of the HRA Business Plan for 2024/25 has maintained the remaining capital allocation to the SIP through to 2029. This budget is predicated upon a complex funding matrix which is continually changing. The current economic conditions mean there is a risk that homes delivered directly by the Council will cost the HRA more than their resultant market value, due to high site abnormal costs, unless additional external funding can be secured. This is a similar issue faced by all Registered Providers in the city and, other Local Authorities. The limitations on the use of Right to Buy receipts set by government, present the Council with a risk of having to pay back receipts if the SIP does not satisfy the programme and/or tenure/type mix requirements.
- 2.11** The focus for the SIP to 2029 will be on acquiring new market homes, strategic acquisitions and directly delivering a small number of housing sites, which remain viable and that will continue to meet an identified need for council housing in the city. Approval of the Stock Increase Programme will be presented as part of the Council Capital Strategy. This may lead to a review of commitments and the release of land where sites are no longer viable under current market conditions. We will continue to maximise the use of RTB receipts to maintain our programme of acquisitions, again to meet identified need. The Council’s new Housing Strategy due to be presented to the Council’s Strategy and Resources Committee later this financial year will continue to set out the housing need and affordable housing requirements for the city and any gaps in provision. This will inform future discussions with the Housing Policy and other Committees to formalise the Council’s wider housing growth ambitions throughout 2024/25 to maximise the use of available funding alongside the HRA capital allocation.
- 2.12** Sheffield City Council, its Leader and Chief Executive are working together with key partners in the city through the Sheffield Together Partnership with Homes England, the SYMCA, the Sheffield Property Association, and members of the South Yorkshire Housing Partnership to strengthen the focus on enablement, intervention, and delivery. We are actively reviewing all sites within the

emerging Sheffield Plan for affordable housing compatibility and exploring a variety of affordable housing delivery models to strength pipeline across all delivery routes. We will look to enhance this relationship by exploring opportunities with RPs to maximise the use of available land in the delivery of new homes in circumstances where the Council is not able to directly deliver to address the overall affordable housing shortfall. This will be critical to ensuring that the range and type of affordable homes in the city continues to increase addressing together the annual affordable housing shortfall of 902 homes per year.

- 2.13** We will maintain a viable 30-year Business Plan by managing our rental income and operational expenses to reinvest in existing homes and neighbourhoods alongside the creation of new homes. This requires a rigorous approach to business planning and financial management to mitigate the impact of the challenges from national and local policy, whilst delivering on our priorities. The development of our Asset Management Strategy will inform the longer-term capital investment need for existing stock, which must be balanced with the resources that are available in the 30-year Business Plan. A robust process, following the new Asset Management Strategy in 2024, will be to refresh archetype option appraisals of Council housing stock, alongside a potential replacement or regeneration strategy.
- 2.14** We have assumed throughout our planning that rent will increase each year by the amount allowed by the current Rent Standard (i.e., September CPI + 1%). A below Rent Standard increase would impact on the income throughout the 30-year Business Plan. For example, compared to Rent Standard, a 5% rent increase would result in a loss of up to £183m in income over the 30-year life of the Business Plan, leading to job losses and cuts in services for tenants. A 7% increase would result in a loss of up to £47m over the 30-years. A reduction in the assumed income would mean that costs would need to be reduced to balance the Business Plan.
- 2.15** The government have confirmed that the current Rent Standard, allowing a CPI+1% limit on annual rent increases, will remain in place for 2024/25. This will allow Registered Providers to increase rents by a maximum of 7.7% (based on the September 2023 inflation rate). As set out in paragraph 2.14 above, the Council's planning assumptions are based on a maximum rent increase to maintain income levels within the HRA and allow continued investment into council homes. Members of this Committee are therefore asked to recommended approval of a 7.7% rent increase to the City Council meeting in February.
- 2.16** Members are also asked to recommend an increase in temporary accommodation charges and in charges for garage sites and garage plots in line with dwelling rents at 7.7%. Other fees and charges for burglar alarms, sheltered housing and furnished accommodation are proposed to increase by 6.7% in line with September 2023 inflation.
- 2.17** Over the next 5-years we are planning to increase our borrowing to partially fund our Stock Increase Programme from increased rents from new supply. These loan repayments will be fully funded from the additional rental income from the

resultant new properties and, when capital debt is repaid, will create a surplus that can support the wider costs in the HRA in the longer term. Investment into our existing stock will be funded through a mixture of revenue, capital receipts and capital reserves. The graph below presents the 5-year position on borrowing and reserves. This shows the increasing use of reserves to fund the capital investment programme up to 2026 before undertaking new borrowing from 2026, for the existing stock. After 2026 this will require a revenue budget to be identified within the operating model to cover the cost of any loans taken out to fund improvements for existing stock.



**2.18** The development of the Asset Management Strategy will be critical to any decision making around future investment priorities. It will inform stock option appraisals to review our stock profile, consider the impact of individual archetypes on our capital and repairs costs, and balance our tenant demand and need profiles to ensure that the Business Plan remains viable. These will be difficult decisions that will impact on the services and homes that we offer our tenants. They will potentially impact on the number of homes we own but will be necessary to deliver a sustainable future for council housing in the city. This could also involve reducing any stock that has a negative impact on the overall HRA Business Plan so that the level of Council homes and, our ability to service long term debt from increased borrowing remains balanced over 30-years.

### 3. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

**3.1** The Housing Revenue Account Business Plan for 2024/2025 will maximise the financial resources available to deliver outcomes to council tenants in the context of a self-financing funding regime. This must be set in the context of significant national developments, a challenging economic climate, and reductions in government funding.

**3.2** The Council is collaborating with communities and partners on the development of Sheffield’s new City Goals. The **City Goals** will become a driving force to support partnership working across the city. With the Goals being developed collaboratively, a key aim is that this will promote a joined-up approach to

delivery, recognising that everyone has a role to play in Sheffield achieving its ambitions. The draft Goals include themes around thriving communities, and a green and resilient Sheffield – and ensuring people have access to a good quality and affordable choice of housing across our city is fundamental to the wellbeing of our communities and the city's prosperity.

- 3.3** The new 4-year Council Plan demonstrates the Council's role in helping the city to achieve its City Goals. The Council Plan will set out an ambitious set of outcomes and priorities, providing clear medium-term purpose and direction for the whole organisation. Aligned to the 4-year Medium Term Financial Strategy, the new Council Plan will focus on getting the best outcomes for the people of Sheffield and the city's long-term prosperity as we lead the transition to a net zero future. Having an ambitious and high-quality housing offer for citizens is central to those ambitions and this will be further detailed in the new **Housing Strategy** being discussed by Members later this year.
- 3.4** The **Race Equality Commission** published its final report in July 2022. The outcomes of the report reflect specific concerns for the housing sector in Sheffield. We have an important role in acknowledging and acting on recommendations included in the report. We have a significant Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population amongst our council tenants and recognise that the allocation of HRA funds will inherently impact the housing of BAME individuals in Sheffield.
- 3.5** The primary purpose of **Local Area Committees** (LACs) is to promote the involvement of local people in the democratic process and to bring decision making closer to local people. There are seven LACs covering different areas of Sheffield and there is council housing stock in each of these areas. Issues discussed in LAC forums often relate to council housing and HRA funded activities. It is important that we engage with these forums where issues link to our activities. These forums are a way for us to engage with residents and gather a broad range of views on HRA funded activities.
- 3.6** The proposed priorities also link closely with the **Council Values**. These values guide how we do things each day, individually and together, to deliver services to our customers. Putting tenants at the heart of what we do, being open and honest in our dealings with tenants and working together to achieve the best outcome are themes that run strongly through the delivery of the Business Plan.

#### **4. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?**

- 4.1** Consultation on business plan activities takes place throughout the year as part of our formal tenant governance activities. This helps us to understand what tenants think about the delivery of current services, but also to identify their priorities and shape future service needs.
- 4.2** Appendix A sets out the full details of the consultation recently undertaken on the draft priorities contained within the Business Plan for 2024/25. The consultation helped us to gain a better understanding of tenant's views of our council housing spending priorities. The priorities which ranked highly are the areas where we will invest both time and financial resources in improving

services to tenants. The proposals in this Business Plan, particularly the increased investment in repairs and in tackling damp and mould (as discussed at September's Housing Policy Committee) support this as a priority for customers. It is positive that we are also seeing some performance and satisfaction improvements in areas that are a priority for tenants around repairs, ASB and customer contact. This consultation does also show that we still have a lot to do to deliver on the expectations of our customers and this will help to shape our improvement planning for 2024/25.

## **5. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

### **5.1 Equality Implications**

There are no direct equality implications arising from this report. Equality Impact Assessment reference 2398 covers the impact of the Rent Standard. This is the main planning assumption for this report. Individual EIAs have been completed for other savings and pressures being considered by Strategy and Resources Committee in a related report.

### **5.2 Financial and Commercial Implications**

The HRA Business Plan allows for a continuation of services to tenants, revenue repairs to properties and financial support for the Council Housing Capital Programme by means of a contribution from revenue. Any annual revenue surpluses on the account will continue to support the 30-year Business Plan.

The Council Housing Capital Programme, including the stock increase programme, will require the HRA to support further borrowing, as allowed under the current Government guidelines. The debt strategy for the HRA will continue to be reviewed and developed in accordance with the Council's treasury management strategy and any re-profiling of the Council's Stock Increase Programme will be presented for approval as part of the Council Capital Strategy and Capital Programme approval process.

The Commercial Resilience section of Appendix B explains the detailed commercial viability of the plan and the financial tables also in Appendix B set out the 5-year projections for the HRA Income and Expenditure Account and the 5-year capital programme. These are based on current assumptions and continue to be reviewed for known changes. Further details on the Council Housing Capital Programme will be set out in the Council's Capital Strategy.

### **5.3 Legal Implications**

The provision of housing accommodation is set out in Part II of the Housing Act 1985. Statutory requirements regarding keeping of a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) are contained in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the Act"). The provisions include a duty, under Section 76 of the Act, to budget to prevent a debit balance on the HRA and to implement and review the budget. The Act places a duty on local housing authorities to: (i) to produce and make available for public inspection, an annual budget for their HRA, which avoids a deficit; (ii) to review and if necessary, revise that budget from time to time and (iii) to take all reasonably practical steps to avoid an end of year deficit.

On 10 November 2020 the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local

Government ('MHCLG') published guidance on the operation of the Housing Revenue Account ring-fence. This guidance updates and replaces Circular 8/95 published by the former Department of the Environment (DoE). It gives advice to local housing authorities in England on certain aspects of the HRA. This guidance restates ministers' established policy for the HRA and introduces no new issues of principle. However, it highlights the need to be fair to both tenants and council taxpayers and that there should be a fair and transparent apportionment of costs between the HRA and General Fund.

In December 2022 the Government published an updated policy statement on rents for social housing from 1 April 2023 onwards and, pursuant to powers under section 197 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008, issued the Direction on the Rent Standard 2023. This required the Regulator of Social Housing to set a new rent standard, consistent with the Rent Policy Statement, with effect from 1 April 2023 and sits alongside the 2020 Rent Standard which continues to apply to supported housing. The Direction applies to the Regulator in relation to the rents of all registered providers of social housing, including local authorities, and replaces a 2014 Direction which applied only to the rents of private registered providers and the more recent 2019 Direction. The requirement that the Council's rent increases be in accordance with government rent policy is not itself new but with effect from 1 April 2020 this is secured through a regulatory standard. The Council must comply with the rent setting rules. If it fails to do so it may be made subject to regulatory action.

The basis for setting rent is set out under Section 24 of the Housing Act 1985 which provides that a local authority must make such reasonable charges as they determine for the tenancy occupation of their houses. The Council has a broad discretion in setting such reasonable rents and other charges as it may determine and must from time-to-time review rents and make such changes as circumstances may require. The duty to review rents and make changes is itself subject to the requirements for notice of a variation set out in Section 103 of the 1985 Act. The notice must specify the variation and the date on which it takes effect which must be at least four weeks after the date of service.

#### **5.4 Climate Implications**

There are no direct climate consequences resulting from this report. Appendix B highlights the issue of EPC-C targets and net zero as part of the capital investment programme. Our business plan priority for all Council homes to be EPC-C by 2030 fulfils the present-day obligations on us as a social landlord.

#### **5.5 Risk Analysis**

Risks to the HRA are collated and monitored via a risk register and are primarily concerned with threats to income and expenditure that would compromise the viability of the HRA Business Plan. These risks are reviewed and regularly updated. The key risks to the HRA Business Plan include the impact of welfare reform; health and safety/fire risks on council tower blocks and other high-risk buildings; an increase in interest, borrowing and inflation rates; changes to the regulatory environment (including review of Decent Homes standard); review of the Government Rent Standards and increase in repairs and maintenance costs. Appendix B of this report sets out a more detailed consideration of the overall 30-year viability of the Business Plan and the steps that are being taken to

manage this.

The HRA unearmarked revenue reserve is currently £5.6million, a similar level is currently assumed for 2024/25. The financial impact of the above risks far exceeds the reserve held, but the likelihood of all these risks being incurred in any one year is low and therefore, it is not deemed prudent, nor offers best value to hold sufficient reserves for all eventualities. However, the level of reserves will be monitored to ensure that the reserves levels are adequate to cover future expected pressures in the medium term.

## **6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 6.1** The Council is required to both set a balanced in year HRA budget and to ensure that in-year income and expenditure are balanced over 30 years. No other alternatives were considered.

## **7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1** This report and its recommendations, sets out the scale of the challenge ahead, the limited resources available and the difficult decisions that now need to be taken to deliver a balanced HRA budget for 2024/25 and for the overall 30-year viability. The delivery of a balanced HRA budget is dependent on setting a 7.7% rent increase for Council tenants as set out in this report.

## Appendix A

### Summary of Tenant Consultation on the Priorities

#### Introduction

We recently carried out a consultation with tenants and leaseholders, asking them about our council housing spending priorities for 2024-2025. Spending priorities are included in our Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and provide important background to our Business Plan.

#### Objective

The objectives of this consultation were:

- To gain a better understanding of tenant’s views of our council housing spending priorities
- To understand which priorities rank highly indicating the issues that our tenants are most concerned about
- To understand why tenants are most concerned with some priorities.

#### Survey method

The consultation was carried out online on the Council’s ‘Have Your Say’ engagement platform.

The introduction to the survey outlined all 14 of our proposed council housing spending priorities for 2024-2025. Respondents were then asked to:

1. Select up to 4 priorities that you think are most important (compulsory)
2. What were the main reasons you chose these priorities? (optional)

#### Demographic information

We collected some demographic information from our respondents. This helps us to understand how representative of our overall tenant base the respondents were. The demographic information is as below:

Demographic data	
<b>Total respondents</b>	106
<b>Age profile</b>	19-24: 4% 25-34: 21% 35-44: 12% 45-54: 16% 55-64: 21% 65-74: 20% 75+: 6%
<b>% with a disability</b>	44%
<b>% BAME background</b>	11%
<b>Gender profile</b>	Female: 66% Male: 31% Non-binary and other: 3%

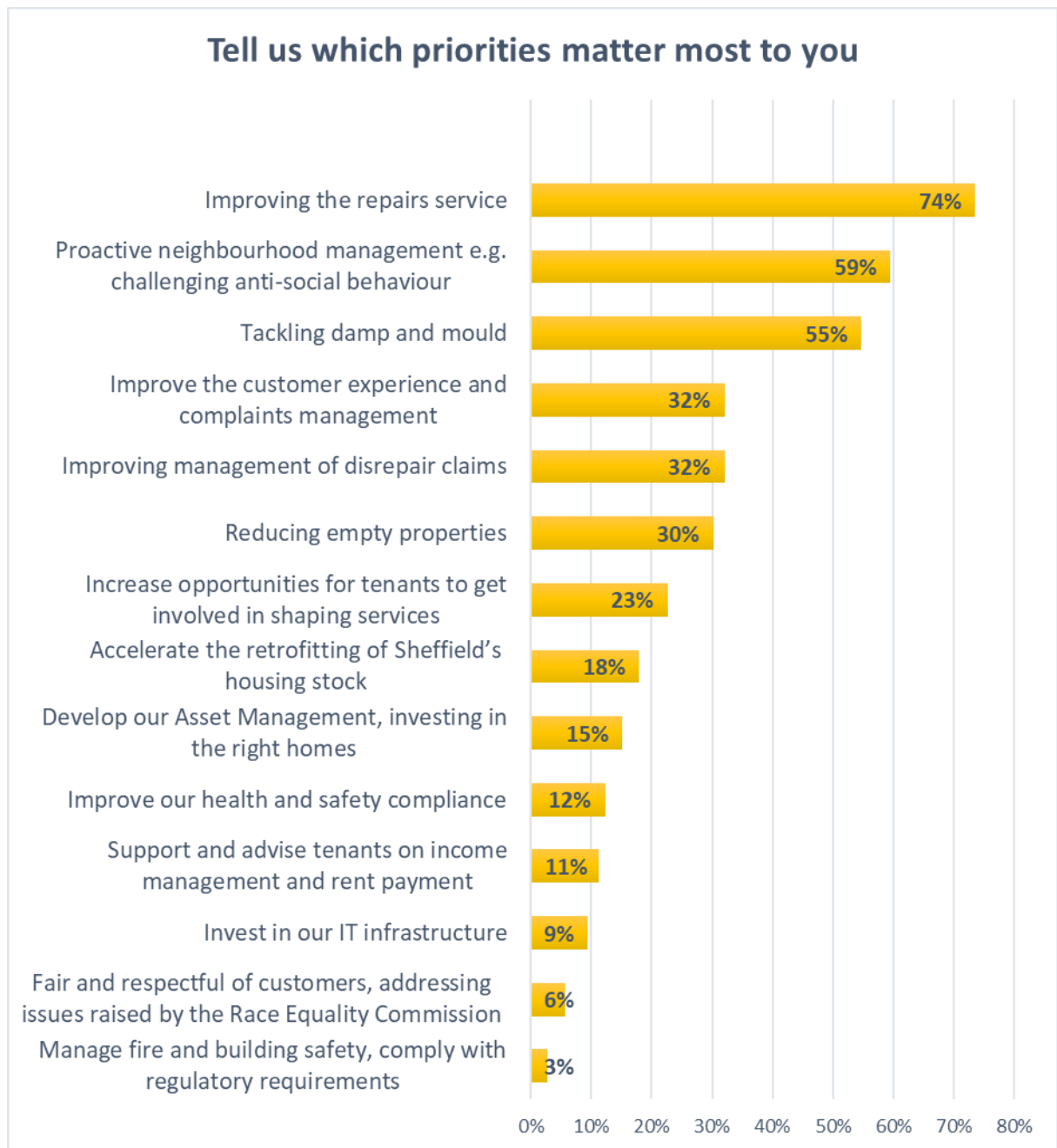
We know that approximately 24% of our tenants have a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background. This compared with the 11% of respondents



with a BAME background shows that the group was underrepresented in this consultation and is something that we will look to improve in future consultations. Another underrepresented group was male tenants. Approximately 42% of our tenants are male, but only 31% of respondents were male. There was a reasonable spread of respondents from different age brackets. We had a good response from under 55s, which is positive as this group has been underrepresented in some of our previous consultations.

### Survey results

There were 106 responses to the consultation.



## Analysis

- There was huge support for our priority around **improving the repairs service**, with 74% of respondents ranking it amongst their top priorities.
- In the follow up question “What were the main reasons you chose these priorities?” there were some clear themes around repairs.
- Respondents wanted the service to reduce the time to get through on the phone to report the initial repair, an improvement in the time that repairs are currently taking and an improvement in the repair quality.
- This response tells us that tenants feel strongly about improving our repairs service and reaffirms the need for us to focus significant efforts and resources on our repairs service with a view to continuing with necessary improvements in the year ahead. The feedback given in the follow up question is helpful in helping us to better understand what tenants see as the main issues with our repairs service.
- There was also significant support for our priority of **proactive neighbourhood management**, with 59% of respondents including this in their top 4.
- Again, call waiting times was an issue highlighted by tenants when reporting ASB. Another common theme in these accounts was respondents feeling like the council couldn't take firm enough action, and therefore feeling like issues were going unresolved.
- Some respondents also described that they selected this as a priority because it is a basic issue that needs improving before we focus on other priorities. Despite the priority covering a broader remit than just ASB, many respondents think this is the area we need to focus our efforts. We will consider how we tackle this area in the year ahead.
- The third most popular priority was **tackling damp and mould**, with 55% of respondents selecting this as one of their top priorities.
- In the follow up question, many of these respondents again explained personal experience as their reason for choosing their priority and a desire to see some performance improvements in this area.
- Others described that this was not something they had experienced personally, but that they had selected it due to its seriousness and potential health hazard. We take this feedback seriously and acknowledge that this is an area over half of respondents have told us is important to them.
- Interestingly, the priority which ranked the lowest was **managing fire and building safety**. More consideration needs to be given to whether this is because tenants generally think we are performing well in this area, or whether it is something that only certain groups of tenants feel affected by (i.e. those living in high rise).
- It is worth noting that as part of this consultation we did not ask respondents for details about the type of property they live in, perhaps this is something we should consider for future consultations.

## Conclusion

- This consultation has helped us to gain a better understanding of tenant's views of our council housing spending priorities.
- The priorities which ranked highly were sometimes described by respondents as the 'basics'.
- These are the areas where we will invest both time and financial resources in improving services to tenants. The proposals in this Business Plan, particularly the increased investment in repairs and in tackling damp and mould (as discussed at September's Housing Policy Committee) support this priority for customers.
- It is positive that we are also seeing some performance and satisfaction improvements in areas that are a priority for tenants around repairs, ASB and customer contact.
- This consultation does also show that we still have a lot to do to deliver on the expectations of our customers and this will help to shape our improvement planning for 2024/25.

This page is intentionally left blank



# Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2024-25





# CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT	4
3. OUR HOUSING PROFILE	6
4. HRA BUSINESS PLAN PRIORITIES	8
5. INVESTMENT PROGRAMME	12
6. COMMERCIAL RESILIENCE	15
7. RISKS	17
8. APPENDICES	19



# 1. Introduction

## The Business Plan

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is the financial account of the Council as a landlord. It is ring-fenced in law for income and expenditure in respect of council housing and housing land and certain activities in connection with the provision of council housing only. Other council services are funded through council tax and central government support which benefits all citizens of Sheffield regardless of tenure.

This HRA Business Plan report sets out how the estimated £181m income, predominantly from tenant rents, will be spent on delivering repairs, capital improvements and tenant services to more than 38,000 council homes across the city during 2024/25. It also includes a longer-term forecast looking forward over the next 5 years.

The review of the HRA Business Plan is a dynamic process which reflects the Council's ambitions to be an excellent landlord. This is not just something that we undertake once a year but is part of an ongoing dialogue with tenants and residents to identify investment and service priorities that will improve the quality of homes and tenant services provided.



## 2. National and Local Policy Context

The HRA Business Plan operates within a political environment which means that changes in both national and local policy can have a major impact and influence on the plan. The main impacts affecting this year's review are set out below.

### *Increased Financial Pressures*

Sheffield, like many other Local Authorities in the country, is facing increasing financial pressures and the impact of more stringent regulation. Income is not keeping up with costs making it increasingly difficult to ensure that homes are professionally managed and maintained by the Council. Increased investment in repairs and long-term capital improvement is required to ensure homes remain compliant with the Decent Homes Standard. Recent Government directives restricting providers ability to set rents in line with inflation have reduced overall funding for the Council's HRA and is impacting on its 30-year viability. Tenant engagement is a priority to ensure that the Council is delivering on tenant commitments, working collaboratively across the Council and community to improve the overall quality of neighbourhoods in the city.

### *High Inflation and Cost-of-living Crisis.*

Sustained high inflation rates have had a direct impact on the Council's HRA. Costs have risen significantly in many areas including construction and material costs, contractual commitments, and utilities. Persistently high inflation rates over the last few years mean that there are increasingly difficult choices around the delivery of future tenant priorities. These issues are affecting all Local Authorities and Registered Providers including Sheffield.

High inflation has also exacerbated the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. This has meant that there is increasing hardship amongst our tenants. It is vital that we support our tenants through this difficult financial period whilst also managing limited funds. Direct funding remains in place to support tenants facing difficulties, alongside other Cost of Living Hardship Funds, to help tenants facing rising housing costs sustain their tenancies.

### *Increased Social Housing Regulation*

The Social Housing (Regulation) Act received Royal Assent in July 2023 and signifies a new era of stringent consumer regulation for the social housing sector and increased powers for the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH). This means that the Council can expect to be subject to regular inspections by the Regulator going forward. We are working hard to prepare for the new regulatory regime and are actively engaging with the regulators on a range of issues and, to improve services for tenants. It also means additional costs will be incurred as we are expected to make financial contributions to support this regulation. The Council has significant expertise in working within a regulatory environment and we will collaborate with colleagues across the Council to ensure that we learn from that experience as we make our preparations.



## Workforce Plan

The government's commitment to the professionalisation of officers working within the housing sector will require colleagues in key positions to hold formal housing qualifications. This is a priority for us to ensure that our tenants have the highest standards. We will also ensure that our technical and enforcement teams across Housing and Repairs maintain their accreditations, and any qualifications, as part of their ongoing training plans. As part of this, we will continue our commitment to increasing apprenticeships, higher level apprenticeship and graduate training programmes. We have strong record of apprenticeships across both Housing and Repairs and currently have around 125 apprentices undertaking their qualifications with us.

## Building Safety Act

The Building Safety Act was implemented in April 2022 and saw the Health and Safety Executive appointed as the new Building Safety Regulator to oversee the safety and performance of all buildings including Council housing. There will be a particular focus on high-rise and high-risk buildings and capital funding has been set aside to improve tenancy management, resident engagement, and fabric of high-rise buildings to ensure we are compliant with the new regulations. The Regulator is set to complete its transition to the new regime during 2024/25. Any necessary actions to ensure that our buildings remain safe and compliant are likely to mean increased costs for the Housing Revenue Account alongside increased tenant and resident engagement and tenancy management.

## Rent Standard

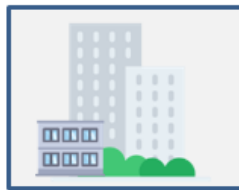
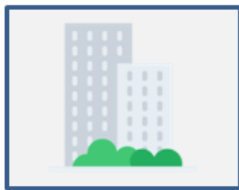
The HRA receives most of its income through dwelling rents, with a much smaller percentage coming from garage and other non-dwelling rents. The Council's ability to set rents is constrained by the Regulator of Social Housing Rent Standard which is determined by a government direction under Section 197 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008. The usual Rent Standard will apply in 2024/25. The rate of CPI for September 2023 was 6.7% which means that the maximum rent increase that the Council can make for 2024/25 is 7.7%. This has been assumed in the drafting the HRA Business Plan presented here.

## Welfare Reform

The transition to Universal Credit for tenants receiving support with paying their rent continues in Sheffield. The government recently announced in the Autumn Statement that they would increase working age benefits by 6.7% next year, equivalent to inflation in the 12 months to September 2023. This is slightly below the proposed rent increase of 7.7%. Experience working with tenants this year has shown that tenants in receipt of Universal Credit have a higher likelihood of rent arrears than tenants on housing benefit where the payment is made directly to the Council.



# 3. Our Housing Profile



**17,191 Houses**  
*(@ October 2023 excluding temporary accommodation units)*

**14,679 Flats**

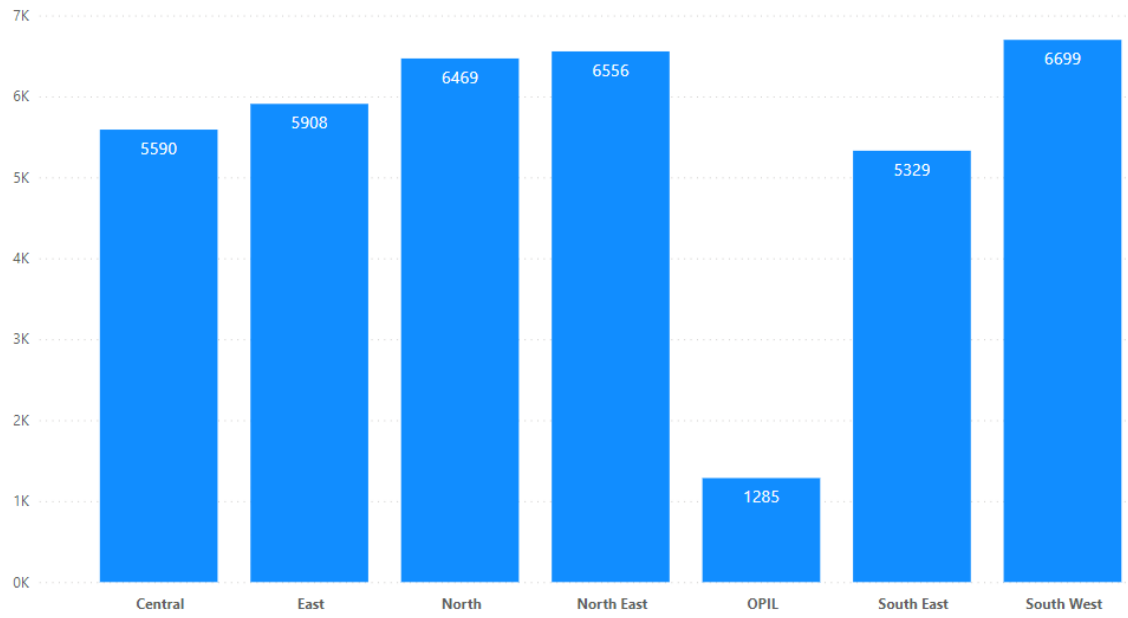
**2,722 Maisonettes**

**2,642 Bungalows**

**38,306 Total Stock**

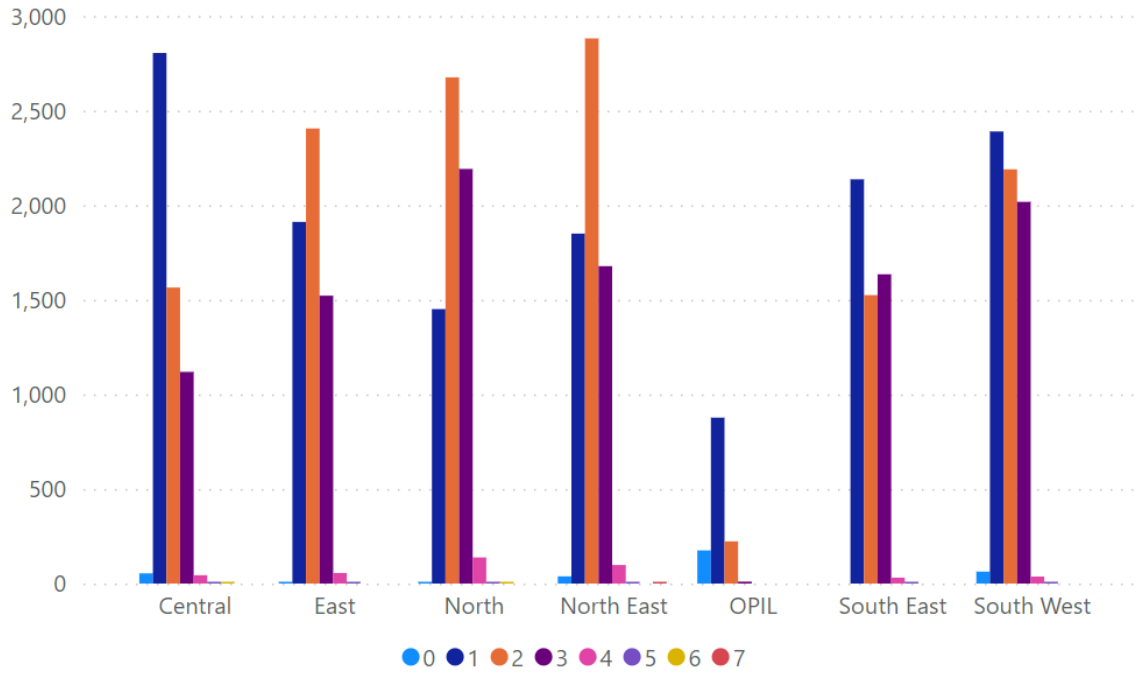
**2,500 Leaseholders**

*Council Housing Stock by Neighbourhood Area*



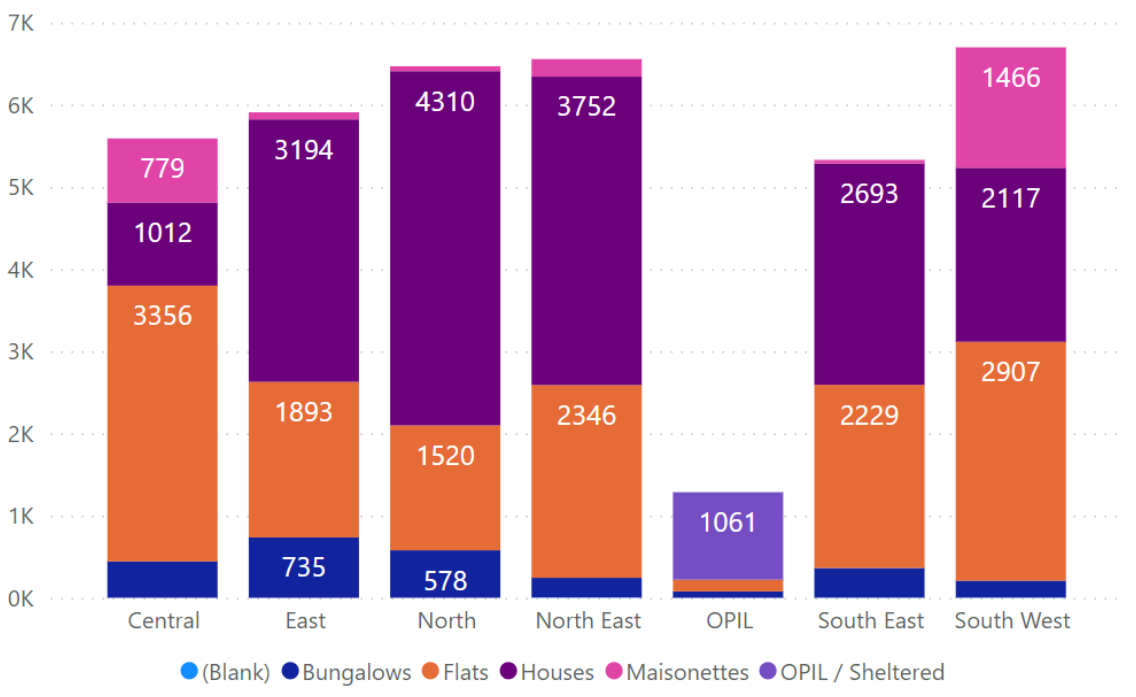
*The bar chart provides a breakdown of the number of council housing stock by neighbourhood area.*

### Number of Bedrooms by Neighbourhood Area



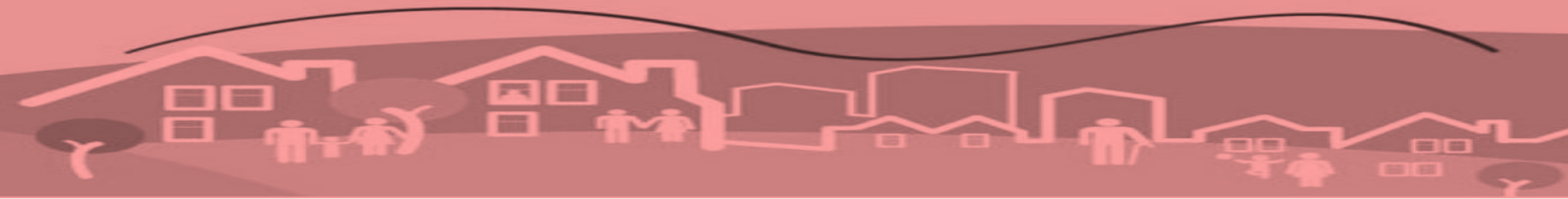
The bar chart shows the number of bedrooms of council housing stock by neighbourhood area.

### Building Type by Neighbourhood Area



The bar chart shows the number of different council housing building types by neighbourhood area.

Icons made by Flaticon are licensed by Creative Commons BY 3.0



# 4.HRA Business Plan Priorities

The annual update of the Business Plan provides the opportunity to review our current priorities for both service delivery and investment in council homes. Members agreed a revised set of priorities for the Business Plan in 2023/24 to ensure that it remained responsive to tenants needs and to the economic situation at that time. These priorities have been reviewed as part of this plan and the recommendation is that these remain as the key focus for 2024/25.

## *Key Priorities 2024/25*

### *Improving our repairs service*

We recognise that this is the top priority for our tenants and are finalising a robust improvement plan to meet that challenge. We have made positive steps in improving performance around gas safety and have strengthened our focus on customer service, productivity and improving first line management. The inflationary environment has had an enormous impact on the costs of materials and contractors and our ability to deal with demand from tenants – particularly because of national campaigns around disrepair and damp, mould, and condensation. Our improvement plan provides a focus for the next 12 months as we aim to further reduce repair times for customers, clarify roles and responsibilities through a new Repairs Policy and ensure that satisfaction with the service meets rising customer expectations.

### *Tackling damp and mould in council homes*

We continue to see levels of damp, mould and condensation reported in line with the national trend. Our dedicated damp and mould team is being expanded so we can respond to customer requests within our five-day target. We are building our data led intelligence of damp and mould cases across the city through the work of the Damp and Mould Taskforce working with all key service areas so we can develop the most appropriate response and interventions to resolve any identified issues.

### *Improving the management of disrepair claims*

Investing in our existing homes is just as an important as investing in new homes. We will ensure our homes remain safe, modern, and warm and we will continue with our investment plans during 2024/25. We will explore opportunities that help improve our current homes and help to reduce carbon emissions and look at ways to make our existing homes more energy efficient. We will also continue our work on making environmental improvements such as paths, boundaries, and communal spaces.

## *Reducing the time our council properties are empty*

The demand for council homes remains high and it is important that we have our council homes available to be re-let once vacated. Over the last year, we have improved our processes and reduced the time it takes from a tenant handing in the keys to a new tenant moving in. A new Housing Vacant's Team has been set up to improve in this area. The new team's initial focus has been to reduce key safe fitting times, process improvements with temporary accommodation relets and reclassifying new acquisitions. Our performance, at over 100 days, is still much higher than our peers. As this work starts to embed, we expect savings to be realised as a result of improvements in this area.

## *Develop our Asset Management Strategy*

Our Asset Management Strategy will be developed over the forthcoming year and will be influenced by the findings of the stock condition surveys undertaken during 2024 and 2025. The Asset Management strategy will focus on keeping our customers safe and warm, improving the quality of homes, neighbourhoods, and local communities. This means that we will address our statutory obligations including fire safety, electrical and gas compliance and damp and mould in addition to maintaining decent homes standard compliance.

## *Improve our health and safety compliance*

We will ensure that we conduct health and safety checks to properties and communal areas, including fire safety gas and electrical safety checks to properties. We will also ensure that customers are aware of the checks required, how important they are to keep them safe and that they should work with us to ensure that we can complete checks on time. Where tenants prevent us completing checks, we will take more robust action to enforce our tenancy conditions where appropriate.

## *Manage fire and building safety compliance*

We are putting in place a programme of works to ensure full compliance with the Building Safety Regulator regarding fire and building safety. The four single staircase tower blocks will have been upgraded to current fire standards by the end of December 2023 and a plan is in place to upgrade the remaining 20 dual staircase tower blocks during the next five years. This work will include closing off the internal bin chutes, providing external bin provision and installing misting systems in all flats. We are also looking to replace all doors where required to the low-rise flats, OPIL properties and maisonettes to comply with fire regulations. We will also be setting up a tenant and resident High Rise Forum, so we are directly collaborating with tenants and leaseholders living in high rise on tenancy management and maintenance arrangements to ensure our homes remain safe and, fully compliant with regulations.

## *Proactive housing management*

We will be proactive in our management of neighbourhoods, tackling local issues early, reviewing and enforcing tenancy conditions, challenging anti-social behaviour, tenancy breaches and incidents of fraud, across all tenancies, including introductory tenancies. We want our multi-tenure neighbourhoods to be great places in which to live. We will ensure we fulfil our safeguarding responsibilities. Tenants will feel safer and experience a greater level of satisfaction with us as a landlord.

## *Improve customer satisfaction*

We will improve customer satisfaction, focusing on our performance in the areas that customers tell us that matter to them. We are regularly collecting customer satisfaction data and using this information to identify where service improvements can be made.

## *Advice and support to tenants to manage their finances*

We will ensure that advice and support is available to tenants who need assistance to access funding or direct financial support. We will continue to work with tenants in local communities, including attending foodbanks as well as other local venues with partners. Our aim is that this work with different groups will increase take up of funding and benefits available, increasing financial resilience, and ultimately result in increased confidence and ability to maintain rent payments.

## *Accelerate the retrofitting of Sheffield's housing stock*

Our short-term focus is on reducing household energy consumption and tackling fuel poverty through advice, support, and low-level interventions. We will continue to deliver Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF2) money supporting important energy improvements to approximately 350 homes and continue to explore opportunities to leverage ECO4 funding to facilitate more energy works to worst performing homes. Retrofit pilot projects will also be undertaken to evaluate different carbon reduction solutions. We will produce a roadmap to Net Zero to explain our commitment to working towards an incredibly challenging target for the city.

## *We will improve the customer experience*

We will improve our digital offer with more opportunities for customers to access our services online, freeing up our telephone lines for those with more complex needs or without online access. This will make it easier for customers to contact us and access our services in the ways which are most convenient to them. We will improve the way we record what lessons we have learnt from customer complaints, and ensure this learning is shared with senior managers so that it can be used to make service improvements. Services will be improved based on real customer experience, putting things right where things have gone wrong so that our mistakes are not repeated.

## *We will be fair and respect all our customers*

Fairness and respect are themes firmly embedded in all that we do. Ensuring our services are accessible, inclusive, and meet the needs of all our customers remains a key priority. Understanding who our tenants are is also important and helps us when designing and improving the services we provide. We want to ensure under-represented groups engage in our work and have a voice. These themes link strongly to our Council values as we aim to embed fairness and respect into all our interactions with tenants, colleagues, and partners. We are responding to recommendations made from the Race Equality Commission Report. We have developed a Housing and Neighbourhoods service action plan which aims to address issues highlighted in the report that are specific to housing services and progress on this will regularly be reported to our tenants and, the Housing Policy Committee.

## *We will increase the opportunities for tenants to get involved in shaping services*

We are refreshing our tenant engagement and involvement structure, so it provides a wider choice of engagement activities that tenants can get involved with. In addition to our new online engagement platform, we are also launching tenant mystery shopping, a refreshed Tenant Scrutiny Panel, and a new Tenant Voices Matter Panel. We are also planning tenant panels themed under the revised Regulator Consumer Standards. This will ensure that tenants can discuss and feedback on specific council housing services that fall under each of the new standards. Alongside this, we will continue to support our work with Tenant and Resident Associations (TARAs) and link closely with colleagues in the Local Area Committee teams and Youth Services supporting our vulnerable young people.

## *We will invest in our IT infrastructure*

We will be implementing an integrated housing management system, NEC Housing, in two phases during 2024/2025. Phase 1 is planned to be implemented in May 2024 and Phase 2 completed by December 2024. All customer and asset data will be held in one system, improving data quality and consistent reporting. Customers will benefit from a new on-line portal giving better access to their tenancy and more on-line opportunities to access services.





# 5. Investment Programme

## 5 Year Investment Programme

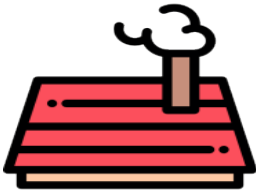

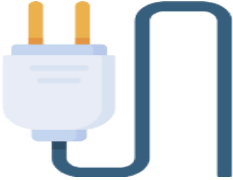

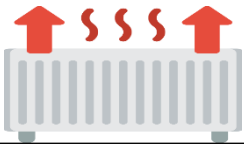
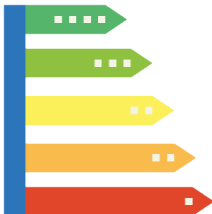
Each year as part of the business planning process for the HRA we review our 5-year capital investment programme. The Housing Capital Investment Strategy focuses on a 'fabric first' approach to protect council housing assets, to reduce our ongoing and long-term repairs and maintenance obligations and increase tenants' satisfactions with their homes. We have now commenced an area-based investment approach to reflect local priorities that are important to residents and tenants. Close working arrangements are in place with the Council's Repairs Services to ensure alignment across Capital and Revenue investment.

During the year we will be boosting our stock condition, Energy and Housing Health and Safety Rating (HHSRS) Surveys to further inform investment priorities for the housing stock which will help to create a new Asset Management Strategy. This will also need to consider the government review of the Decent Homes Standard which we expect to conclude in 2024, alongside the challenge of meeting EPC-C for all housing stock and achieving the longer-term Net Zero Carbon ambitions set by the Council. Addressing Damp and Mould concerns continues to be a priority for the Council to ensure that all tenants have safe, quality homes that are free from damp, mould, and condensation.

In 2012, at the end of the Decent Homes Programme, we had 100% stock condition surveys as part of the £700m improvement programme in Council homes. Since 2012 we have conducted routine stock condition surveys on a 20% rolling survey programme which validated the 30-year Business Plan. Condition surveys were paused in 2020 due to COVID and we are now building up capacity once again to meet the needs of the Regulator. Additional survey resources are being procured and will be fully resourced by quarter 1, 2024, with the aim of achieving a minimum of 80% stock condition data by March 2025 and 100% by the end of June 2025. This stock data will be validated against our current planning assumptions on a quarterly basis, alongside data from our responsive repair activity, to ensure that our investment plans remain up to date. Progress will be captured as part of our evolving Asset Management Strategy which will take shape in 2024/25. This will be developed through a position statement in March 2024, based on the evidence we have to date and our approach to capital investment as part of our strategy with a more detailed strategy to follow later in the year, setting out the future direction of council housing investment in the city. In addition, work is currently starting on developing a series of stock option appraisals for estates in Sheffield which are making a negative contribution towards the Housing Revenue Account. Again, this work should be completed by January 2025 and will provide a series of options and recommendation in relation to this stock.

The tables in the Financial Appendix provide the financial details of the work currently planned for 2024/25 and the following 4 years. A brief description of the main elements of the planned programme is included below.



Investment area	Progress so far and plans for 2024/25
<p><b>Roofs</b></p> 	<p>A new 5-year roofing contract is at pre-tender stage. The tender process is scheduled for Quarter 4 of 2023/24 and contractor start on site is scheduled for Quarter 1 of 2024/25. This programme will provide new roof coverings, fascias, and rainwater goods to circa 5,000 homes. As part of this programme, we will be installing Solar PV (with Energy saving batteries where possible) on circa 60 low rise blocks of flats and several houses and bungalows. The location and allocation of this work will depend on tendered prices, directing works to the least efficient stock with the most fuel vulnerable tenants.</p>
<p><b>Kitchens, Bathrooms, Windows, and Doors</b></p> 	<p>The current contract to deliver elemental improvements to homes is scheduled to run until 2026. The project will deliver replacements to kitchens and bathrooms, to include boiler and electrical system upgrades. It will also deliver window and door replacements in properties that will fail the decent homes standard over the contract period. The contract includes capacity for improvements to some void properties, meaning that, in total, an estimated 3950 properties will benefit from this programme.</p>
<p><b>Electrical Upgrade</b></p> 	<p>We have procured an external contractor to deliver a phased electrical upgrade of our housing stock across the city, the contract has been in place since 2021 and will run until 2027. The electrical upgrade programme will make improvements to the installations in our homes ensuring there are adequate electrical sockets and properties meet the most recent regulations. Part of this programme will ensure all properties have a hard-wired smoke and carbon monoxide systems; this will phase out our current battery-operated systems that are currently in use. So far 4,248 properties have benefited from upgrade works and a further 9,122 are programmed to have work during the remainder of the contract.</p>
<p><b>Fire Safety and Communal Area Work</b></p> 	<p>The work to improve fire safety and prevention at the Hanover and Deer Park Tower Blocks is scheduled to complete in Quarter 4 of 2023/24. This contract includes some additional work to the internal decoration as well as new waste management and recycling facilities. Plans are being developed to replicate this work in the remaining tower blocks in the housing stock with work scheduled to start in 2025/26.</p>
<p><b>Heating Replacement Programme</b></p> 	<p>We are currently scoping out programme options that will allow us to work towards upgrading our current gas fuelled boilers across our estate. In the short term we are overseeing a heating breakdown replacement programme which will replace an estimated 1,200 boilers within the next 2 years.</p>
<p><b>Energy Efficiency Work</b></p> 	<p>There are two external wall insulation projects currently on site with a total of 375 properties set to benefit from the work. The programme will deliver external wall insulation work to non-traditionally built properties. Both projects will also tackle structural repairs and provide much needed improved thermal insulation through the application of the external wall insulation systems. These projects will also address window and door replacement in properties that have not received this work as part of the decent homes programme. All work is scheduled to be complete by 2025/26.</p>

Icons made by Flaticon are licensed by Creative Commons BY 3.0

# Stock Increase Programme

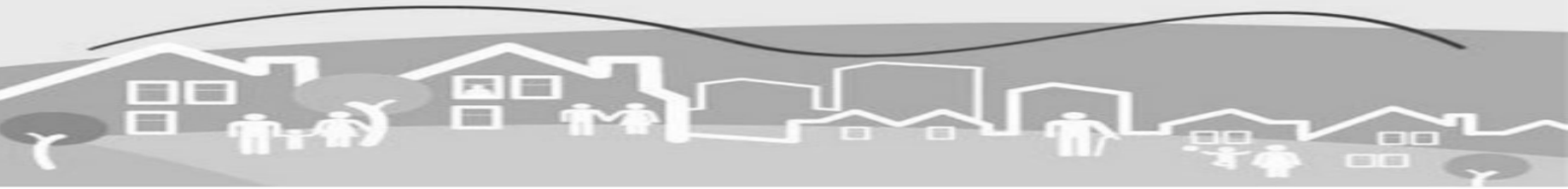
The original business case for the Stock Increase Programme (SIP) has changed significantly over the past couple of years. The 2023/24 Business Plan update confirmed that the overall budget would be maintained but given some cost increases may result in reduced number of units. The ambition remains to increase supply of additional homes through acquisition and new supply to offset losses through Right to Buy (RTB) and maximise the use of external grant funding and 1-4-1 receipts over the life of the 30-year HRA Business Plan.

This 2024/25 review of the HRA Business Plan has maintained the remaining capital allocation to the SIP through to 2029. This budget is predicated upon a complex funding matrix which is continually changing. The current economic conditions mean there is a risk that homes delivered directly by the Council will cost the HRA more than their resultant market value, due to high site abnormal costs unless additional external funding can be secured. This is a similar issue faced by many providers. The limitations on the use of Right to Buy receipts set by government present the Council with a risk of having to pay back receipts if the SIP does not satisfy the programme and/or tenure/type mix requirements.

The focus for the SIP to 2029 will be on acquiring new market homes, strategic acquisitions and directly delivering a small number of housing sites which remain viable and that will continue to meet an identified need for housing in the city. This may lead to a review of commitments and the release of land where sites are no longer viable under current market conditions. We will continue to maximise the use of RTB receipts to maintain our programme of acquisitions, again to meet identified need. The Council's new Housing Strategy due to be presented to the Council's Strategy and Resources Committee later this financial year will continue to set out the housing need and affordable housing requirements for the city and any gaps in provision. This will inform future discussions with the Housing Policy and other Committees to formalise the Council's wider housing growth ambitions throughout 2024/25 to maximise the use of available funding alongside the HRA capital allocation.

Sheffield has a significant shortage of affordable housing to meet the unprecedented demand for social housing – a shortage of over 902 homes per year based on our last housing market assessment. This is placing increased pressure on housing provided by the Council and Registered Providers. The Council's new Local Plan and Housing Growth Strategy, working alongside government, strategic partners, Homes England, and South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), aims to increase the number of affordable homes in the city. The Council cannot meet the affordable housing shortfall on its own, but it can make a significant contribution to this work as part of its HRA Stock Increase Programme to replace homes lost through RTB and support increasing provision of supported housing to meet current and future needs. Most of this accelerated affordable housing growth will be via working with external partners who share the Council's commitment to needing to increasing supply.

Sheffield City Council, its Leader and Chief Executive are collaborating with key partners in the city through the Sheffield Together Partnership with Homes England, the SYMCA, the Sheffield Property Association, and members of the South Yorkshire Housing Partnership to strengthen the focus on enablement, intervention, and delivery. We are actively reviewing all sites within the emerging Sheffield Plan for affordable housing compatibility and exploring a variety of affordable housing delivery models to strengthen pipeline across all delivery routes. We will look to enhance this relationship by exploring opportunities with RPs to address the overall affordable housing shortfall by maximising the use of land in the delivery of new homes in circumstances where the Council is not able to directly deliver. This will be critical to ensuring that the range and type of affordable homes in the city continues to increase addressing together the annual affordable housing shortfall of 902 homes per year.



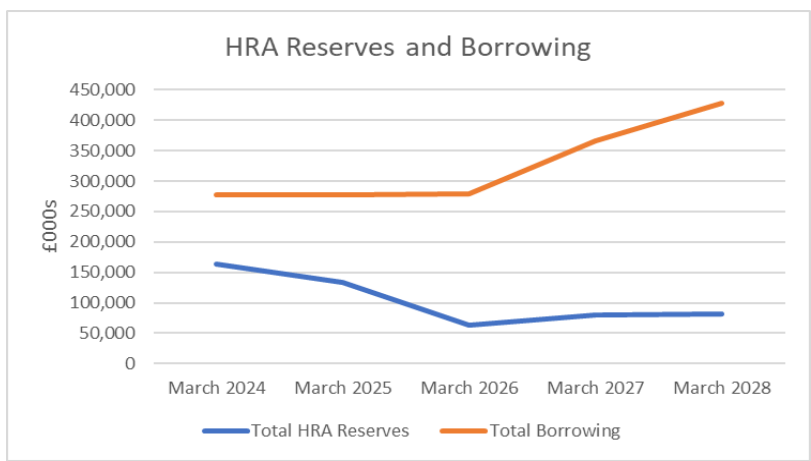
# 6. Commercial Resilience

We must maintain a viable 30-year Business Plan to deliver our priorities and improve services to tenants. We do this by managing our rental income and operational expenses to reinvest in existing homes and neighbourhoods alongside the creation of new homes. This requires a rigorous approach to business planning and fiscal management to mitigate the impact of the challenges from national and local policy, whilst delivering on our priorities. The development of our Asset Management Strategy will inform the longer-term capital investment need for existing stock, which will need to be balanced with the resources that are available in the 30-year Business Plan. A robust process, following the new Asset Management Strategy in 2024, will be to refresh archetype option appraisals of its Council housing stock and alongside a potential replacement or regeneration strategy.

To make the most of our position in the city and to ensure that we have a viable 30-year Business Plan, we will continue to work with partners and identify new opportunities to deliver more social housing in Sheffield. Development of our Asset Management Strategy will inform our procurement strategies for delivering investment into our existing homes and our stock increase programme. In accordance with our standard processes, we will incorporate social value and employment and skills outputs as contractual requirements to deliver jobs and wider benefits to the communities we serve.

This report sets the 5-year medium-term position of the HRA Business Plan, including the operating account and Housing Capital Investment Programme. The HRA is a ring-fenced account and therefore all capital investment must be funded from a combination of revenue contributions (mainly rents) capital receipts, grant funding and borrowing. The interest costs from any borrowing will need to be affordable from our rental income. Over the next 5-years we are planning to increase our borrowing to partially fund our Stock Increase Programme from increased rents from new supply. These loan repayments will be fully funded from the additional rental income from the resultant new properties and, when capital debt is repaid will create a surplus that can support the wider costs in the HRA in the longer term.

Investment into our existing stock will be through a mixture of revenue, capital receipts and capital reserves. The graph below presents the 5-year position on borrowing and reserves. This shows the increasing use of reserves to fund the capital investment programme up to 2026 before undertaking new borrowing for existing stock from 2026. After 2026, a revenue budget will need to be identified within the model to cover the cost of any loans taken out to fund improvements for existing stock.

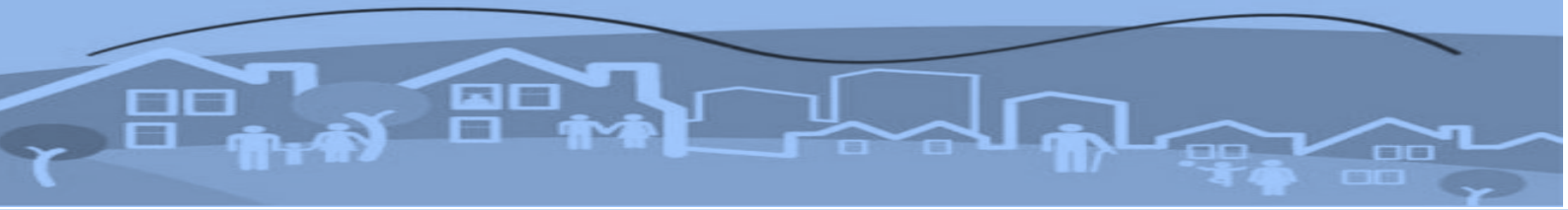


Right to Buy sales continue to have an impact on our Business Plan and we are anticipating that we will lose a further 6,320 homes over the 30-year plan and these assumptions have been built into our financial planning. Right to Buy sales will continue to generate '1-4-1' receipts for reinvestment into new homes through stock increase. Receipts cannot be used to fund investment in existing stock but can support the creation of additional Council homes to replace some of the rental income reduction from RTB sales.

Our current SIP to 2028/29 aims to increase our stock by approximately 1,166 homes. Reinvestment of our RTB receipts back into new homes will increase our stock from 2029/30 to the end of the 30-year plan by a further 653 homes, creating a total of 1,819 additional homes by 2053/54. With stock increase and anticipated RTB sales, we estimate that our total stock will be around 33,900 by 2053/54, compared to total stock of around 38,400 homes now. This is a significant reduction in social homes for the city which already has an affordable housing shortfall of 902 homes per year. Partnership working to mitigate that need will be even more essential over the longer term.

Over the longer-term, we will need to balance this investment in new homes with investment in our existing stock to offset stock losses. Any borrowing for additional homes needs to be sustainable and funded through the increased rental income that this will generate. Any borrowing for our existing stock will increase the interest charge in our operating account and we will need to be able to service these costs from future rental income.

The development of the Asset Management Strategy will be critical to any decision making around future investment priorities. It will inform option appraisals to review our stock profile, consider the impact of individual archetypes on capital and repairs costs, and balance tenant demand and need profiles to ensure that the Business Plan remains viable. These will be complex decisions that will impact on the services and homes that we offer our tenants. They will potentially impact on the number of homes we own but will be necessary to deliver a sustainable future for council housing in the city. This could involve reducing any stock that has a negative impact on the overall HRA Business Plan so that the level of Council homes and, our ability to service long term debt from increased borrowing remains balanced over 30-years.



# 7.Risks

The HRA has operates on a 'self-financing' basis with local authorities funding council housing from the income generated from rents and other charges. Although 'self-financing' provides the Council with more flexibility, it also brings additional risk.

Risks to the HRA are collated and monitored via the risk register and are primarily concerned with threats to income and expenditure that would compromise the viability of the HRA Business Plan. These risks are reviewed and regularly updated. The key risks to the HRA Business Plan include:

- The impact of Welfare Reform
- Health & Safety/Fire Risks on Council Tower Blocks and Other High-Risk Buildings
- An increase in Interest, Borrowing and Inflation Rates
- Increase in Repairs Costs
- Review of the Government Rent Standard
- Journey to 'Net Zero'
- Future changes to the Decent Homes Standard
- Regulatory changes to social housing

More detailed consideration of the overall 30-year viability of the Business Plan and the steps that are being taken to manage this are set out in the Commercial Resilience section above. The HRA unearmarked revenue reserve is currently £5.6million, a similar level is currently assumed for 2024/25. The fiscal impact of the above risks far exceeds the reserve held, but the likelihood of all these risks being incurred in any one year is low and therefore, it is not deemed prudent, nor offers best value to hold sufficient reserves for all eventualities. However, the level of reserves will be monitored to ensure that the reserves levels are adequate to cover future expected pressures in the medium term.

# Key Financial Assumptions 2024/25

The detailed financial model behind the HRA Business Plan includes several assumptions we have used to understand what resources will be available for council housing over the next 5 years in the context of the next 30 years. These baseline assumptions are listed below.

Revenue Assumptions	Assumption
Opening number of homes 2023/24	38,397
Estimated number of additional homes by 2053/54	1,819
Estimated number of RTBs to 2053/54	6,320
Estimated number of homes by 2053/54	33,896
Average rent in 2024/25 (50-week rent)	£92.71
Consumer Price index (CPI) of inflation September 2023	6.70%
Void rate	3.25%
HRA risk-based reserve 2024/25	£5.6m

## Rents

We have assumed that rent will increase each year by the amount allowed by the Rent Standard (i.e., September CPI + 1%). A below Rent Standard increase would impact on the income throughout the 30-year Business Plan. For example, compared to Rent Standard, a 5% rent increase would result in a loss of up to £183m in income over the 30-year life of the Business Plan, leading to job losses and cuts in services for tenants. A 7% increase would result in a loss of up to £47m over the 30-years. A reduction in the assumed income would mean that costs would need to be reduced to balance the Business Plan.

## Garages

It is assumed as part of this report, rents for garage plots and garage sites are increased by 7.7% from April 2024 in line with dwelling rent increases.

## Other Charges

It is assumed as part of this report, the burglar alarm charge from April 2024 is increased by 6.7% in line with September 2023 inflation.

It is assumed as part of this report, the sheltered housing service charge from April 2024 is increased by 6.7% in line with September 2023 inflation.

It is assumed as part of this report, the furnished accommodation charge from April 2024 is increased by 6.7% in line with September 2023 inflation.





# Appendices

- Appendix A**      **HRA Revenue & Capital Budget**
- Appendix B**      **5 Year Capital Investment Programme**
- Appendix C**      **Citywide Rents and Charges**

# Appendix A – HRA Revenue & Capital Budget

## Revenue Account

Revenue Account		
	2023.24	2023.24
	Outturn	Budget
<b>INCOME (in £millions)</b>		
Net income dwellings	160.3	161.6
Other income	7.8	6.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>168.1</b>	<b>168.5</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE (in £millions)</b>		
Repairs and Maintenance	52.4	48.8
Tenant Services	61.4	61.7
Interest on Borrowing	13.0	13.7
Contribution to Capital Programme	41.4	44.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>168.1</b>	<b>168.5</b>

Revenue Reserve	5.6	5.6
-----------------	-----	-----

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Years 1-5
2024.25	2025.26	2026.27	2027.28	2028.29	2024.29
Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Total
173.9	183.1	189.9	196.4	202.7	945.9
6.7	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.7	36.0
<b>180.5</b>	<b>190.1</b>	<b>197.1</b>	<b>203.9</b>	<b>210.4</b>	<b>982.0</b>

54.4	58.6	62.6	66.8	71.0	313.4
68.5	69.2	70.9	72.6	74.3	355.4
14.1	14.1	16.1	18.7	22.0	85.1
43.6	48.2	47.5	45.8	43.0	228.2
<b>180.5</b>	<b>190.1</b>	<b>197.1</b>	<b>203.9</b>	<b>210.4</b>	<b>982.0</b>

5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	--

## Capital Account Summary (see Appendix B for a detailed breakdown of the Mainline Capital Programme)

Capital Account		
	2023.24	2023.24
	Outturn	Budget
<b>EXPENDITURE (in £millions)</b>		
Mainline Capital Programme	48.6	40.9
Stock Increase Programme	28.6	54.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>77.1</b>	<b>95.8</b>

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Years 1-5
2024.25	2025.26	2026.27	2027.28	2028.29	2024.29
Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Total
56.8	89.5	97.2	102.0	104.3	449.7
38.9	55.5	60.4	25.1	75.2	255.1
<b>95.7</b>	<b>145.0</b>	<b>157.6</b>	<b>127.1</b>	<b>179.5</b>	<b>704.8</b>



# Appendix B – 5 Year Capital Programme Investment

HRA Capital Programme	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Years 1-5
	2023_4	2024_5	2025_6	2026_7	2027_8	2028_9	2024_29
	Outturn	Proposed Budget	Proposed Budget	Proposed Budget	Proposed Budget	Proposed Budget	Total
<b>EXPENDITURE (in £millions)</b>							
Heating and Energy	4.11	6.26	7.50	7.50	10.00	10.12	41.39
Carbon Reduction	15.03	8.60	3.95	7.20	9.49	9.49	38.73
H & S Essential Work	14.70	8.23	21.28	19.76	15.05	19.44	83.76
Adaptations & Access	2.95	3.30	5.46	3.30	3.30	3.30	18.66
Waste & Estate Environmental	0.81	2.77	3.37	5.02	3.82	3.10	18.07
Enveloping & External Works	1.58	9.55	15.04	14.50	19.47	18.66	77.22
Communal Area Investment	0.50	2.50	2.50	3.93	0.77	0.00	9.70
Internal Works	3.84	3.73	6.14	5.91	5.00	3.56	24.34
Other Essential Works	1.58	2.83	2.83	2.98	2.00	2.00	12.65
Garages and Outhouses	0.13	0.25	0.25	0.25	2.88	0.00	3.63
Gleadless Valley Regeneration	0.25	1.00	5.96	8.16	8.20	9.52	32.85
<b>Sub-Total Core Investment Programme</b>	<b>45.48</b>	<b>49.04</b>	<b>74.27</b>	<b>78.50</b>	<b>79.99</b>	<b>79.19</b>	<b>360.98</b>
Capital Management Fee	3.10	3.15	3.20	3.25	3.30	3.30	16.20
<b>Sub-Total Other Capital Spend</b>	<b>3.10</b>	<b>3.15</b>	<b>3.20</b>	<b>3.25</b>	<b>3.30</b>	<b>3.30</b>	<b>16.20</b>
<b>Total Capital Programme before inflation</b>	<b>48.58</b>	<b>52.19</b>	<b>77.47</b>	<b>81.75</b>	<b>83.29</b>	<b>82.49</b>	<b>377.18</b>
Inflation		4.63	11.98	15.49	18.66	21.81	72.58
<b>Total Capital Programme</b>	<b>48.58</b>	<b>56.82</b>	<b>89.45</b>	<b>97.24</b>	<b>101.95</b>	<b>104.30</b>	<b>449.76</b>
<b>Stock Increase Programme</b>	<b>28.56</b>	<b>38.88</b>	<b>55.53</b>	<b>60.35</b>	<b>25.15</b>	<b>75.16</b>	<b>255.07</b>
<b>Total Capital Programme</b>	<b>77.14</b>	<b>95.70</b>	<b>144.98</b>	<b>157.59</b>	<b>127.10</b>	<b>179.46</b>	<b>704.83</b>

# Appendix C – Citywide Rents

## *Citywide average weekly rent by bed-size*

Bed size	Average weekly rent (50 weeks)		Increase	Rate
	2023/24	2024/25		
Bedsit	£66.60	£71.73	£5.13	7.70%
1 bed	£76.30	£82.17	£5.87	7.70%
2 bed	£87.06	£93.77	£6.71	7.70%
3 bed	£97.06	£104.53	£7.47	7.70%
4 bed	£116.08	£125.02	£8.94	7.70%
5 bed	£117.26	£126.29	£9.03	7.70%
6 bed or more	£123.01	£132.49	£9.48	7.70%
Total (all bedroom's average)	£86.08	£92.71	£6.63	7.70%

## PART A - Initial Impact Assessment

**Proposal Name:** Rent Policy increase for council housing rents, garages & commercial property

**EIA ID:** 2398

**EIA Author:** Louise Cassin

---

**Proposal Outline:** We have the option to increase rents by September's Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) +1%. This would be the maximum increase allowable under the Regulator's current Rent Standard. August's CPI rate was 6.7% indicating we may have the option to raise rents by around 7.7%.

---

**Proposal Type:** Budget

**Entered on QTier:** Yes

**QTier Ref:** # 97

---

**Year Of Proposal:** 24/25

---

**Lead Director for proposal:** Janet Sharpe (HSG)

---

**Service Area:** Housing & Neighbourhoods

---

**EIA Start Date:** 17/10/2023

---

**Lead Equality Objective:** Understanding Communities

---

**Equality Lead Officer:** Louise Nunn

Committees:

Council

## Portfolio

Primary Portfolio:

Neighbourhoods

EIA is cross portfolio:

No

EIA is joint with another organisation:

No

## Overview of Impact

### Overview Summary:

A 7.7% rent increase would impact on the financial cost of living crisis currently being faced by tenants. However, around 70% of tenants would receive some support in meeting those costs through Housing Benefit or Universal Credit. The impact on the remaining tenants could be mitigated by offering additional support – though further work may need to be done to identify how tenants would be supported. Some options e.g. financial support could create an additional pressure on the HRA. Rents for 24/25 would need to be implemented from April 2024 with statutory notifications to all tenants about a change to their rent actioned from February 2024. Rental income is the main source of income into the HRA and can only be used to fund council housing activity. Therefore the level of income received into the HRA through rents each year impacts on council housing service budgets and what can be afforded in the coming year/s. Individual EIAs have been completed for potential saving options that are likely to be needed for 2024/25 as a result. These EIAs detail the any specific impacts on council housing tenants as a result. An initial impact assessment has been completed at this stage based on current rent policy. A full impact assessment will be completed prior to this decision being presented at Full Council in February 2024 and this will reflect any changes that may occur if rent policy is revised by Government between now and then.

---

Impacted characteristics:

Consultation and other engagement

Cumulative Impact

Does the proposal have a cumulative impact: No

---

Impact areas:

Initial Sign-Off

Full impact assessment required: No

---

Review Date: 14/01/2024

Action Plan & Supporting Evidence

Outline of action plan:

Action plan evidence:

Changes made as a result of action plan:

Mitigation

Significant risk after mitigation measures:

Outline of impact and risks:

•

Review Date

Review Date:

14/01/2024

# Sheffield City Council

## Social Housing Asset Value Data 2022/23

### Summary and Notes:

- This data is published in accordance with the Local Government Transparency Code 2015
- The data in the table below is as at 31 March 2023
  - > As at 31 March 2023, **97.5%** of the 38,397 social housing dwellings in Sheffield were occupied, while **2.5%** were vacant
- Dwellings values are reported on the basis of both their existing use value – social housing (EUV-SH) and their market (or vacant possession) value. The valuation bands are based on market value
  - > The average market value of a social housing dwelling in Sheffield as at 31 March 2023 was **£106,500** (rounded to nearest £500)
  - > The average EUV-SH of a social housing dwelling in Sheffield as at 31 March 2023 was **£43,500** (rounded to nearest £500)
- The difference between the vacant possession value of dwellings and the EUV-SH value represents the economic cost to government of providing council housing at less than open market rents
- Despite the above, publication of this information is by no means intended to suggest that tenancies should end to realise the market value of properties
- Some postal sectors and valuation bands containing less than 10 occupied dwellings have been merged in the table below so that the data is not disclosive of individual properties

Postal Sector/s	Valuation Band Range	Intervening Bands	Total number social housing dwellings	Dwellings value				% occupied dwellings	% vacant dwellings
				EUV-SH Values		Market Values			
				Total	Average	Total	Average		
S1 2	£100,000 - £299,999	£120,000 - £139,999	30	1,716,111	57,204	4,185,637	139,521	96.7%	3.3%
		£140,000 - £159,999	12	732,207	61,017	1,785,872	148,823	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>2,448,319</b>	<b>58,293</b>	<b>5,971,509</b>	<b>142,179</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>S1 2 Total</b>			<b>42</b>	<b>2,448,319</b>	<b>58,293</b>	<b>5,971,509</b>	<b>142,179</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
S2 1	<£50,000 - £99,999	£70,000 - £79,999	209	6,347,210	30,369	15,481,000	74,072	97.6%	2.4%
		£80,000 - £89,999	16	553,910	34,619	1,351,000	84,438	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>225</b>	<b>6,901,120</b>	<b>30,672</b>	<b>16,832,000</b>	<b>74,809</b>	<b>97.8%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£120,000 - £139,999	140	7,711,280	55,081	18,808,000	134,343	99.3%	0.7%
		£140,000 - £159,999	51	2,956,906	57,979	7,211,965	141,411	98.0%	2.0%
		£160,000 - £199,999	14	978,347	69,882	2,386,212	170,444	100.0%	0.0%
<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>205</b>	<b>11,646,532</b>	<b>56,812</b>	<b>28,406,176</b>	<b>138,567</b>	<b>99.0%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	
<b>S2 1 Total</b>			<b>430</b>	<b>18,547,652</b>	<b>43,134</b>	<b>45,238,176</b>	<b>105,205</b>	<b>98.4%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
S2 2	<£50,000 - £99,999	£50,000 - £69,999	108	2,982,316	27,614	7,273,941	67,351	95.4%	4.6%
		£70,000 - £89,999	60	1,826,412	30,440	4,454,664	74,244	91.7%	8.3%
		£90,000 - £99,999	80	3,089,000	38,613	7,534,146	94,177	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>248</b>	<b>7,897,728</b>	<b>31,846</b>	<b>19,262,752</b>	<b>77,672</b>	<b>96.0%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	45	2,153,033	47,845	5,251,299	116,696	97.8%	2.2%
		£120,000 - £139,999	919	49,681,260	54,060	121,173,804	131,854	97.9%	2.1%
£140,000 - £239,999		269	16,741,789	62,237	40,833,632	151,798	91.1%	8.9%	
<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>1,233</b>	<b>68,576,081</b>	<b>55,617</b>	<b>167,258,735</b>	<b>135,652</b>	<b>96.4%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	
<b>S2 2 Total</b>			<b>1,481</b>	<b>76,473,809</b>	<b>51,637</b>	<b>186,521,486</b>	<b>125,943</b>	<b>96.4%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>

S2 3	<£50,000 - £99,999	£50,000 - £79,999	375	11,517,475	30,713	28,091,403	74,910	96.0%	4.0%	
		£90,000 - £99,999	24	947,980	39,499	2,312,146	96,339	100.0%	0.0%	
	<£50,000 - £99,999 Total			<b>399</b>	<b>12,465,455</b>	<b>31,242</b>	<b>30,403,549</b>	<b>76,199</b>	<b>96.2%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	211	9,333,657	44,235	22,765,017	107,891	97.2%	2.8%	
		£120,000 - £139,999	227	12,110,575	53,351	29,537,987	130,123	98.2%	1.8%	
		£140,000 - £159,999	69	4,114,519	59,631	10,035,412	145,441	98.6%	1.4%	
		£160,000 - £179,999	138	9,757,440	70,706	23,798,633	172,454	99.3%	0.7%	
		£180,000 - £219,999	32	2,422,115	75,691	5,907,597	184,612	100.0%	0.0%	
£100,000 - £299,999 Total			<b>677</b>	<b>37,738,305</b>	<b>55,743</b>	<b>92,044,646</b>	<b>135,960</b>	<b>98.2%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	
S2 3 Total			<b>1,076</b>	<b>50,203,760</b>	<b>46,658</b>	<b>122,448,195</b>	<b>113,799</b>	<b>97.5%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	
S2 4	<£50,000 - £99,999	£70,000 - £79,999	12	354,707	29,559	865,138	72,095	100.0%	0.0%	
		£90,000 - £99,999	39	1,534,890	39,356	3,743,634	95,991	100.0%	0.0%	
	<£50,000 - £99,999 Total			<b>51</b>	<b>1,889,596</b>	<b>37,051</b>	<b>4,608,772</b>	<b>90,368</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	28	1,288,227	46,008	3,142,018	112,215	96.4%	3.6%	
		£120,000 - £139,999	13	658,415	50,647	1,605,889	123,530	92.3%	7.7%	
		£180,000 - £199,999	77	5,873,676	76,282	14,326,040	186,052	94.8%	5.2%	
	£100,000 - £299,999 Total			<b>118</b>	<b>7,820,318</b>	<b>66,274</b>	<b>19,073,947</b>	<b>161,644</b>	<b>94.9%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
	S2 4 Total			<b>169</b>	<b>9,709,915</b>	<b>57,455</b>	<b>23,682,719</b>	<b>140,134</b>	<b>96.4%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
S2 5	<£50,000 - £99,999	£70,000 - £79,999	81	2,559,630	31,600	6,243,000	77,074	95.1%	4.9%	
		£80,000 - £89,999	26	905,690	34,834	2,209,000	84,962	96.2%	3.8%	
	<£50,000 - £99,999 Total			<b>107</b>	<b>3,465,320</b>	<b>32,386</b>	<b>8,452,000</b>	<b>78,991</b>	<b>95.3%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	21	1,028,034	48,954	2,507,400	119,400	95.2%	4.8%	
		£120,000 - £139,999	26	1,322,865	50,879	3,226,500	124,096	96.2%	3.8%	
		£140,000 - £159,999	36	2,186,120	60,726	5,332,000	148,111	100.0%	0.0%	
	£100,000 - £299,999 Total			<b>83</b>	<b>4,537,019</b>	<b>54,663</b>	<b>11,065,900</b>	<b>133,324</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
	S2 5 Total			<b>190</b>	<b>8,002,339</b>	<b>42,118</b>	<b>19,517,900</b>	<b>102,726</b>	<b>96.3%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
S3 7	<£50,000 - £99,999	<£50,000 - £59,999	35	820,352	23,439	2,000,859	57,167	100.0%	0.0%	
		£60,000 - £79,999	37	1,054,779	28,508	2,572,631	69,531	78.4%	21.6%	
		£80,000 - £89,999	111	3,956,924	35,648	9,651,034	86,946	99.1%	0.9%	
		£90,000 - £99,999	454	17,512,313	38,573	42,712,958	94,081	97.6%	2.4%	
	<£50,000 - £99,999 Total			<b>637</b>	<b>23,344,368</b>	<b>36,647</b>	<b>56,937,482</b>	<b>89,384</b>	<b>96.9%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	283	12,497,965	44,162	30,482,842	107,713	96.8%	3.2%	
		£120,000 - £139,999	192	9,900,725	51,566	24,148,109	125,771	97.4%	2.6%	
		£140,000 - £259,999	15	1,070,969	71,398	2,612,120	174,141	100.0%	0.0%	
£100,000 - £299,999 Total			<b>490</b>	<b>23,469,659</b>	<b>47,897</b>	<b>57,243,071</b>	<b>116,823</b>	<b>97.1%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	
S3 7 Total			<b>1,127</b>	<b>46,814,027</b>	<b>41,539</b>	<b>114,180,554</b>	<b>101,314</b>	<b>97.0%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	
S3 8	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	36	1,668,730	46,354	4,070,074	113,058	100.0%	0.0%	
	£100,000 - £299,999 Total			<b>36</b>	<b>1,668,730</b>	<b>46,354</b>	<b>4,070,074</b>	<b>113,058</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>



<b>S3 8 Total</b>			<b>36</b>	<b>1,668,730</b>	<b>46,354</b>	<b>4,070,074</b>	<b>113,058</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
S3 9	<£50,000 - £99,999	<£50,000 - £59,999	315	7,347,215	23,324	17,920,037	56,889	98.1%	1.9%
		£60,000 - £69,999	167	4,305,462	25,781	10,501,126	62,881	97.0%	3.0%
		£70,000 - £79,999	26	838,255	32,241	2,044,525	78,636	92.3%	7.7%
		£80,000 - £99,999	67	2,331,929	34,805	5,687,632	84,890	98.5%	1.5%
		<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>14,822,861</b>	<b>25,779</b>	<b>36,153,320</b>	<b>62,875</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
		<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	<b>£100,000 - £199,999</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1,026,055</b>	<b>64,128</b>	<b>2,502,574</b>	<b>156,411</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>1,026,055</b>	<b>64,128</b>	<b>2,502,574</b>	<b>156,411</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>S3 9 Total</b>			<b>591</b>	<b>15,848,917</b>	<b>26,817</b>	<b>38,655,894</b>	<b>65,408</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
S4 7 and S4 8	<£50,000 - £99,999	<£50,000	11	184,335	16,758	449,597	40,872	100.0%	0.0%
		£50,000 - £59,999	486	11,615,858	23,901	28,331,361	58,295	95.9%	4.1%
		£60,000 - £69,999	130	3,393,083	26,101	8,275,811	63,660	96.9%	3.1%
		£70,000 - £79,999	130	4,015,427	30,888	9,793,725	75,336	100.0%	0.0%
		£80,000 - £89,999	58	2,032,738	35,047	4,957,898	85,481	96.6%	3.4%
		£90,000 - £99,999	166	6,450,537	38,859	15,733,017	94,777	97.6%	2.4%
		<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>27,691,978</b>	<b>28,228</b>	<b>67,541,410</b>	<b>68,850</b>	<b>96.9%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>
		<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	<b>£100,000 - £119,999</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>6,213,123</b>	<b>42,556</b>	<b>15,153,959</b>	<b>103,794</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>146</b>	<b>6,213,123</b>	<b>42,556</b>	<b>15,153,959</b>	<b>103,794</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>S4 7 and S4 8 Total</b>			<b>1,127</b>	<b>33,905,101</b>	<b>30,084</b>	<b>82,695,369</b>	<b>73,377</b>	<b>97.3%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
S5 0 and S5 6	<£50,000 - £99,999	£60,000 - £69,999	132	3,571,920	27,060	8,712,000	66,000	96.2%	3.8%
		£70,000 - £79,999	14	401,800	28,700	980,000	70,000	100.0%	0.0%
		£80,000 - £89,999	33	1,189,410	36,043	2,901,000	87,909	93.9%	6.1%
		£90,000 - £99,999	79	3,223,828	40,808	7,862,994	99,532	96.2%	3.8%
		<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>8,386,958</b>	<b>32,508</b>	<b>20,455,994</b>	<b>79,287</b>	<b>96.1%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
		<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	<b>£100,000 - £119,999</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>43,749,523</b>	<b>45,859</b>	<b>106,706,154</b>	<b>111,851</b>	<b>99.0%</b>
		<b>£120,000 - £139,999</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>756,320</b>	<b>50,421</b>	<b>1,844,683</b>	<b>122,979</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>969</b>	<b>44,505,843</b>	<b>45,930</b>	<b>108,550,838</b>	<b>112,024</b>	<b>99.0%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
<b>S5 0 and S5 6 Total</b>			<b>1,227</b>	<b>52,892,801</b>	<b>43,107</b>	<b>129,006,832</b>	<b>105,140</b>	<b>98.4%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
S5 7	<£50,000 - £99,999	£50,000 - £69,999	682	17,783,644	26,076	43,374,741	63,599	96.8%	3.2%
		£70,000 - £79,999	216	6,347,720	29,388	15,482,245	71,677	98.6%	1.4%
		£80,000 - £89,999	30	1,012,669	33,756	2,469,925	82,331	93.3%	6.7%
		£90,000 - £99,999	490	18,721,115	38,206	45,661,255	93,186	98.4%	1.6%
		<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>	<b>1,418</b>	<b>43,865,148</b>	<b>30,935</b>	<b>106,988,166</b>	<b>75,450</b>	<b>97.5%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
		<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	<b>£100,000 - £119,999</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>28,793,603</b>	<b>45,923</b>	<b>70,228,299</b>	<b>112,007</b>	<b>97.3%</b>
		<b>£120,000 - £179,999</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>21,343,969</b>	<b>51,308</b>	<b>52,058,462</b>	<b>125,141</b>	<b>97.4%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>1,043</b>	<b>50,137,572</b>	<b>48,071</b>	<b>122,286,761</b>	<b>117,245</b>	<b>97.3%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>S5 7 Total</b>			<b>2,461</b>	<b>94,002,720</b>	<b>38,197</b>	<b>229,274,927</b>	<b>93,163</b>	<b>97.4%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>

S5 8	<£50,000 - £99,999	£50,000 - £59,999	15	363,692	24,246	887,054	59,137	93.3%	6.7%
		£60,000 - £69,999	372	9,581,825	25,758	23,370,305	62,823	96.5%	3.5%
		£70,000 - £79,999	22	635,388	28,881	1,549,726	70,442	100.0%	0.0%
		£80,000 - £89,999	210	7,420,789	35,337	18,099,487	86,188	98.6%	1.4%
		£90,000 - £99,999	714	27,496,548	38,511	67,064,750	93,928	99.3%	0.7%
	<£50,000 - £99,999 Total		<b>1,333</b>	<b>45,498,242</b>	<b>34,132</b>	<b>110,971,323</b>	<b>83,249</b>	<b>98.3%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	1,094	48,887,147	44,687	119,236,943	108,992	97.7%	2.3%
		£120,000 - £139,999	400	20,895,416	52,239	50,964,429	127,411	98.3%	1.8%
		£140,000 - £159,999	12	751,016	62,585	1,831,746	152,645	100.0%	0.0%
		£160,000 - £219,999	127	8,706,122	68,552	21,234,444	167,200	98.4%	1.6%
£220,000 - £239,999		25	2,276,707	91,068	5,552,944	222,118	100.0%	0.0%	
£100,000 - £299,999 Total		<b>1,658</b>	<b>81,516,407</b>	<b>49,166</b>	<b>198,820,505</b>	<b>119,916</b>	<b>97.9%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	
<b>S5 8 Total</b>			<b>2,991</b>	<b>127,014,649</b>	<b>42,466</b>	<b>309,791,828</b>	<b>103,575</b>	<b>98.1%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
S5 9	<£50,000 - £99,999	£60,000 - £79,999	81	2,340,904	28,900	5,709,522	70,488	97.5%	2.5%
		£80,000 - £89,999	288	9,790,835	33,996	23,880,085	82,917	98.3%	1.7%
		£90,000 - £99,999	140	5,455,487	38,968	13,306,066	95,043	97.9%	2.1%
	<£50,000 - £99,999 Total		<b>509</b>	<b>17,587,226</b>	<b>34,553</b>	<b>42,895,674</b>	<b>84,274</b>	<b>98.0%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	590	26,841,541	45,494	65,467,173	110,961	98.5%	1.5%
		£120,000 - £139,999	471	25,379,296	53,884	61,900,723	131,424	98.7%	1.3%
		£140,000 - £159,999	70	4,193,717	59,910	10,228,578	146,123	98.6%	1.4%
		£180,000 - £199,999	27	2,076,940	76,924	5,065,707	187,619	100.0%	0.0%
		£240,000 - £279,999	12	1,265,619	105,468	3,086,876	257,240	91.7%	8.3%
	£100,000 - £299,999 Total		<b>1,170</b>	<b>59,757,113</b>	<b>51,074</b>	<b>145,749,057</b>	<b>124,572</b>	<b>98.5%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
<b>S5 9 Total</b>			<b>1,679</b>	<b>77,344,339</b>	<b>46,066</b>	<b>188,644,730</b>	<b>112,355</b>	<b>98.4%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
S6 1	<£50,000 - £99,999	<£50,000 - £69,999	16	397,018	24,814	968,336	60,521	93.8%	6.3%
		£70,000 - £79,999	240	7,400,384	30,835	18,049,716	75,207	96.3%	3.8%
		£90,000 - £99,999	54	2,041,056	37,797	4,978,186	92,189	96.3%	3.7%
	<£50,000 - £99,999 Total		<b>310</b>	<b>9,838,458</b>	<b>31,737</b>	<b>23,996,238</b>	<b>77,407</b>	<b>96.1%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	554	25,633,413	46,270	62,520,521	112,853	98.7%	1.3%
		£120,000 - £139,999	35	1,852,028	52,915	4,517,141	129,061	100.0%	0.0%
		£140,000 - £199,999	21	1,344,215	64,010	3,278,573	156,123	95.2%	4.8%
£100,000 - £299,999 Total		<b>610</b>	<b>28,829,656</b>	<b>47,262</b>	<b>70,316,234</b>	<b>115,273</b>	<b>98.7%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	
<b>S6 1 Total</b>			<b>920</b>	<b>38,668,114</b>	<b>42,031</b>	<b>94,312,472</b>	<b>102,514</b>	<b>97.8%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
S6 2	<£50,000 - £99,999	£90,000 - £99,999	227	8,822,544	38,866	21,518,399	94,795	96.0%	4.0%
	<£50,000 - £99,999 Total		<b>227</b>	<b>8,822,544</b>	<b>38,866</b>	<b>21,518,399</b>	<b>94,795</b>	<b>96.0%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	65	2,761,138	42,479	6,734,484	103,607	98.5%	1.5%
		£120,000 - £139,999	20	1,116,834	55,842	2,723,986	136,199	100.0%	0.0%
		£140,000 - £159,999	78	4,853,761	62,228	11,838,443	151,775	98.7%	1.3%
		£160,000 - £199,999	85	5,870,081	69,060	14,317,270	168,438	98.8%	1.2%

		£200,000 - £239,999	22	1,881,866	85,539	4,589,916	208,633	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>270</b>	<b>16,483,680</b>	<b>61,051</b>	<b>40,204,098</b>	<b>148,904</b>	<b>98.9%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
<b>S6 2 Total</b>			<b>497</b>	<b>25,306,224</b>	<b>50,918</b>	<b>61,722,497</b>	<b>124,190</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>S6 3</b>	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999</b>	£70,000 - £99,999	509	20,117,311	39,523	49,066,613	96,398	98.0%	2.0%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>509</b>	<b>20,117,311</b>	<b>39,523</b>	<b>49,066,613</b>	<b>96,398</b>	<b>98.0%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £119,999	91	3,919,769	43,074	9,560,413	105,059	98.9%	1.1%
		£120,000 - £139,999	58	3,216,217	55,452	7,844,431	135,249	94.8%	5.2%
		£140,000 - £159,999	42	2,689,555	64,037	6,559,891	156,188	97.6%	2.4%
		£160,000 - £179,999	64	4,361,559	68,149	10,637,950	166,218	98.4%	1.6%
		£180,000 - £199,999	55	4,087,951	74,326	9,970,612	181,284	100.0%	0.0%
		£200,000 - £219,999	20	1,681,367	84,068	4,100,896	205,045	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>330</b>	<b>19,956,419</b>	<b>60,474</b>	<b>48,674,192</b>	<b>147,498</b>	<b>98.2%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>S6 3 Total</b>			<b>839</b>	<b>40,073,730</b>	<b>47,764</b>	<b>97,740,805</b>	<b>116,497</b>	<b>98.1%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
<b>S6 4</b>	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999</b>	£60,000 - £79,999	24	683,428	28,476	1,666,897	69,454	95.8%	4.2%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>683,428</b>	<b>28,476</b>	<b>1,666,897</b>	<b>69,454</b>	<b>95.8%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £259,999	21	1,573,619	74,934	3,838,096	182,766	95.2%	4.8%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>1,573,619</b>	<b>74,934</b>	<b>3,838,096</b>	<b>182,766</b>	<b>95.2%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>
<b>S6 4 Total</b>			<b>45</b>	<b>2,257,047</b>	<b>50,157</b>	<b>5,504,993</b>	<b>122,333</b>	<b>95.6%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
<b>S6 5</b>	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999</b>	£60,000 - £69,999	110	2,965,940	26,963	7,234,000	65,764	99.1%	0.9%
		£80,000 - £89,999	266	8,924,510	33,551	21,767,098	81,831	95.5%	4.5%
		£90,000 - £99,999	117	4,495,145	38,420	10,963,769	93,707	95.7%	4.3%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>493</b>	<b>16,385,596</b>	<b>33,237</b>	<b>39,964,867</b>	<b>81,065</b>	<b>96.3%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £119,999	395	17,249,880	43,671	42,072,878	106,514	95.9%	4.1%
		£120,000 - £139,999	14	718,766	51,340	1,753,088	125,221	100.0%	0.0%
		£140,000 - £219,999	164	10,316,944	62,908	25,163,277	153,435	99.4%	0.6%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>573</b>	<b>28,285,590</b>	<b>49,364</b>	<b>68,989,243</b>	<b>120,400</b>	<b>97.0%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>S6 5 Total</b>			<b>1,066</b>	<b>44,671,185</b>	<b>41,905</b>	<b>108,954,110</b>	<b>102,208</b>	<b>96.7%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
<b>S6 6</b>	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999</b>	£60,000 - £69,999	31	876,990	28,290	2,139,000	69,000	61.3%	38.7%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>876,990</b>	<b>28,290</b>	<b>2,139,000</b>	<b>69,000</b>	<b>61.3%</b>	<b>38.7%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £119,999	31	1,383,822	44,639	3,375,176	108,877	100.0%	0.0%
		£140,000 - £159,999	23	1,457,550	63,372	3,555,000	154,565	100.0%	0.0%
		£160,000 - £219,999	13	955,100	73,469	2,329,512	179,193	92.3%	7.7%
		£220,000 - £279,999	50	4,709,669	94,193	11,486,998	229,740	96.0%	4.0%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>117</b>	<b>8,506,141</b>	<b>72,702</b>	<b>20,746,686</b>	<b>177,322</b>	<b>97.4%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
<b>S6 6 Total</b>			<b>148</b>	<b>9,383,131</b>	<b>63,400</b>	<b>22,885,686</b>	<b>154,633</b>	<b>89.9%</b>	<b>10.1%</b>
<b>S7 1</b>	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £139,999	37	1,660,624	44,882	4,050,301	109,468	97.3%	2.7%

	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>1,660,624</b>	<b>44,882</b>	<b>4,050,301</b>	<b>109,468</b>	<b>97.3%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>S7 1 Total</b>			<b>37</b>	<b>1,660,624</b>	<b>44,882</b>	<b>4,050,301</b>	<b>109,468</b>	<b>97.3%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>S8 0</b>	<£50,000 - £99,999	£90,000 - £99,999	17	666,614	39,213	1,625,887	95,640	94.1%	5.9%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>666,614</b>	<b>39,213</b>	<b>1,625,887</b>	<b>95,640</b>	<b>94.1%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £179,999	59	2,677,762	45,386	6,531,126	110,697	98.3%	1.7%
		£180,000 - £199,999	98	7,577,878	77,325	18,482,628	188,598	99.0%	1.0%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>157</b>	<b>10,255,639</b>	<b>65,323</b>	<b>25,013,754</b>	<b>159,323</b>	<b>98.7%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
<b>S8 0 Total</b>			<b>174</b>	<b>10,922,253</b>	<b>62,772</b>	<b>26,639,642</b>	<b>153,101</b>	<b>98.3%</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
<b>S8 7</b>	<£50,000 - £99,999	<£50,000 - £59,999	66	1,442,143	21,851	3,517,422	53,294	93.9%	6.1%
		£60,000 - £69,999	513	13,809,587	26,919	33,681,918	65,657	97.3%	2.7%
		£70,000 - £79,999	273	8,688,850	31,827	21,192,317	77,628	97.4%	2.6%
		£80,000 - £89,999	271	9,279,804	34,243	22,633,669	83,519	98.2%	1.8%
		£90,000 - £99,999	177	6,868,472	38,805	16,752,371	94,646	97.7%	2.3%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>1,300</b>	<b>40,088,856</b>	<b>30,838</b>	<b>97,777,697</b>	<b>75,214</b>	<b>97.4%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £119,999	85	3,928,810	46,221	9,582,465	112,735	100.0%	0.0%
		£120,000 - £139,999	223	12,268,983	55,018	29,924,348	134,190	99.1%	0.9%
		£140,000 - £159,999	137	8,076,849	58,955	19,699,632	143,793	97.8%	2.2%
		£160,000 - £179,999	31	2,164,987	69,838	5,280,456	170,337	100.0%	0.0%
		£180,000 - £199,999	35	2,650,882	75,739	6,465,565	184,730	100.0%	0.0%
		£200,000 - £219,999	57	4,992,558	87,589	12,176,970	213,631	98.2%	1.8%
		£220,000 - £239,999	93	8,725,660	93,824	21,282,098	228,840	98.9%	1.1%
		£240,000 - £259,999	43	4,288,801	99,740	10,460,489	243,267	97.7%	2.3%
		<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>704</b>	<b>47,097,529</b>	<b>66,900</b>	<b>114,872,023</b>	<b>163,170</b>	<b>98.9%</b>
<b>S8 7 Total</b>			<b>2,004</b>	<b>87,186,385</b>	<b>43,506</b>	<b>212,649,720</b>	<b>106,113</b>	<b>97.9%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
<b>S8 8</b>	<£50,000 - £99,999	<£50,000 - £59,999	129	3,129,722	24,261	7,633,469	59,174	99.2%	0.8%
		£60,000 - £69,999	445	12,060,103	27,101	29,414,886	66,101	96.6%	3.4%
		£70,000 - £79,999	332	10,040,744	30,243	24,489,619	73,764	96.7%	3.3%
		£80,000 - £89,999	235	8,196,917	34,880	19,992,481	85,074	97.4%	2.6%
		£90,000 - £99,999	153	5,988,667	39,142	14,606,506	95,467	98.7%	1.3%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>1,294</b>	<b>39,416,154</b>	<b>30,461</b>	<b>96,136,960</b>	<b>74,294</b>	<b>97.3%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £119,999	28	1,218,138	43,505	2,971,069	106,110	92.9%	7.1%
		£120,000 - £159,999	209	11,713,734	56,047	28,570,084	136,699	99.0%	1.0%
		£180,000 - £199,999	14	1,042,824	74,487	2,543,472	181,677	100.0%	0.0%
£200,000 - £259,999		12	1,142,480	95,207	2,786,538	232,211	100.0%	0.0%	
<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>263</b>	<b>15,117,177</b>	<b>57,480</b>	<b>36,871,162</b>	<b>140,195</b>	<b>98.5%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	
<b>S8 8 Total</b>			<b>1,557</b>	<b>54,533,330</b>	<b>35,025</b>	<b>133,008,123</b>	<b>85,426</b>	<b>97.5%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>S8 9</b>	<£50,000 - £99,999	£50,000 - £69,999	35	929,206	26,549	2,266,356	64,753	85.7%	14.3%
		£80,000 - £89,999	15	497,938	33,196	1,214,482	80,965	100.0%	0.0%
		£90,000 - £99,999	57	2,241,514	39,325	5,467,106	95,914	96.5%	3.5%

	<£50,000 - £99,999 Total		107	3,668,657	34,287	8,947,945	83,626	93.5%	6.5%
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £139,999	32	1,614,365	50,449	3,937,475	123,046	96.9%	3.1%
		£160,000 - £239,999	71	4,933,533	69,486	12,033,008	169,479	97.2%	2.8%
	£100,000 - £299,999 Total		103	6,547,898	63,572	15,970,483	155,053	97.1%	2.9%
<b>S8 9 Total</b>			<b>210</b>	<b>10,216,555</b>	<b>48,650</b>	<b>24,918,428</b>	<b>118,659</b>	<b>95.2%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>
<b>S9 1</b>	<£50,000 - £99,999	£50,000 - £59,999	57	1,354,159	23,757	3,302,826	57,944	98.2%	1.8%
		£60,000 - £69,999	189	5,020,152	26,562	12,244,273	64,785	95.2%	4.8%
		£70,000 - £79,999	87	2,527,732	29,054	6,165,201	70,864	97.7%	2.3%
		£90,000 - £99,999	17	683,503	40,206	1,667,079	98,063	100.0%	0.0%
	<£50,000 - £99,999 Total		350	9,585,545	27,387	23,379,379	66,798	96.6%	3.4%
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	33	1,483,818	44,964	3,619,069	109,669	97.0%	3.0%
		£120,000 - £179,999	40	2,185,043	54,626	5,329,372	133,234	100.0%	0.0%
	£100,000 - £299,999 Total		73	3,668,861	50,258	8,948,441	122,581	98.6%	1.4%
<b>S9 1 Total</b>			<b>423</b>	<b>13,254,406</b>	<b>31,334</b>	<b>32,327,820</b>	<b>76,425</b>	<b>96.9%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>
<b>S9 3</b>	<£50,000 - £99,999	£70,000 - £89,999	43	1,449,653	33,713	3,535,739	82,226	93.0%	7.0%
		£90,000 - £99,999	18	683,368	37,965	1,666,751	92,597	100.0%	0.0%
	<£50,000 - £99,999 Total		61	2,133,021	34,968	5,202,490	85,287	95.1%	4.9%
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £139,999	20	903,238	45,162	2,203,020	110,151	100.0%	0.0%
		£160,000 - £179,999	18	1,261,799	70,100	3,077,559	170,976	100.0%	0.0%
		£180,000 - £219,999	15	1,160,614	77,374	2,830,766	188,718	100.0%	0.0%
	£100,000 - £299,999 Total		53	3,325,652	62,748	8,111,345	153,044	100.0%	0.0%
<b>S9 3 Total</b>			<b>114</b>	<b>5,458,673</b>	<b>47,883</b>	<b>13,313,836</b>	<b>116,788</b>	<b>97.4%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>
<b>S9 4</b>	<£50,000 - £99,999	<£50,000 - £69,999	101	2,778,657	27,511	6,777,212	67,101	96.0%	4.0%
		£70,000 - £79,999	65	2,049,638	31,533	4,999,117	76,909	93.8%	6.2%
		£80,000 - £99,999	65	2,320,283	35,697	5,659,228	87,065	98.5%	1.5%
	<£50,000 - £99,999 Total		231	7,148,579	30,946	17,435,558	75,479	96.1%	3.9%
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	21	977,088	46,528	2,383,142	113,483	95.2%	4.8%
		£120,000 - £139,999	110	5,808,377	52,803	14,166,772	128,789	100.0%	0.0%
		£140,000 - £159,999	85	5,084,500	59,818	12,401,219	145,897	100.0%	0.0%
	£100,000 - £299,999 Total		216	11,869,965	54,954	28,951,134	134,033	99.5%	0.5%
<b>S9 4 Total</b>			<b>447</b>	<b>19,018,543</b>	<b>42,547</b>	<b>46,386,691</b>	<b>103,773</b>	<b>97.8%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
<b>S9 5</b>	<£50,000 - £99,999	£50,000 - £59,999	12	289,003	24,084	704,885	58,740	91.7%	8.3%
		£60,000 - £69,999	225	5,660,262	25,157	13,805,517	61,358	97.8%	2.2%
		£70,000 - £79,999	268	8,176,193	30,508	19,941,933	74,410	97.4%	2.6%
		£80,000 - £89,999	110	3,785,309	34,412	9,232,461	83,931	98.2%	1.8%
		£90,000 - £99,999	62	2,379,909	38,386	5,804,657	93,623	98.4%	1.6%
	<£50,000 - £99,999 Total		677	20,290,676	29,971	49,489,453	73,101	97.6%	2.4%

	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	46	2,033,334	44,203	4,959,352	107,812	100.0%	0.0%
		£120,000 - £139,999	16	908,789	56,799	2,216,558	138,535	100.0%	0.0%
		£140,000 - £179,999	66	4,051,135	61,381	9,880,818	149,709	95.5%	4.5%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>128</b>	<b>6,993,259</b>	<b>54,635</b>	<b>17,056,728</b>	<b>133,256</b>	<b>97.7%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>S9 5 Total</b>			<b>805</b>	<b>27,283,934</b>	<b>33,893</b>	<b>66,546,181</b>	<b>82,666</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>S10 1</b>	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £119,999	13	554,320	42,640	1,352,000	104,000	100.0%	0.0%
		£140,000 - £199,999	183	11,053,499	60,402	26,959,753	147,321	97.8%	2.2%
		£200,000 - £219,999	11	947,100	86,100	2,310,000	210,000	90.9%	9.1%
		£220,000 - £239,999	51	4,661,700	91,406	11,370,000	222,941	100.0%	0.0%
		£240,000 - £279,999	28	2,806,860	100,245	6,846,000	244,500	92.9%	7.1%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>286</b>	<b>20,023,479</b>	<b>70,012</b>	<b>48,837,753</b>	<b>170,761</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>S10 1 Total</b>			<b>286</b>	<b>20,023,479</b>	<b>70,012</b>	<b>48,837,753</b>	<b>170,761</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>S10 2</b>	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£160,000 - £179,999	25	1,811,995	72,480	4,419,501	176,780	100.0%	0.0%
		£180,000 - £219,999	34	2,597,620	76,401	6,335,659	186,343	100.0%	0.0%
		£260,000 - £279,999	17	1,845,678	108,569	4,501,652	264,803	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>76</b>	<b>6,255,293</b>	<b>82,306</b>	<b>15,256,812</b>	<b>200,748</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>S10 2 Total</b>			<b>76</b>	<b>6,255,293</b>	<b>82,306</b>	<b>15,256,812</b>	<b>200,748</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>S10 4</b>	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£120,000 - £139,999	107	5,483,750	51,250	13,375,000	125,000	98.1%	1.9%
		£140,000 - £159,999	105	6,027,000	57,400	14,700,000	140,000	94.3%	5.7%
		£220,000 - £279,999	16	1,538,610	96,163	3,752,708	234,544	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>228</b>	<b>13,049,360</b>	<b>57,234</b>	<b>31,827,708</b>	<b>139,595</b>	<b>96.5%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
<b>S10 4 Total</b>			<b>228</b>	<b>13,049,360</b>	<b>57,234</b>	<b>31,827,708</b>	<b>139,595</b>	<b>96.5%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
<b>S10 5</b>	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £239,999	53	3,166,840	59,752	7,724,000	145,736	94.3%	5.7%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>3,166,840</b>	<b>59,752</b>	<b>7,724,000</b>	<b>145,736</b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>
<b>S10 5 Total</b>			<b>53</b>	<b>3,166,840</b>	<b>59,752</b>	<b>7,724,000</b>	<b>145,736</b>	<b>94.3%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>
<b>S11 7</b>	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£160,000 - £179,999	22	1,521,100	69,141	3,710,000	168,636	95.5%	4.5%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>1,521,100</b>	<b>69,141</b>	<b>3,710,000</b>	<b>168,636</b>	<b>95.5%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
<b>S11 7 Total</b>			<b>22</b>	<b>1,521,100</b>	<b>69,141</b>	<b>3,710,000</b>	<b>168,636</b>	<b>95.5%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
<b>S11 8 and S11 9</b>	<£50,000 - £99,999	£50,000 - £89,999	15	474,817	31,654	1,158,091	77,206	80.0%	20.0%
		£90,000 - £99,999	12	462,300	38,525	1,127,561	93,963	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>937,117</b>	<b>34,708</b>	<b>2,285,652</b>	<b>84,654</b>	<b>88.9%</b>	<b>11.1%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	663	28,604,179	43,144	69,766,290	105,228	98.2%	1.8%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>663</b>	<b>28,604,179</b>	<b>43,144</b>	<b>69,766,290</b>	<b>105,228</b>	<b>98.2%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>S11 8 and S11 9 Total</b>			<b>690</b>	<b>29,541,296</b>	<b>42,813</b>	<b>72,051,942</b>	<b>104,423</b>	<b>97.8%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
<b>S12 2</b>	<£50,000 - £99,999	£50,000 - £59,999	63	1,468,777	23,314	3,582,382	56,863	88.9%	11.1%

		£70,000 - £79,999	39	1,186,884	30,433	2,894,840	74,227	100.0%	0.0%
		£80,000 - £89,999	116	4,042,072	34,845	9,858,713	84,989	98.3%	1.7%
		£90,000 - £99,999	24	925,270	38,553	2,256,756	94,031	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>242</b>	<b>7,623,003</b>	<b>31,500</b>	<b>18,592,691</b>	<b>76,829</b>	<b>96.3%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £119,999	73	3,122,053	42,768	7,614,763	104,312	95.9%	4.1%
		£120,000 - £139,999	39	2,094,437	53,704	5,108,383	130,984	100.0%	0.0%
		£140,000 - £159,999	104	6,537,497	62,861	15,945,114	153,318	98.1%	1.9%
		£160,000 - £199,999	145	9,892,135	68,222	24,127,160	166,394	97.2%	2.8%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>361</b>	<b>21,646,122</b>	<b>59,962</b>	<b>52,795,419</b>	<b>146,248</b>	<b>97.5%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>S12 2 Total</b>			<b>603</b>	<b>29,269,125</b>	<b>48,539</b>	<b>71,388,109</b>	<b>118,388</b>	<b>97.0%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>S12 3</b>	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999</b>	£50,000 - £79,999	35	804,828	22,995	1,962,994	56,086	88.6%	11.4%
		£80,000 - £89,999	175	6,098,750	34,850	14,875,000	85,000	97.1%	2.9%
		£90,000 - £99,999	19	738,379	38,862	1,800,924	94,785	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>229</b>	<b>7,641,956</b>	<b>33,371</b>	<b>18,638,918</b>	<b>81,393</b>	<b>96.1%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £119,999	12	510,435	42,536	1,244,964	103,747	100.0%	0.0%
		£140,000 - £159,999	220	13,933,564	63,334	33,984,303	154,474	97.7%	2.3%
		£160,000 - £179,999	168	11,742,062	69,893	28,639,175	170,471	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>400</b>	<b>26,186,061</b>	<b>65,465</b>	<b>63,868,441</b>	<b>159,671</b>	<b>98.8%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
<b>S12 3 Total</b>			<b>629</b>	<b>33,828,017</b>	<b>53,781</b>	<b>82,507,359</b>	<b>131,172</b>	<b>97.8%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
<b>S12 4</b>	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999</b>	£50,000 - £69,999	31	752,289	24,267	1,834,851	59,189	96.8%	3.2%
		£70,000 - £79,999	188	5,781,000	30,750	14,100,000	75,000	98.9%	1.1%
		£80,000 - £89,999	247	8,607,422	34,848	20,993,713	84,995	98.0%	2.0%
		£90,000 - £99,999	105	3,978,232	37,888	9,703,004	92,410	99.0%	1.0%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>571</b>	<b>19,118,943</b>	<b>33,483</b>	<b>46,631,568</b>	<b>81,666</b>	<b>98.4%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £139,999	12	645,784	53,815	1,575,083	131,257	100.0%	0.0%
		£140,000 - £159,999	360	22,179,800	61,611	54,097,073	150,270	99.2%	0.8%
		£160,000 - £179,999	377	25,404,288	67,385	61,961,677	164,355	98.7%	1.3%
		£180,000 - £199,999	13	1,013,169	77,936	2,471,143	190,088	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>762</b>	<b>49,243,040</b>	<b>64,623</b>	<b>120,104,977</b>	<b>157,618</b>	<b>99.0%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
<b>S12 4 Total</b>			<b>1,333</b>	<b>68,361,983</b>	<b>51,284</b>	<b>166,736,544</b>	<b>125,084</b>	<b>98.7%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
<b>S13 7</b>	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999</b>	£60,000 - £69,999	18	510,154	28,342	1,244,279	69,127	83.3%	16.7%
		£70,000 - £79,999	16	508,993	31,812	1,241,445	77,590	87.5%	12.5%
		£80,000 - £89,999	423	14,908,724	35,245	36,362,741	85,964	96.7%	3.3%
		£90,000 - £99,999	689	26,210,451	38,041	63,927,929	92,784	99.0%	1.0%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>1,146</b>	<b>42,138,321</b>	<b>36,770</b>	<b>102,776,394</b>	<b>89,683</b>	<b>97.7%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £119,999	57	2,424,567	42,536	5,913,578	103,747	100.0%	0.0%
		£120,000 - £139,999	99	5,378,336	54,327	13,117,893	132,504	99.0%	1.0%
		£140,000 - £159,999	107	6,703,559	62,650	16,350,145	152,805	100.0%	0.0%
		£160,000 - £199,999	59	4,064,940	68,897	9,914,488	168,042	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>322</b>	<b>18,571,402</b>	<b>57,675</b>	<b>45,296,103</b>	<b>140,671</b>	<b>99.7%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>

<b>S13 7 Total</b>			<b>1,468</b>	<b>60,709,724</b>	<b>41,355</b>	<b>148,072,497</b>	<b>100,867</b>	<b>98.2%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>S13 8</b>	<£50,000 - £99,999	£70,000 - £79,999	175	5,042,180	28,812	12,298,000	70,274	96.6%	3.4%
		£80,000 - £89,999	179	6,333,576	35,383	15,447,746	86,300	99.4%	0.6%
		£90,000 - £99,999	182	6,973,193	38,314	17,007,787	93,449	97.8%	2.2%
	<£50,000 - £99,999 Total		<b>536</b>	<b>18,348,948</b>	<b>34,233</b>	<b>44,753,533</b>	<b>83,495</b>	<b>97.9%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£120,000 - £139,999	39	2,060,703	52,839	5,026,105	128,874	100.0%	0.0%
		£140,000 - £159,999	207	12,661,535	61,167	30,881,792	149,187	97.6%	2.4%
		£160,000 - £179,999	68	4,721,085	69,428	11,514,842	169,336	100.0%	0.0%
		£180,000 - £199,999	15	1,160,915	77,394	2,831,500	188,767	100.0%	0.0%
		£100,000 - £299,999 Total		<b>329</b>	<b>20,604,238</b>	<b>62,627</b>	<b>50,254,239</b>	<b>152,748</b>	<b>98.5%</b>
	<b>S13 8 Total</b>		<b>865</b>	<b>38,953,186</b>	<b>45,033</b>	<b>95,007,772</b>	<b>109,836</b>	<b>98.2%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>S13 9</b>	<£50,000 - £99,999	£80,000 - £89,999	56	1,904,300	34,005	4,644,634	82,940	96.4%	3.6%
		<£50,000 - £99,999 Total	<b>56</b>	<b>1,904,300</b>	<b>34,005</b>	<b>4,644,634</b>	<b>82,940</b>	<b>96.4%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	28	1,173,220	41,901	2,861,511	102,197	96.4%	3.6%
		£120,000 - £139,999	19	1,060,829	55,833	2,587,388	136,178	100.0%	0.0%
		£140,000 - £159,999	90	5,655,640	62,840	13,794,244	153,269	97.8%	2.2%
		£160,000 - £179,999	49	3,239,713	66,117	7,901,739	161,260	100.0%	0.0%
	£100,000 - £299,999 Total		<b>186</b>	<b>11,129,402</b>	<b>59,835</b>	<b>27,144,882</b>	<b>145,940</b>	<b>98.4%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>S13 9 Total</b>		<b>242</b>	<b>13,033,702</b>	<b>53,858</b>	<b>31,789,517</b>	<b>131,362</b>	<b>97.9%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	
<b>S14 1</b>	<£50,000 - £99,999	<£50,000	13	213,315	16,409	520,281	40,022	84.6%	15.4%
		£50,000 - £59,999	621	14,311,311	23,046	34,905,636	56,209	96.1%	3.9%
		£60,000 - £69,999	532	13,895,942	26,120	33,892,542	63,708	96.8%	3.2%
		£70,000 - £79,999	471	14,081,810	29,898	34,345,877	72,921	96.8%	3.2%
		£80,000 - £89,999	22	773,099	35,141	1,885,608	85,709	95.5%	4.5%
		£90,000 - £99,999	65	2,516,184	38,711	6,137,033	94,416	98.5%	1.5%
	<£50,000 - £99,999 Total		<b>1,724</b>	<b>45,791,661</b>	<b>26,561</b>	<b>111,686,977</b>	<b>64,784</b>	<b>96.5%</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	571	26,359,396	46,164	64,291,209	112,594	98.1%	1.9%
		£120,000 - £139,999	203	10,662,969	52,527	26,007,241	128,114	98.0%	2.0%
		£140,000 - £159,999	14	888,899	63,493	2,168,046	154,860	100.0%	0.0%
£160,000 - £179,999		11	779,832	70,894	1,902,028	172,912	100.0%	0.0%	
£100,000 - £299,999 Total		<b>799</b>	<b>38,691,095</b>	<b>48,424</b>	<b>94,368,524</b>	<b>118,108</b>	<b>98.1%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	
<b>S14 1 Total</b>		<b>2,523</b>	<b>84,482,756</b>	<b>33,485</b>	<b>206,055,502</b>	<b>81,671</b>	<b>97.0%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	
<b>S20 1</b>	<£50,000 - £99,999	£80,000 - £89,999	97	3,329,256	34,322	8,120,136	83,713	96.9%	3.1%
		£90,000 - £99,999	51	1,956,367	38,360	4,771,626	93,561	98.0%	2.0%
	<£50,000 - £99,999 Total		<b>148</b>	<b>5,285,622</b>	<b>35,714</b>	<b>12,891,762</b>	<b>87,106</b>	<b>97.3%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £139,999	134	7,551,802	56,357	18,419,030	137,455	97.0%	3.0%
		£140,000 - £159,999	75	4,628,765	61,717	11,289,670	150,529	100.0%	0.0%
£160,000 - £199,999		57	3,924,174	68,845	9,571,156	167,915	100.0%	0.0%	



	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>266</b>	<b>16,104,741</b>	<b>60,544</b>	<b>39,279,857</b>	<b>147,669</b>	<b>98.5%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
<b>S20 1 Total</b>			<b>414</b>	<b>21,390,363</b>	<b>51,668</b>	<b>52,171,618</b>	<b>126,018</b>	<b>98.1%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
<b>S20 3 and S20 8</b>	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999</b>	£60,000 - £69,999	325	8,647,609	26,608	21,091,730	64,898	95.4%	4.6%
		£70,000 - £79,999	44	1,434,747	32,608	3,499,382	79,531	100.0%	0.0%
		£80,000 - £99,999	25	842,697	33,708	2,055,358	82,214	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>394</b>	<b>10,925,053</b>	<b>27,729</b>	<b>26,646,470</b>	<b>67,631</b>	<b>96.2%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £119,999	58	2,813,635	48,511	6,862,524	118,319	100.0%	0.0%
		£120,000 - £199,999	216	11,336,197	52,482	27,649,260	128,006	99.5%	0.5%
<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>274</b>	<b>14,149,832</b>	<b>51,642</b>	<b>34,511,784</b>	<b>125,955</b>	<b>99.6%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	
<b>S20 3 and S20 8 Total</b>			<b>668</b>	<b>25,074,884</b>	<b>37,537</b>	<b>61,158,254</b>	<b>91,554</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>S20 4</b>	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999</b>	£60,000 - £69,999	45	1,157,361	25,719	2,822,831	62,730	88.9%	11.1%
		£70,000 - £99,999	78	2,487,848	31,895	6,067,922	77,794	96.2%	3.8%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>123</b>	<b>3,645,209</b>	<b>29,636</b>	<b>8,890,752</b>	<b>72,283</b>	<b>93.5%</b>	<b>6.5%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £119,999	16	688,838	43,052	1,680,094	105,006	100.0%	0.0%
		£120,000 - £159,999	116	6,289,005	54,216	15,339,037	132,233	98.3%	1.7%
		£160,000 - £199,999	20	1,381,533	69,077	3,369,593	168,480	95.0%	5.0%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>152</b>	<b>8,359,377</b>	<b>54,996</b>	<b>20,388,723</b>	<b>134,136</b>	<b>98.0%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
	<b>£300,000 - £499,999</b>	£300,000 - £349,999	12	1,614,164	134,514	3,936,985	328,082	100.0%	0.0%
<b>£300,000 - £499,999 Total</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>1,614,164</b>	<b>134,514</b>	<b>3,936,985</b>	<b>328,082</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	
<b>S20 4 Total</b>			<b>287</b>	<b>13,618,749</b>	<b>47,452</b>	<b>33,216,461</b>	<b>115,737</b>	<b>96.2%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
<b>S20 5</b>	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999</b>	£60,000 - £79,999	31	908,362	29,302	2,215,518	71,468	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>31</b>	<b>908,362</b>	<b>29,302</b>	<b>2,215,518</b>	<b>71,468</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£120,000 - £139,999	48	2,745,778	57,204	6,697,019	139,521	95.8%	4.2%
		£160,000 - £179,999	15	1,040,821	69,388	2,538,589	169,239	100.0%	0.0%
		£180,000 - £219,999	97	7,528,579	77,614	18,362,389	189,303	97.9%	2.1%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>160</b>	<b>11,315,179</b>	<b>70,720</b>	<b>27,597,997</b>	<b>172,487</b>	<b>97.5%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>S20 5 Total</b>			<b>191</b>	<b>12,223,541</b>	<b>63,998</b>	<b>29,813,514</b>	<b>156,092</b>	<b>97.9%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
<b>S20 7</b>	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999</b>	£60,000 - £69,999	122	3,409,852	27,950	8,316,713	68,170	96.7%	3.3%
		£70,000 - £79,999	12	391,295	32,608	954,377	79,531	91.7%	8.3%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>134</b>	<b>3,801,147</b>	<b>28,367</b>	<b>9,271,090</b>	<b>69,187</b>	<b>96.3%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £139,999	41	2,292,233	55,908	5,590,813	136,361	100.0%	0.0%
		£140,000 - £179,999	92	5,562,759	60,465	13,567,705	147,475	98.9%	1.1%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>133</b>	<b>7,854,992</b>	<b>59,060</b>	<b>19,158,517</b>	<b>144,049</b>	<b>99.2%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>S20 7 Total</b>			<b>267</b>	<b>11,656,139</b>	<b>43,656</b>	<b>28,429,608</b>	<b>106,478</b>	<b>97.8%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
<b>S35 0</b>	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999</b>	£50,000 - £59,999	32	750,513	23,454	1,830,519	57,204	96.9%	3.1%

		£60,000 - £69,999	39	1,036,646	26,581	2,528,404	64,831	97.4%	2.6%
		£70,000 - £89,999	12	389,324	32,444	949,572	79,131	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>83</b>	<b>2,176,482</b>	<b>26,223</b>	<b>5,308,494</b>	<b>63,958</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £139,999	150	6,830,558	45,537	16,659,898	111,066	98.0%	2.0%
		£140,000 - £159,999	28	1,660,357	59,298	4,049,651	144,630	100.0%	0.0%
		£160,000 - £179,999	35	2,469,320	70,552	6,022,733	172,078	100.0%	0.0%
		£180,000 - £239,999	21	1,731,093	82,433	4,222,178	201,056	100.0%	0.0%
		£240,000 - £299,999	10	1,094,766	109,477	2,670,161	267,016	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>244</b>	<b>13,786,094</b>	<b>56,500</b>	<b>33,624,621</b>	<b>137,806</b>	<b>98.8%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<b>S35 0 Total</b>			<b>327</b>	<b>15,962,577</b>	<b>48,815</b>	<b>38,933,114</b>	<b>119,062</b>	<b>98.5%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
<b>S35 1 and S35 2</b>	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999</b>	£60,000 - £79,999	36	986,388	27,400	2,405,824	66,828	88.9%	11.1%
		£80,000 - £99,999	14	529,379	37,813	1,291,169	92,226	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>1,515,767</b>	<b>30,315</b>	<b>3,696,994</b>	<b>73,940</b>	<b>92.0%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £119,999	44	2,076,865	47,201	5,065,524	115,126	97.7%	2.3%
		£120,000 - £139,999	37	2,027,948	54,809	4,946,214	133,681	100.0%	0.0%
		£140,000 - £179,999	185	11,525,729	62,301	28,111,534	151,954	98.9%	1.1%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>266</b>	<b>15,630,542</b>	<b>58,761</b>	<b>38,123,272</b>	<b>143,321</b>	<b>98.9%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
<b>S35 1 and S35 2 Total</b>			<b>316</b>	<b>17,146,309</b>	<b>54,260</b>	<b>41,820,266</b>	<b>132,343</b>	<b>97.8%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>
<b>S35 3</b>	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999</b>	£60,000 - £69,999	48	1,243,707	25,911	3,033,431	63,196	75.0%	25.0%
		£70,000 - £79,999	27	868,450	32,165	2,118,171	78,451	92.6%	7.4%
		£80,000 - £89,999	118	3,989,779	33,812	9,731,167	82,468	98.3%	1.7%
		£90,000 - £99,999	17	637,936	37,526	1,555,941	91,526	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>210</b>	<b>6,739,871</b>	<b>32,095</b>	<b>16,438,710</b>	<b>78,280</b>	<b>92.4%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £139,999	65	3,358,479	51,669	8,191,413	126,022	98.5%	1.5%
		£140,000 - £179,999	97	5,839,926	60,205	14,243,722	146,842	99.0%	1.0%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>162</b>	<b>9,198,406</b>	<b>56,780</b>	<b>22,435,136</b>	<b>138,488</b>	<b>98.8%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<b>S35 3 Total</b>			<b>372</b>	<b>15,938,277</b>	<b>42,845</b>	<b>38,873,846</b>	<b>104,500</b>	<b>95.2%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>
<b>S35 4</b>	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999</b>	£50,000 - £69,999	127	3,326,629	26,194	8,113,729	63,888	86.6%	13.4%
		£70,000 - £79,999	114	3,477,822	30,507	8,482,492	74,408	93.9%	6.1%
		£80,000 - £89,999	11	368,555	33,505	898,915	81,720	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>252</b>	<b>7,173,006</b>	<b>28,464</b>	<b>17,495,137</b>	<b>69,425</b>	<b>90.5%</b>	<b>9.5%</b>
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999</b>	£100,000 - £119,999	225	9,914,979	44,067	24,182,874	107,479	98.7%	1.3%
		£120,000 - £139,999	78	4,010,608	51,418	9,781,970	125,410	97.4%	2.6%
		£140,000 - £179,999	83	5,010,118	60,363	12,219,801	147,227	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>386</b>	<b>18,935,704</b>	<b>49,056</b>	<b>46,184,645</b>	<b>119,649</b>	<b>98.7%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
<b>S35 4 Total</b>			<b>638</b>	<b>26,108,711</b>	<b>40,923</b>	<b>63,679,782</b>	<b>99,812</b>	<b>95.5%</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
<b>S35 8</b>	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999</b>	£70,000 - £99,999	19	675,908	35,574	1,648,556	86,766	89.5%	10.5%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>675,908</b>	<b>35,574</b>	<b>1,648,556</b>	<b>86,766</b>	<b>89.5%</b>	<b>10.5%</b>

	£100,000 - £299,999	£160,000 - £179,999	42	2,839,886	67,616	6,926,551	164,918	95.2%	4.8%
		£180,000 - £219,999	41	3,230,861	78,801	7,880,148	192,199	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>83</b>	<b>6,070,747</b>	<b>73,142</b>	<b>14,806,699</b>	<b>178,394</b>	<b>97.6%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>S35 8 Total</b>			<b>102</b>	<b>6,746,655</b>	<b>66,144</b>	<b>16,455,256</b>	<b>161,326</b>	<b>96.1%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
S35 9	<£50,000 - £99,999	£70,000 - £79,999	43	1,314,514	30,570	3,206,131	74,561	93.0%	7.0%
		£80,000 - £99,999	25	897,082	35,883	2,188,005	87,520	96.0%	4.0%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>68</b>	<b>2,211,596</b>	<b>32,523</b>	<b>5,394,137</b>	<b>79,326</b>	<b>94.1%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£120,000 - £139,999	48	2,612,080	54,418	6,370,926	132,728	93.8%	6.3%
		£140,000 - £159,999	65	4,021,943	61,876	9,809,618	150,917	96.9%	3.1%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>113</b>	<b>6,634,023</b>	<b>58,708</b>	<b>16,180,544</b>	<b>143,191</b>	<b>95.6%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
<b>S35 9 Total</b>			<b>181</b>	<b>8,845,619</b>	<b>48,871</b>	<b>21,574,681</b>	<b>119,197</b>	<b>95.0%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>
S36 1	<£50,000 - £99,999	£60,000 - £69,999	30	790,719	26,357	1,928,582	64,286	90.0%	10.0%
		£70,000 - £79,999	226	7,067,327	31,271	17,237,383	76,272	97.3%	2.7%
		£80,000 - £99,999	17	582,647	34,273	1,421,091	83,594	94.1%	5.9%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>273</b>	<b>8,440,693</b>	<b>30,918</b>	<b>20,587,056</b>	<b>75,410</b>	<b>96.3%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	90	4,127,243	45,858	10,066,447	111,849	96.7%	3.3%
		£120,000 - £139,999	81	4,261,150	52,607	10,393,049	128,309	98.8%	1.2%
		£140,000 - £239,999	63	4,012,810	63,695	9,787,341	155,355	95.2%	4.8%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>234</b>	<b>12,401,203</b>	<b>52,997</b>	<b>30,246,836</b>	<b>129,260</b>	<b>97.0%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
<b>S36 1 Total</b>			<b>507</b>	<b>20,841,895</b>	<b>41,108</b>	<b>50,833,891</b>	<b>100,264</b>	<b>96.6%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
S36 2	<£50,000 - £99,999	£50,000 - £59,999	108	2,574,125	23,834	6,278,354	58,133	96.3%	3.7%
		£60,000 - £89,999	27	767,042	28,409	1,870,834	69,290	96.3%	3.7%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>135</b>	<b>3,341,167</b>	<b>24,749</b>	<b>8,149,188</b>	<b>60,364</b>	<b>96.3%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £119,999	44	2,018,110	45,866	4,922,218	111,869	97.7%	2.3%
		£120,000 - £139,999	108	5,608,071	51,927	13,678,223	126,650	98.1%	1.9%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>152</b>	<b>7,626,181</b>	<b>50,172</b>	<b>18,600,441</b>	<b>122,371</b>	<b>98.0%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
<b>S36 2 Total</b>			<b>287</b>	<b>10,967,348</b>	<b>38,214</b>	<b>26,749,629</b>	<b>93,204</b>	<b>97.2%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>
S61 2	<£50,000 - £99,999	£70,000 - £89,999	13	415,052	31,927	1,012,321	77,871	100.0%	0.0%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>415,052</b>	<b>31,927</b>	<b>1,012,321</b>	<b>77,871</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
	£100,000 - £299,999	£100,000 - £179,999	11	624,534	56,776	1,523,253	138,478	90.9%	9.1%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>624,534</b>	<b>56,776</b>	<b>1,523,253</b>	<b>138,478</b>	<b>90.9%</b>	<b>9.1%</b>
<b>S61 2 Total</b>			<b>24</b>	<b>1,039,585</b>	<b>43,316</b>	<b>2,535,574</b>	<b>105,649</b>	<b>95.8%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
Sundry*	<£50,000 - £99,999	<£50,000 - £59,999	19	348,653	18,350	850,374	44,757	94.7%	5.3%
		£60,000 - £69,999	13	344,904	26,531	841,230	64,710	76.9%	23.1%
		£70,000 - £79,999	18	551,866	30,659	1,346,014	74,779	94.4%	5.6%

	£80,000 - £89,999	10	350,249	35,025	854,265	85,427	100.0%	0.0%
	£90,000 - £99,999	16	621,448	38,840	1,515,726	94,733	87.5%	12.5%
	<b>&lt;£50,000 - £99,999 Total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>2,217,120</b>	<b>29,173</b>	<b>5,407,609</b>	<b>71,153</b>	<b>90.8%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>
	£100,000 - £119,999	74	3,217,714	43,483	7,848,083	106,055	98.6%	1.4%
	£120,000 - £139,999	255	13,339,947	52,314	32,536,456	127,594	96.5%	3.5%
	£140,000 - £159,999	88	5,358,971	60,897	13,070,662	148,530	95.5%	4.5%
	£160,000 - £179,999	48	3,358,485	69,968	8,191,427	170,655	95.8%	4.2%
	£180,000 - £199,999	79	6,172,333	78,131	15,054,472	190,563	96.2%	3.8%
	£200,000 - £219,999	89	7,752,005	87,101	18,907,328	212,442	95.5%	4.5%
	£220,000 - £259,999	51	4,889,112	95,865	11,924,664	233,817	98.0%	2.0%
	£260,000 - £299,999	86	9,430,622	109,658	23,001,517	267,459	97.7%	2.3%
	<b>£100,000 - £299,999 Total</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>53,519,189</b>	<b>69,505</b>	<b>130,534,607</b>	<b>169,525</b>	<b>96.6%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
	£300,000 - £349,999	22	2,914,680	132,485	7,108,977	323,135	95.5%	4.5%
	£350,000 - £599,999	17	2,845,419	167,378	6,940,046	408,238	94.1%	5.9%
	<b>£300,000 - £999,999 Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>5,760,099</b>	<b>147,695</b>	<b>14,049,022</b>	<b>360,231</b>	<b>94.9%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
<b>Sundry Total</b>		<b>885</b>	<b>61,496,408</b>	<b>69,487</b>	<b>149,991,239</b>	<b>169,482</b>	<b>96.0%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>38,397</b>	<b>1,676,024,136</b>	<b>43,650</b>	<b>4,087,863,746</b>	<b>106,463</b>	<b>97.5%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>

\* Sundry dwellings are generally those located outside of main housing estates. For the purposes of the table above, the sundry category also includes any postal sectors where publication of valuation information would be disclosive of individual properties and this information could not be anonymised by merging intervening bands and/or merging the postal sector with other postal sectors in the same postal district. The table below shows the total number of sundry dwellings within each postal sector containing at least 10 sundry dwellings.

Postal Sector/s	Total number social housing dwellings
S17 4	321
S17 3	142
S4 8	28
S10 2	27
S8 0	25
S6 2	21
S3 9	21
S2 4	21
S5 6	19
S11 8	18
S7 1	17
S6 3	17
S4 7	15
S9 4	14
S6 5	14
S9 1	11
S13 8	10
S12 4	10
All Other Sectors	134
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>885</b>



## SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Report to Council

---

**Report of:** General Counsel and Monitoring Officer

---

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024

---

**Subject:** Review of the Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints and Councillor Code of Conduct

---

**Author of Report:** David Hollis, General Counsel and Monitoring Officer

---

**Purpose of Report:**

This report provides details of (a) proposed revisions to the Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints, and (b) proposed changes to the Councillor Code of Conduct.

---

**Recommendations:**

That the Council approves the changes to the Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints and the Councillor Code of Conduct as outlined in sections 3.1 and 3.2 of the report and as set out in Appendices A and B.

---

**Background Papers:** NONE

---

**Category of Report:** OPEN

## Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

<b>Financial &amp; Commercial Implications</b>
NO
<b>Legal Implications</b>
YES – Cleared by Andrea Simpson
<b>Equality of Opportunity Implications</b>
NO
<b>Climate impact</b>
NO
<b>Tackling Health Inequalities implications</b>
NO
<b>Human Rights implications</b>
NO
<b>Economic impact</b>
NO
<b>Community Safety implications</b>
NO
<b>Human Resources implications</b>
NO
<b>Property implications</b>
NO
<b>Area(s) affected</b>
NONE
<b>Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?</b>
YES
<b>Press release</b>
NO

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report provides details of (a) proposed revisions to the Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints, and (b) proposed changes to the Councillor Code of Conduct.
- 1.2 On 19th June 2023, the Council's Strategy and Resources Committee agreed a number of actions to respond to the findings and recommendations of the Sheffield Street Tree Enquiry. One of the agreed actions was for the Monitoring Officer to take a report to the Council's Audit and Standards Committee on whether the standards regime and Councillor Code of Conduct needs updating. The Audit and Standards Committee accordingly reviewed the Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints and the Councillor Code of Conduct on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.

## **2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 An updated constitution for the City Council, reflecting the committee system of governance to be operated by the Council from the Municipal Year 2022-23, was approved at the annual meeting of the Council held on 18th May 2022. The Council has a legal duty to keep its constitution up to date.
- 2.2 The Council's Constitution sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures that are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. Some of these processes are required by law, whilst others are a matter for the Council to choose. The Constitution contains 17 Articles in Part 2, which set out the basic rules governing the Council's business. Part 3 of the Constitution sets out who is responsible for making what decisions, including remits of Committees and arrangements for delegation to officers. More detailed procedures and codes of practice are provided in separate rules and protocols contained within the other parts of the Constitution.
- 2.3 In accordance with Article 16 of the Constitution (Review and Revision of the Constitution), changes to the Constitution will only be made with the approval of the Full Council, after consideration of the proposal by a Committee of the Council, the Chief Executive or the Monitoring Officer. In addition, however, the Director of Legal and Governance, in consultation with the Lord Mayor, has delegated authority to make any minor and consequential drafting changes to the Constitution.

## **3. PROPOSED CHANGES AND REASONS**

- 3.1 Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints

- 3.1.1 The appendix to the Monitoring Officer Protocol (within Part 5 of the Constitution) is the Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints Regarding City, Parish and Town Councillors and Co-opted Members.
- 3.1.2 Minor changes to the Procedure for Dealing with Standards Complaints were recommended by the Audit and Standards Committee and approved by Full Council in September 2023. On reviewing the Procedure again in November 2023 that Committee has proposed that several enhancements be made to it.
- 3.1.3 The main proposed change to the Procedure is that the role of the Consideration Sub-Committee is removed. This will enable investigations to be completed within the 12 weeks recommended as a reasonable time frame for investigations by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) and eliminate duplication of processes. The Hearing Sub-Committee may exercise any powers that are currently available to the Consideration Sub-Committee.
- 3.1.4 Other proposed changes are:
- Explanation added of what happens if the Monitoring Officer having a conflict of interest which prevents him acting under the Protocol, to reflect current practice;
  - Clarification of the circumstances in which the Monitoring Officer may make a written complaint in his own name;
  - Setting out a Member's rights to make representations during an investigation, to participate in the Hearing Sub-Committee hearing and to make representations before a decision is made that a breach has occurred;
  - Rewording of the sanctions to give a consistent approach to grouped and ungrouped Members and to extend the sanction to include removal from external appointments made by Full Council;
  - An additional formal sanction in a case where a breach is found which relates to use of the Council's IT systems, that the Member's access to those systems is withdrawn;
  - Clarification of the circumstances in which a complainant may complain the LGO, more clearly reflecting the LGO's own guidance.
- 3.1.5 The proposed changes to the Procedure are set out in Appendix A to this report. The flow chart at the end of the Procedure has been amended to remove the Consideration Sub-Committee stage but these amendments are not shown as track changes.

## 3.2. Councillor Code of Conduct

- 3.2.1 The Councillor Code of Conduct (within Part 5 of the Constitution), which was approved and adopted by full Council in June 2021, is the Local Government Association's model code of conduct, with the incorporation of elements of the Council's previous code of conduct. Minor amendments



to the Code were approved by Full Council in November 2022 and September 2023. On reviewing the Code again in November 2023 the Audit and Standards Committee has proposed that further minor amendments be made to it.

- 3.2.2 In addition to the formal noted sanctions, the Complaints Procedure also provides for informal mediation and other similar means of informally resolving the dispute which are considered throughout the process. In the majority of cases, informal resolution is always the preferred conclusion. To provide consistency it is recommended that Paragraph 8.4 of the Code of Conduct be amended to include compliance with any informal resolution as well as with any formal sanction imposed following a finding that the Code of Conduct has been breached.
- 3.2.3 Paragraph 10 (Gifts and Hospitality) has been updated to cover the omission of occasions where to refuse incidental gifts or hospitality may cause personal or cultural offence to the donor and to clarify when incidental hospitality may be accepted and when it should be refused.
- 3.2.4 The Monitoring Officer has also proposed minor changes to the Code:
- The list of specific policies at Appendix D has been removed to avoid the risk of reference to out of date documents; instead Members are now required to have regard to the relevant policies at Paragraph 2 (Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination) and Paragraph 7 (Use of Local Authority Resources and Facilities).
  - Appendix B (Registering Interests) has been edited to make the process clearer; there is no change to the interests that must be registered.
- 3.2.5 The proposed changes to the Councillor Code of Conduct are set out in Appendix B to this report.

## **4. RISK ANALYSIS & IMPLICATIONS**

### **4.1 Legal Implications**

- 4.1.1 Except where delegated by Council as indicated at paragraph 2.4, variations to the Constitution may only be made by Full Council.

Under Section 9P of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council must prepare a constitution and keep it up to date. It must be available to the public and, under the Local Government Transparency Code 2015, be published on the Council's website. The proposed changes in this report will bring parts of the Constitution up to date to comply with the legislation.

### **4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications**

- 4.2.1 There are no financial or commercial implications.

4.3 **Equality of Opportunity Implications**

4.3.1 There are no Equality of Opportunity implications.

## MONITORING OFFICER PROTOCOL

### 1. STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1.1 The Monitoring Officer is a statutory appointment pursuant to Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 This Protocol sets out the Monitoring Officer's role in relating to the statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct under the Localism Act 2011.
- 1.2 The role of the Monitoring Officer rests with the General Counsel. The Monitoring Officer may nominate a member of staff to act as Deputy Monitoring Officer while absent or ill and has appointed the Assistant Directors of Legal Services as Deputy Monitoring Officers. The Deputies will act only ~~in the absence of if~~ the Monitoring Officer is unable to.
- 1.3 This Protocol should be read in conjunction with Articles 13 and 16 of the Constitution which set out all Monitoring Officer functions. It should also be read in conjunction with the procedure for investigating standards complaints. A list of the functions of the Monitoring Officer appears in the attached Schedule.

### 2. WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

- 2.1 It is vital that Members and Officers work with the Monitoring Officer and his or her staff, to effectively discharge the Council business, statutory responsibilities and promote the corporate health of the Council.
- 2.2 The Monitoring Officer's duties will be discharged in accordance with the Council's Constitution, legislative requirements and relevant Government guidance. The Monitoring Officer's ability to discharge these duties and responsibilities will depend, to a large extent, on Members and Officers:-
  - (a) complying with the law (including any relevant Codes of Conduct);
  - (b) complying with any general guidance, codes or protocols issued from time to time by the Monitoring Officer;
  - (c) making lawful and proportionate decisions;
  - (d) generally, not taking action that would bring the Council, their offices or professions into disrepute;
  - (e) seeking early advice on issues relating to constitutional or ethical matters;

- (f) raising alerts to issues that may become of concern to the Authority about legal powers to do something or not, ethical standards, probity, propriety, procedural or other constitutional issues that are likely to (or do) arise; and
- (g) Reporting to the Monitoring Officer at the earliest opportunity convictions of criminal offences which might amount to a breach of the Members Code of Conduct.

2.3 The Monitoring Officer will:

- 2.3.1 Have advance notice and access to information (including agendas, minutes, reports and related papers) of all relevant meetings of the Authority, (including meetings at which Officer delegated decisions are taken) at which a binding decision may be made (including meetings where there may be a failure to take a decision which should be taken);
- 2.3.2 Have the right to attend (and be heard) any meeting of the Authority (including meetings at which Officer delegated decisions are taken) before any binding decision is taken (including a meeting where there may be failure to take a decision where one should be taken).
- 2.3.3 Meet regularly with the Head of Paid Service and the Chief Finance Officer to consider and recommend action in connection with corporate Governance issues, matters of concern regarding legal, ethical standards probity, procedural, constitutional issues that are likely and do arise;
- 2.3.4 In undertaking or arranging investigations will have unqualified access to any information held by the Council and to any Officer who can assist in the discharge of the functions.
- 2.3.5 Report to Council as necessary on resources.

**3. RELATIONSHIPS**

- 3.1 The Monitoring Officer will develop effective working liaison and relationship to ensuring effective and efficient discharge of Council business with:
  - (a) The Lord Mayor, Chairs of Policy, Regulatory, Audit and Standards and other Committees of the Council; and
  - (b) The Local Auditor and the Local Government Ombudsman or their successors;
- 3.2 Refer any breaches to, or give and receive any relevant information, whether confidential or otherwise, (through appropriate protocols, if necessary), to the bodies in 3.1 (b).

**4. PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS REGARDING CITY, PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

4.1 The procedure for dealing with complaints that a member of the City Council, Parish and Town Councils or a Co-opted Member has failed to comply with the Councillor Code of Conduct is set out in Appendix A.

4.2 In accordance with Paragraph 4.6 of the procedure, the Monitoring Officer reserves the right to deal under the procedure with any issues arising in the course of business that concerns the conduct or alleged conduct of a Member, in the absence of a complaint, if the Monitoring Officer deems it reasonable and appropriate to do so. If doing so the Monitoring Officer shall set out the issue in writing as a complaint.

## SCHEDULE

A list of the functions of the Monitoring Officer

1. Report on contraventions or likely contraventions of any enactment or rule of law	Section 5 Local Government and Housing Act 1989
2. Report on any maladministration or injustice where Ombudsman has carried out an investigation	Section 5 Local Government and Housing Act 1989
3. Appointment of Deputy	Section 5 Local Government and Housing Act 1989
4. Report on resources	Section 5 Local Government and Housing Act 1989
5. Maintain register of Members Interests and gifts and hospitality	Localism Act 2011
6. To be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the whistleblowing policy	Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure (in the Officers' Code of Conduct)
7 Proper Officer – Local Government Access to Information Regulations	Part 2 of the Constitution Article 13.03
8 Advise on vires, maladministration, impropriety, probity	Part 2 of the Constitution Article 13.03

## Appendix A

### SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

#### PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS REGARDING CITY, PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS

##### 1. Introduction

1.1 Under the Localism Act 2011, the Council has a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct for its elected and co-opted members and have arrangements in place to deal with complaints.

1.2 This Procedure sets out how the Council will deal with a complaint alleging a breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct by:-

- Sheffield City Councillors
- Voting and non-voting co-opted members of the Council
- Bradfield Parish Councillors
- Ecclesfield Parish Councillors
- Stocksbridge Town Councillors

(In this Procedure the term 'Member' is used to describe a Councillor or Co-opted Member and Council includes Bradfield Parish Council, Ecclesfield Parish Council or Stocksbridge Town Council where appropriate.)

1.3 In dealing with complaints we will be fair to both the complainant and Member and progress matters in accordance with the timescales set out in the Procedure. Complaints will be handled in the strictest confidence at all times.

1.4 The Council has a duty to ensure no conflict of interest with officers when undertaking standards investigations. If a conflict of interest is identified, it will be determined in consultation with the Independent Person whether the matter should be dealt with by an alternative Monitoring Officer. If there is a conflict of interest which prevents the Monitoring Officer acting then the matter will be dealt with either by the Council's Deputy Monitoring Officer or by a Monitoring Officer from another Authority.

1.5 The Council has a clear and straightforward public interest test, which is used by the Monitoring Officer when considering complaints.

##### 2. Monitoring Officer

- 2.1 David Hollis, General Counsel, is the Council's Monitoring Officer. This is a statutory role, responsible for ensuring that the Council, its Members and officers carry out their functions in a lawful and ethical manner. The role includes supporting the Audit and Standards Committee and the Independent Persons in dealing with complaints alleging a breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct.

### 3. Independent Persons

- 3.1 The Council appoints Independent Persons from outside the Council to assist the Monitoring Officer and the Audit and Standards Committee in considering complaints. This is a statutory requirement under the Localism Act 2011. ~~Sheffield has appointed two Independent Persons - David Waxman and Karen Widdowson.~~

- 3.2 The Monitoring Officer may consult the Independent Person at any stage but ~~T~~the Independent Person must be consulted at various stages in the complaints process:

1. The Independent Person should be consulted on an allegation and should be given the option to review and comment on allegations which the Monitoring Officer is minded to dismiss ~~as being malicious, without merit, vexatious or trivial under Paragraph 5.3 (other than where it does not raise a standards matter) or to Take No Action under Paragraph 5.4.~~
2. As to whether to undertake a formal investigation.
3. Before the Hearing Sub-Committee.

- 3.3 An elected member who is the subject of a Standards Complaint is entitled to process / procedural advice from an Independent Person, and any request shall be made via the Monitoring Officer.

If the elected member requires any other form of support, a request can be made through Democratic Services. Advice on this is available on the Members Sharepoint site.

### 4. Making a Complaint/Withdrawing a Complaint

- 4.1 Complaints alleging a breach of the Councillor Code of Conduct should be made in writing using the complaint form and sent to David Hollis, Monitoring Officer, Sheffield City Council, Town Hall, Sheffield S1 2HH or email [david.hollis@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:david.hollis@sheffield.gov.uk). The complaint form is available from:-



- Website - <http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/council-meetings> <http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/your-city-council/councillors>
- Email - [committee@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:committee@sheffield.gov.uk)
- Phone - Democratic Services on 0114 273 4015

4.2 If you need advice or assistance in submitting a complaint concerning an elected member, please contact Sarah Hyde in Democratic Services (email [sarah.hyde@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.hyde@sheffield.gov.uk) or phone 0114 273 4015).

4.3 Details of the complaint, including the name of the complainant, will be shared with the Member. The complainant can request at section 2 of the complaint form for their identity to be kept confidential. Requests for confidentiality will be considered by the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person, and the complainant will be informed in writing of the outcome. In the interest of fairness and natural justice, we believe Members who are complained about have a right to know who has made the complaint. We are unlikely to withhold your identity unless there are exceptional circumstances; for example, that you can demonstrate that you will suffer significant harm or distress as a result of disclosure. In exceptional circumstances where the matter complained about is very serious, we can proceed with an investigation or other action and disclose your name even if you have expressly asked us not to.

4.4 Anonymous complaints will not be considered.

4.5 The complainant can withdraw their complaint at any time by informing the Monitoring Officer in writing. The Monitoring Officer will confirm this in writing with the complainant within 5 working days and also inform the Member that the complaint has been withdrawn.

4.6 The Monitoring Officer will make a complaint in their own name only if (a) they are the subject of or witness to the behaviour complained of; (b) they are of the view that they are the most appropriate person to make the complaint; or (c) Where a complaint has been withdrawn, In cases (b) and (c) the Monitoring Officer reserves the right to pursue the issues in the complaint will only do so where in their opinion substantial concerns have been raised such that it is in the public interest to continue with the complaint and the Monitoring Officer is satisfied that the Member can properly and fairly present their case.

## 5.0 **Acknowledging the Complaint/Rejecting a Complaint/Informing the Member**

5.1 The Monitoring Officer will acknowledge receipt of the complaint in writing within 5 working days, with details of how the complaint will be

dealt with and providing a copy of this Procedure and the Code of Conduct.

- 5.2 If necessary, the Monitoring Officer will clarify any matters with the complainant as soon as possible before the Member is informed.
- 5.3 The Monitoring Officer also reserves the right to reject a complaint if it is considered to be trivial, vexatious, repetitious, not a standards matter or a general misuse of the opportunity. The complainant will be informed of the reasons why a complaint has been rejected.
- 5.4 The Monitoring Officer may also at this point Take No Action in accordance with the circumstances listed in paragraph 6.6.
- 5.54 The Member will be informed in writing that a complaint has been made about them within 5 working days of receipt of the complaint or clarification under to paragraph 5.2. This will include the name of the complainant (unless the Monitoring Officer has agreed to the complainant's request that their name is kept confidential) and details of the complaint. They will also receive a copy of this Procedure and the Code of Conduct. To assist the Monitoring Officer in assessing the complaint, the Member will be invited to submit within 10 working days a written statement of fact and any other representations in response to the complaint. Members will not be notified of complaints that are rejected under paragraph 5.3.
- 5.65 The Monitoring Officer will also inform the Leader of the relevant political Group, Group Whip and Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee that an accepted complaint has been received and provide a summary of the complaint. If he considers it appropriate the Monitoring Officer may also inform the Chief Executive.
- 5.76 Where a complaint relates to a Parish or Town Councillor, the Monitoring Officer will also inform the Clerk of that Council of the name of the Member and details of the complaint. The Clerk will also be kept informed of the progress and the outcome of the complaint.

## 6. **Assessment by the Monitoring Officer**

- 6.1 Before assessment of the complaint, it may be necessary for the Monitoring Officer to request further information or clarification from the complainant and/or Member and, where necessary, obtain other available information, such as the minutes of a meeting.
- 6.2 The Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person, will consider (a) the complaint, any remedy sought by the complainant, any

written statement of fact and representations submitted by the Member and any other information obtained; (b) whether the member was acting in their official capacity and that the Code of Conduct does apply; (c) if the allegation constitutes a potential breach of the Code of Conduct; and (d) would consideration of the complaint be in the public interest; and then take one of the following courses of action:-

1. Take no action ~~or~~
2. Take other action through informal resolution ~~or~~
3. Refer the matter for investigation
4. Refer the matter to the ~~Consideration~~-Hearing Sub-Committee

6.3 The complainant and the Member will be informed in writing within 10 working days of the outcome and the reasons for the decision.

6.4 The Monitoring Officer will also inform the Leader of the relevant political Group, Group Whip, Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee and, where the Monitoring Officer considers it appropriate, the Chief Executive of the assessment decision. Where a complaint relates to a Parish or Town Councillor, the Monitoring Officer will also inform the Clerk of that Council.

6.5 Where a complaint is not referred for investigation, the Monitoring Officer will seek to deal with the matter within 8 weeks.

#### 6.6 Take No Action

6.6.1 It is likely that no action will be taken where:-

- A significant amount of time has elapsed since the events which are the subject of the complaint.
- The allegation relates to a cultural or recurring issue relating to standards within the Council.
- The matter should be dealt with by some other method.
- Complaints have been made about the Member relating to similar issues that have previously been dealt with through this Procedure.
- The complaint appears to be trivial, vexatious, repetitious or a general misuse of the opportunity.
- The conduct occurred during political debate or could be regarded as a political expression of views or opinion.

6.7 Take Other Action Through Informal Resolution

6.7.1 Informal resolution may be the simplest and most cost effective way of resolving the complaint and without determining if an actual breach of the Code has taken place. It may be appropriate where:

- The Monitoring Officer considers that this is the most effective way of resolving the matter to the complainant's satisfaction;
- The Member appears to have a poor understanding of the Code of Conduct and/or related Council procedures;
- The conduct complained of appears to be a symptom of wider underlying conflicts which, if unresolved, are likely to lead to further misconduct or allegations of misconduct;
- The conduct complained of appears to the Monitoring Officer not to require a formal sanction;
- The complaint appears to reveal a lack of guidance, protocols and procedures within the District or Parish/Town Council;
- The complaint consists of allegations and retaliatory allegations between councillors;
- The complaint consists of allegations about how formal meetings are conducted; and
- The conduct complained of may be due to misleading, unclear or misunderstood advice from officers.

6.7.2 The Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person, may take any of the following actions:-

- Take such steps as they think appropriate to prevent a future breach of the Code including training, guidance and introducing or amending policies/protocols.
- Ask the Whips to address the issue raised within their political parties or with an individual Member.
- Mediate between the parties involved to resolve the issues.
- Seek an apology from the Member.
- Any other action capable of resolving the complaint.

- 6.7.3 If a member of the public making a complaint is not satisfied with the action to be taken through informal resolution they can make a request in writing to the Monitoring Officer for reconsideration. If appropriate, the Monitoring Officer may then recommend additional mediation, reconsider the original action proposed, or refer the complaint to [Consideration-Hearing](#) Sub-Committee.
- 6.8 Refer the Matter for Investigation
- 6.8.1 It is expected that the Monitoring Officer will refer only the most serious breaches for investigation or where the Member fundamentally disputes or does not accept the allegations in the complaint.
- 6.8.2 If a complaint has been referred for investigation, the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person, will appoint a person to undertake the investigation and this may be either a Council Officer or an outside agent, depending on the complexity and subject of the complaint.
- 6.8.3 The Investigating Officer will inform the complainant and Member of the process and proposed timescale of the investigation. The investigation may involve interviewing both parties and possibly other witnesses, together with reviewing any relevant documentation or paperwork.
- 6.8.4 The Investigating Officer will prepare a draft report on the outcome of the investigation and provide the complainant and Member with a copy for review and comment.
- 6.8.5 The Investigating Officer will submit a final version of the report to the Monitoring Officer that will make a finding that either (a) there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct or (b) there has not been a breach of the Code of Conduct. The final report will also be sent to the complainant and Member.
- 6.8.6 The Monitoring Officer will submit the Investigating Officer's report to the [Consideration-Hearing](#) Sub-Committee.
- 6.8.7 An investigation will be completed within 12 weeks of a referral by the Monitoring Officer. The [Consideration-Hearing](#) Sub-Committee will meet within two months of the final report being submitted to the Monitoring Officer.
- 6.9 Refer the matter to the [Consideration-Hearing](#) Sub-Committee
- 6.9.1 The Monitoring Officer can refer a complaint direct to the Sub-Committee if it is considered that there is [evidence to support](#) a breach
-

of the Code but there is no dispute over the events in relation to the complaint and an investigation is not considered necessary.

- 6.9.2 If a member of the public making a complaint is not satisfied with the action to be taken through informal resolution they can make a request in writing to the Monitoring Officer for reconsideration. If appropriate, the Monitoring Officer may then recommend additional mediation, reconsider the original action proposed, or refer the complaint to ~~Consideration~~ Hearing Sub-Committee.

## ~~7~~ **Consideration Sub-Committee**

~~7.1 The Consideration Sub-Committee comprises 3 Councillors and 1 non-voting co-opted Independent Member.~~

~~7.2 The complainant and Member are not required to attend the meeting of the Sub-Committee.~~

~~7.3 The Monitoring Officer will submit a report on the outcome of an investigation or a matter referred to the Sub-Committee. The Investigating Officer will attend the meeting.~~

~~7.4 The Sub-Committee will consider the Monitoring Officer's report and, after taking the views of the Independent Person into account, can:-~~

~~(a) take no action; or~~

~~(b) take other action including any of the following actions:-~~

- ~~• Take such steps as the Sub-Committee considers appropriate to prevent a future breach of the Code including training, guidance and introducing or amending policies/protocols.~~
- ~~• Ask the Whips to address the issue raised within their political parties or with an individual Member.~~
- ~~• Request the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person, to mediate between the parties involved to resolve the issues.~~
- ~~• Seek an apology from the Member.~~
- ~~• Any other action capable of resolving the complaint.~~

~~(c) refer the matter to a Hearing Sub-Committee.~~

~~7.5 Where the Consideration Sub-Committee is considering a report on the referral of a complaint where a member of the public is not satisfied with the action to be taken through informal resolution, the only option available to the Sub-Committee is to ratify the original informal resolution, or to take other action including any of the following actions:-~~

- ~~• Take such steps as the Consideration Sub-Committee considers appropriate to prevent a future breach of the Code including training, guidance and introducing or amending policies/protocols.~~
- ~~• Ask the Whips to address the issue raised within their political parties or with an individual Member.~~
- ~~• Request the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Independent Person, to mediate between the parties involved to resolve the issues.~~
- ~~• Seek an apology from the Member.~~
- ~~• Any other action capable of resolving the complaint.~~

~~7.6 The Monitoring Officer will inform the complainant and Member in writing within 10 working days of the outcome and the reasons for the Sub-Committee's decision.~~

## **87. Hearing Sub-Committee**

~~87.1 The Hearing Sub-Committee comprises 3 Councillors and 1 non-voting co-opted Independent Member.~~

~~87.2 The Sub-Committee will meet within two months of completion of an Investigation Report or of a referral by the ~~Consideration Sub-Committee Monitoring Officer~~ to consider the allegation.~~

~~87.3 The Sub-Committee will meet in public unless it decides that all or part of the meeting should be held in private in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution.~~

~~87.4 In advance of the Hearing, there will may be a pre-hearing process to allow matters at the Hearing to be dealt with more fairly and economically.~~

~~87.5 The complainant and member will be given the opportunity to attend the Hearing and present witnesses. The Monitoring Officer, any Investigating Officer and Independent Person will also attend. The procedure at the Hearing will include:-~~



- The complainant and the member having the opportunity to ask questions of the Investigating Officer
- Making findings of fact
- Deciding if there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct
- Considering the remedies/sanctions available if there is a finding that the Member has breached of the Code of Conduct

§7.6 Full details of the pre-hearing and hearing process are set out in the Procedure at Hearings. The Member and complainant will be provided with a copy of the Procedure.

#### §7.7 A Finding of No Breach of the Code of Conduct

§7.7.1 If the Sub-Committee finds that the Member did not breach the Code of Conduct no further action will be taken in respect of the complaint. However, the Sub-Committee can make a recommendation to the authority with a view to promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct in general (e.g. proposed changes to internal procedures or training for Members).

#### §7.8 A Finding of a Breach of the Code of Conduct

§7.8.1 If the Sub-Committee, having heard any further representations from the Member, finds that a breach of the Code of Conduct has occurred they may make any of the following recommendations and may specify to whom they wish them to be directed:-

- ~~Recommending to the Member's Group Leader and/or Group Whip (or in the case of un-grouped members, recommend to Council or to Committees) that he/she be removed from any or all Committees or Sub-Committees of the Council~~ and from any external appointments made by the Council.
- Instructing the Monitoring Officer to arrange training for the member.
- In a case where the breach relates to use of the Council's IT systems, that the Member's access to those systems is withdrawn.
- That policies/procedures are amended.
- That a briefing/information note be issued.
- That an apology be given.
- That the Member is censured in writing and a copy of the letter is published on the Council's website.



- Take no action where it is not considered appropriate in the circumstances to impose a sanction.

87.8.2 The Monitoring Officer will inform the complainant and the Member of the outcome from the Sub-Committee hearing in writing within 10 working days.

87.8.3 The findings and decision of the Sub-Committee will be also be available on the Council's website and copies will be supplied to the Chief Executive, Leaders of all the political Groups and the Group Whips.

87.8.4 Where the matter relates to a Parish or Town Councillor, the Clerk of that Council will be informed of the outcome of a Hearing.

## 98. Appeals

98.1 There is no right of appeal for the complainant or Member against a decision of the Monitoring Officer, ~~Consideration Sub-Committee~~ or Hearing Sub-Committee.

98.2 If the complainant feels that the Council has failed to ~~deal with their complaint properly~~ follow the Complaints Procedure (as set out within this Procedure document,) or has taken too long to look into the matter or has acted in a way that is maladministration, then they ~~can~~ may make a complaint to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (<http://www.lgo.org.uk/make-a-complaint/how-to-complain> or phone 0300 061 0614).

## 109. Reports

109.1 An annual report and half yearly interim report will be submitted to the Audit and Standards Committee with a summary of all Standards Complaints received and their outcome.

## 104. Data Protection

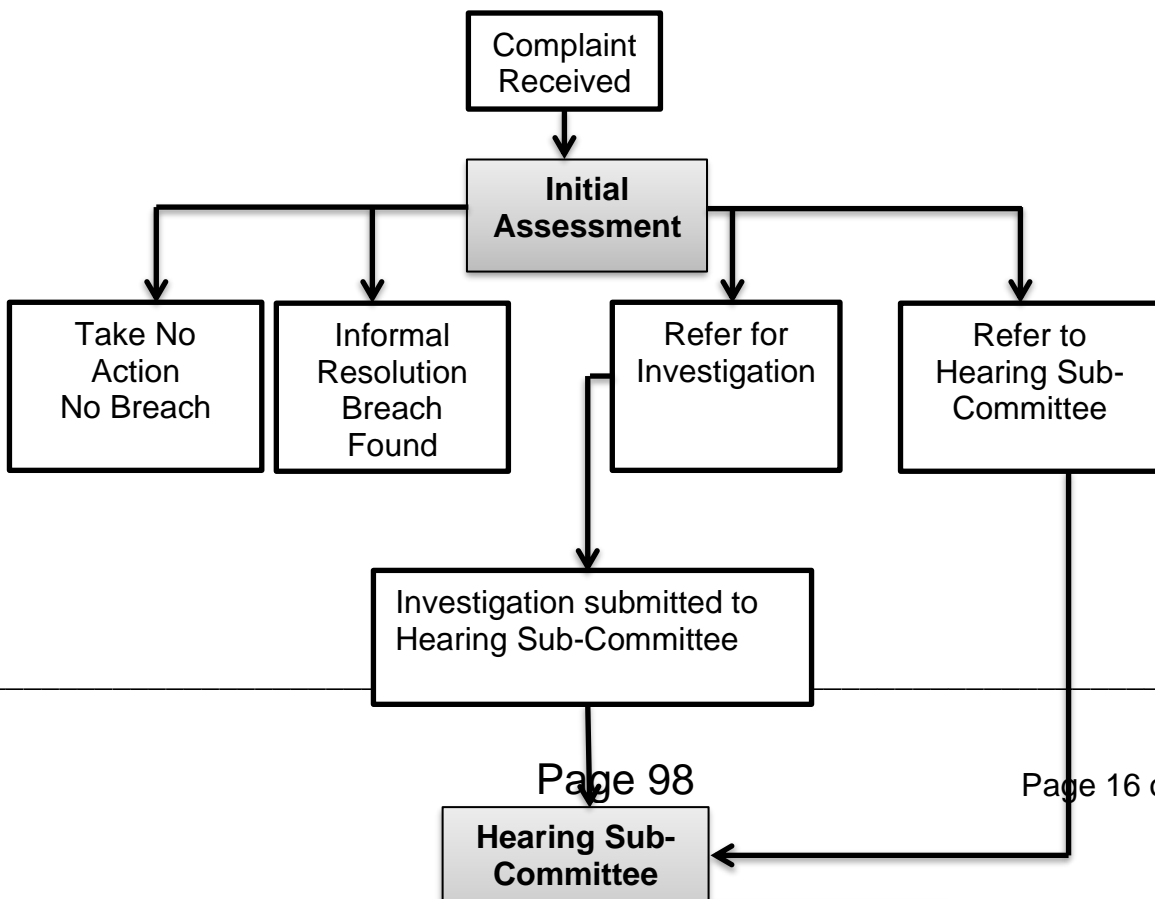
104.1 Complaints will be handled in the strictest confidence at all times. We will ensure that any information received as part of the handling of the complaint is disclosed only to those who can demonstrate a valid need to know it. However, when a complaint is considered at a ~~Standards Committee~~ Hearing Sub-Committee then any information will be dealt with in accordance with the Access to Information Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution.

104.2 Complaints records will be stored safely and securely. Records of the number of complaints received, the outcomes and the subject

Members, will be kept for so long afterwards as we consider it may be required to deal with any questions or complaints about the service which we provide. Personal information about the complainant and details of the complaint itself will be deleted after 7 years unless we elect to retain it for a longer period in order to comply with our legal and regulatory obligations.

**112. Review and Changes to the Procedure**

**112.1** The Monitoring Officer will review the Procedure annually, in consultation with the Independent Persons, and submit a report on any proposed changes to the Audit and Standards Committee for consideration. In accordance with the Constitution, any changes will require final approval at Full Council.



## APPENDIX B

### Sheffield City Council

### COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

#### Joint statement of Councillors

The role of councillor across all tiers of local government is a vital part of our country's system of democracy. It is important that as councillors we can be held accountable and all adopt the behaviours and responsibilities associated with the role. Our conduct as an individual councillor affects the reputation of all councillors. We want the role of councillor to be one that people aspire to.

We also want individuals from a range of backgrounds and circumstances to be putting themselves forward to become councillors. As councillors, we represent residents, work to develop better services and deliver local change. The public have high expectations of us and entrust us to represent our local area, taking decisions fairly, openly, and transparently.

We have both an individual and collective responsibility to meet these expectations by maintaining high standards and demonstrating good conduct, and by challenging behaviour which falls below expectations. Importantly, we should be able to undertake our role as a councillor without being intimidated, abused, bullied, or threatened by anyone, including the general public.

This Code has been designed to protect our democratic role, encourage good conduct, and safeguard the public's trust in local government.

#### Definitions

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, a "councillor" means a member or co-opted member of a local authority or a directly elected mayor. A "co-opted member" is defined in the Localism Act 2011 Section 27(4) as "a person who is not a member of the authority but who

- a) is a member of any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or;
- b) is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee or joint subcommittee of the authority.

and who is entitled to vote on any question that falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or sub-committee". For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, "local authority" includes county councils, district councils, London borough councils, parish councils, town councils, fire and rescue authorities, police authorities, joint authorities, economic prosperity boards, combined authorities and National Park authorities.

## **Purpose of the Code of Conduct**

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to assist you, as a councillor or co-opted member, in modelling the behaviour that is expected of you, to provide a personal check and balance, and to set out the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against you. It is also to protect you, the public, fellow councillors or co-opted members, local authority officers and the reputation of local government. It sets out general principles of conduct expected of all councillors and co-opted members and your specific obligations in relation to standards of conduct. The LGA encourages the use of support, training and mediation prior to action being taken using the Code. The fundamental aim of the Code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of councillor and local government.

## **General principles of councillor conduct**

Everyone in public office at all levels; all who serve the public or deliver public services, including ministers, civil servants, councillors, co-opted members and local authority officers; should uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life, also known as the Nolan Principles. Building on these principles, the following general principles have been developed specifically for the role of councillor and co-opted member. In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions:

- I act with integrity and honesty
- I act lawfully
- I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and
- I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor.

In undertaking my role:

- I impartially exercise my responsibilities in the interests of the local community
- I do not improperly seek to confer an advantage, or disadvantage, on any person
- I avoid conflicts of interest
- I exercise reasonable care and diligence; and
- I ensure that public resources are used prudently in accordance with my local authority's requirements and in the public interest.

## **Application of the Code of Conduct**

This Code of Conduct applies to you as soon as you sign your declaration of acceptance of the office of councillor or attend your first meeting as a co-opted member and continues to apply to you until you cease to be a councillor or co-opted member.

member. This Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a councillor or co-opted member which may include when:

- you misuse your position as a councillor or co-opted member
- Your actions would give the impression to a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of all the facts that you are acting as a councillor or co-opted member;

The Code applies to all forms of communication and interaction, including:

- at face-to-face meetings
- at online or telephone meetings
- in written communication
- in verbal communication
- in non-verbal communication
- in electronic and social media communication, posts, statements and comments.

You are also expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times when acting as a councillor or co-opted member.

Your Monitoring Officer has statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and you are encouraged to seek advice from your Monitoring Officer on any matters that may relate to the Code of Conduct. Town and parish councillors are encouraged to seek advice from their Clerk, who may refer matters to the Monitoring Officer.

### **Standards of councillor conduct**

This section sets out your obligations, which are the minimum standards of conduct required of you as a councillor or co-opted member. Should your conduct fall short of these standards, a complaint may be made against you, which may result in action being taken. Guidance is included to help explain the reasons for the obligations and how they should be followed.

### **General Conduct**

#### **1. Respect As a councillor or co-opted member:**

**1.1 I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.**

**1.2 I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.**

Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As a councillor

or co-opted member, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions and policies in a robust but civil manner. You should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack.

In your contact with the public, you should treat them politely and courteously. Rude and offensive behaviour lowers the public's expectations and confidence in councillors. In return, you have a right to expect respectful behaviour from the public. If members of the public are being abusive, intimidatory or threatening you are entitled to stop any conversation or interaction in person or online and report them to the local authority, the relevant social media provider or the police. This also applies to fellow councillors, where action could then be taken under the Councillor Code of Conduct, and local authority employees, where concerns should be raised in line with the local authority's councillor officer protocol.

## **2. Bullying, harassment and discrimination**

### **As a councillor or co-opted member:**

**2.1 I do not bully any person.**

**2.2 I do not harass any person.**

**2.3 I promote equalities and do not discriminate unlawfully against any person.**

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) characterises bullying as offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, an abuse or misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate or injure the recipient. Bullying might be a regular pattern of behaviour or a one-off incident, happen face-to-face, on social media, in emails or phone calls, happen in the workplace or at work social events and may not always be obvious or noticed by others.

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 defines harassment as conduct that causes alarm or distress or puts people in fear of violence and must involve such conduct on at least two occasions. It can include repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and contact upon a person in a manner that could be expected to cause distress or fear in any reasonable person.

Unlawful discrimination is where someone is treated unfairly because of a protected characteristic. Protected characteristics are specific aspects of a person's identity defined by the Equality Act 2010. They are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Members must promote equality and inclusion by providing an environment free from harassment, discrimination, and victimisation and bullying and by treating people with

respect, regardless of their age, disability, gender, race, religion/ belief, sexual orientation or marriage/ civil partnership status.

The Equality Act 2010 places specific duties on local authorities. Councillors and co-opted members have a central role to play in ensuring that equality issues are integral to the local authority's performance and strategic aims, and that there is a strong vision and public commitment to equality across public services.

Members should ~~be aware of~~ have regard to the Council's Equality Objectives 2019-22 and act in accordance with the Council's policies on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Policy and Dignity and Respect at Work Policy.

### **3. Impartiality of officers of the council**

**As a councillor or co-opted member:**

**3.1 I do not compromise, or attempt to compromise, the impartiality of anyone who works for, or on behalf of, the local authority.**

Officers work for the local authority as a whole and must be politically neutral (unless they are political assistants). They should not be coerced or persuaded to act in a way that would undermine their neutrality. You can question officers in order to understand, for example, their reasons for proposing to act in a particular way, or the content of a report that they have written. However, you must not try and force them to act differently, change their advice, or alter the content of that report, if doing so would prejudice their professional integrity.

### **4. Confidentiality and access to information**

**As a councillor or co-opted member:**

**4.1 I do not disclose information:**

- a. given to me in confidence**
- b. by anyone acquired by me which I believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, unless**
  - i. I have received the consent of a person authorised to give it;**
  - ii. I am required by law to do so;**
  - iii. the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional legal advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or**
  - iv. the disclosure is:**
    - 1. reasonable and in the public interest; and**
    - 2. made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the local authority; and**

**3. I have consulted the Monitoring Officer prior to its release.**

**4.2 I do not improperly use knowledge gained solely as a result of my role as a councillor for the advancement of myself, my friends, my family members, my employer or my business interests.**

**4.3 I do not prevent anyone from getting information that they are entitled to by law.**

Local authorities must work openly and transparently, and their proceedings and printed materials are open to the public, except in certain legally defined circumstances. You should work on this basis, but there will be times when it is required by law that discussions, documents and other information relating to or held by the local authority must be treated in a confidential manner. Examples include personal data relating to individuals or information relating to ongoing negotiations.

**5. Disrepute**

**As a councillor or co-opted member:**

**5.1 I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.**

As a councillor or co-opted member, you are trusted to make decisions on behalf of your community and your actions and behaviour are subject to greater scrutiny than that of ordinary members of the public. You should be aware that your actions might have an adverse impact on you, other councillors and/or your local authority and may lower the public's confidence in your or your local authority's ability to discharge your/it's functions. For example, behaviour that is considered dishonest and/or deceitful can bring your local authority into disrepute. You are able to hold the local authority and fellow councillors to account and are able to constructively challenge and express concern about decisions and processes undertaken by the council whilst continuing to adhere to other aspects of this Code of Conduct.

**6. Use of position**

**As a councillor or co-opted member:**

**6.1 I do not use, or attempt to use, my position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of myself or anyone else.**

Your position as a member of the local authority provides you with certain opportunities, responsibilities, and privileges, and you make choices all the time that will impact others. However, you should not take advantage of these opportunities to further your own or others' private interests or to disadvantage anyone unfairly.



## **7. Use of local authority resources and facilities**

**As a councillor or co-opted member:**

**7.1 I do not misuse council resources.**

**7.2 I will, when using the resources of the local or authorising their use by others:**

- a. act in accordance with the local authority's requirements; and**
- b. ensure that such resources are not used for political purposes unless that use could reasonably be regarded as likely to facilitate, or be conducive to, the discharge of the functions of the local authority or of the office to which I have been elected or appointed.**

You may be provided with resources and facilities by the local authority to assist you in carrying out your duties as a councillor.

Examples include:

- office support
- stationery
- equipment such as phones, and computers
- transport
- access and use of local authority buildings and rooms.

These are given to you to help you carry out your role as a councillor more effectively and are not to be used for business or personal gain. They should be used in accordance with the purpose for which they have been provided and ~~the local authority's own~~ you should have regard to the Council's policies regarding their use.

## **8. Complying with the Code of Conduct**

**As a Councillor or co-opted member:**

**8.1 I undertake Code of Conduct training provided by my local authority.**

**8.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination.**

**8.3 I do not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is likely to be involved with the administration of any investigation or proceedings.**

**8.4 I comply with any standards investigation or sanction imposed on me following a finding that I have breached the Code of Conduct, or with any informal resolution by the Monitoring Officer.**

It is extremely important for you as a councillor to demonstrate high standards, for you to have your actions open to scrutiny and for you not to undermine public trust in the local authority or its governance. If you do not understand or are concerned about the local authority's processes in handling a complaint you should raise this with your Monitoring Officer.

You must not make trivial, malicious or vexatious allegations against other Councillors/Officers.

## **9. Interests**

**As a councillor or co-opted member:**

### **9.1 I register and disclose my interests.**

Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of members of the authority. You need to register your interests so that the public, local authority employees and fellow councillors know which of your interests might give rise to a conflict of interest. The register is a public document that can be consulted when (or before) an issue arises. The register also protects you by allowing you to demonstrate openness and a willingness to be held accountable.

You are personally responsible for deciding whether or not you should disclose an interest in a meeting, but it can be helpful for you to know early on if others think that a potential conflict might arise. It is also important that the public know about any interest that might have to be disclosed by you or other councillors when making or taking part in decisions, so that decision making is seen by the public as open and honest. This helps to ensure that public confidence in the integrity of local governance is maintained.

You should note that failure to register or disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest as set out in **Table 1**, is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011.

**Appendix B** sets out the detailed provisions on registering and disclosing interests. If in doubt, you should always seek advice from your Monitoring Officer.

## **10. Gifts and hospitality**

**As a councillor or co-opted member:**

**10.1 I do not accept gifts or hospitality, irrespective of estimated value, which could give rise to real or substantive personal gain or a reasonable suspicion of influence on my part to show favour from persons seeking to acquire, develop or do business with the local authority or from persons who may apply to the local authority for any permission, licence or other significant advantage.**

**10.2 I notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any gift, benefit or hospitality with a value in excess of £10, or accumulatively in excess of £10 from the same source over the four-year term of office which you-I have been offered as a Member from any person or body other than the Authority within 28 days of receipt.**

**10.3 I register with the Monitoring Officer any significant gift or hospitality that I have been offered but have refused to accept.**

In order to protect your position and the reputation of the local authority, you should exercise caution in accepting any gifts or hospitality which are (or which you reasonably believe to be) offered to you because you are a councillor. The presumption should always be not to accept significant gifts or hospitality. However, there may be times when such a refusal may be difficult if it is seen as rudeness or may cause personal or cultural offence to the donor in which case you could accept it but must ensure it is publicly registered. However, you do not need to register gifts and hospitality which are not related to your role as a councillor, such as Christmas gifts from your friends and family.

It is also important to note that it is appropriate to accept normal expenses and hospitality associated with your duties as a councillor. This may include refreshments at public or community events you are asked to attend in your role as councillor. You should always decline any hospitality that could be seen as seeking to influence you in your role as councillor, even if it is offered in a personal capacity. If you are unsure, do contact your Monitoring Officer for guidance.

This duty to notify the Monitoring Officer does not apply where the gift is accepted on behalf of the Council and does not apply to the role of Lord Mayor.

## **11. Bias**

**11.1 I must not place myself under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence me in the performance of my official duties.**

**11.2 When making a decision, I consider the matter with an open mind and on the facts before the meeting at which the decision is to be taken.**

Where you have been involved in campaigning in your political role on an issue which does not impact on your personal and/or professional life you are not prohibited from participating in a decision in your political role as member.

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix A – The Seven Principles of Public Life**

The principles are:

#### **Selflessness**

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

#### **Integrity**

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must disclose and resolve any interests and relationships.

#### **Objectivity**

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

#### **Accountability**

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

#### **Openness**

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

#### **Honesty**

Holders of public office should be truthful.

#### **Leadership**

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

## Appendix B - Registering interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)** which are as described in “The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012”. You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2 (Other Registerable Interests)**.

“**Disclosable Pecuniary Interest**” means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

“**Partner**” means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

1. You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
2. A ‘sensitive interest’ is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.
3. Where you have a ‘sensitive interest’ you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

### Non participation in matters directly relating to case of a disclosable pecuniary interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a ‘sensitive interest’, you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

~~5. Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or being considered by you as a Committee member, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.~~

### Non participation in matters directly relating to case Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests or of Non-Registerable Interests

~~65.~~ Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates to**

- ~~a. one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in **Table 2**);~~  
~~or~~
- ~~b. your financial interest or well-being or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate (but is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in Table 1)~~

you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting on that matter but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

### Disclosure of Non-Registerable Interests

~~7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in Table 1) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.~~

### Non Participation in matters affecting financial interest or well-being

~~86.~~ Where a matter arises at a meeting which does not have a direct effect but which affects –

- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
  - b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative, close associate;
- or

- c. a body included in those you need to disclose under Other Registrable Interests as set out in **Table 2**.

you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied:

~~97.~~ Where a matter **affects** your financial interest or well-being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision; and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting on that matter. Otherwise, you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

~~10. Where you have a personal interest in any business of your authority and you have made an executive decision in relation to that business, you must make sure that any written statement of that decision records the existence and nature of your interest.~~

### Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

In this table:

“relevant person” means the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners;

“land” excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the relevant person (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.

“director” includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society, co-operative society or community benefit society;

“securities” means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation</b>	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. <del>[Any unpaid directorship.]</del>
<b>Sponsorship</b>	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses



	<p>incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
<b>Contracts</b>	<p>Any contract made between the <del>councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners</del> <u>relevant person</u> (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
<b>Land and Property</b>	<p>Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. <del>‘Land’ excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.</del></p>
<b>Licences</b>	<p>Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer. <del>Corporate tenancies Any tenancy where (to the councillor’s knowledge) — (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.</del></p>

<p><b><u>Corporate tenancies</u></b></p>	<p><u>Any tenancy where (to the councillor’s knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the relevant person is a partner of or a director of or has a beneficial interest in.</u></p>
<p><b>Securities</b></p>	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor’s knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) ) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the <del>councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners</del> <u>relevant person</u> has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

~~\* ‘director’ includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.~~

~~\* ‘securities’ means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.~~

**Table 2: Other Registrable Interests**

~~You have a personal interest in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:~~

a) any unpaid directorships

ab) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority

bc) any body

- i. exercising functions of a public nature
- ii. any body directed to charitable purposes or
- iii. one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

The LGA has undertaken this review whilst the Government continues to consider the recommendations made by the Committee on Standards in Public Life in their report on Local Government Ethical Standards. If the Government chooses to implement any of the recommendations, this could require a change to this Code.

The recommendations cover:

- Recommendations for changes to the Localism Act 2011 to clarify in law when the Code of Conduct applies
- The introduction of sanctions
- An appeals process through the Local Government Ombudsman
- Changes to the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012
- Updates to the Local Government Transparency Code
- Changes to the role and responsibilities of the Independent Person
- That the criminal offences in the Localism Act 2011 relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests should be abolished

The Local Government Ethical Standards report also includes Best Practice recommendations. These are:

**Best practice 1:** Local authorities should include prohibitions on bullying and harassment in codes of conduct. These should include a definition of bullying and harassment, supplemented with a list of examples of the sort of behaviour covered by such a definition.

**Best practice 2:** Councils should include provisions in their code of conduct requiring councillors to comply with any formal standards investigation and prohibiting trivial or malicious allegations by councillors.

**Best practice 3:** Principal authorities should review their code of conduct each year and regularly seek, where possible, the views of the public, community organisations and neighbouring authorities.

**Best practice 4:** An authority's code should be readily accessible to both councillors and the public, in a prominent position on a council's website and available in council premises.

**Best practice 5:** Local authorities should update their gifts and hospitality register at least once per quarter, and publish it in an accessible format, such as CSV.

**Best practice 6:** Councils should publish a clear and straightforward public interest test against which allegations are filtered.

**Best practice 7:** Local authorities should have access to at least two Independent Persons.

**Best practice 8:** An Independent Person should be consulted as to whether to undertake a formal investigation on an allegation and should be given the option to review and comment on allegations which the responsible officer is minded to dismiss as being without merit, vexatious, or trivial.

**Best practice 9:** Where a local authority makes a decision on an allegation of misconduct following a formal investigation, a decision notice should be published as soon as possible on its website, including a brief statement of facts, the provisions of the code engaged by the allegations, the view of the Independent Person, the reasoning of the decision-maker, and any sanction applied.

**Best practice 10:** A local authority should have straightforward and accessible guidance on its website on how to make a complaint under the code of conduct, the process for handling complaints, and estimated timescales for investigations and outcomes.

**Best practice 11:** Formal standards complaints about the conduct of a parish councillor towards a clerk should be made by the chair or by the parish council, rather than the clerk in all but exceptional circumstances.

**Best practice 12:** Monitoring Officers' roles should include providing advice, support and management of investigations and adjudications on alleged breaches to parish councils within the remit of the principal authority. They should be provided with adequate training, corporate support and resources to undertake this work.

**Best practice 13:** A local authority should have procedures in place to address any conflicts of interest when undertaking a standards investigation. Possible steps should include asking the Monitoring Officer from a different authority to undertake the investigation.

**Best practice 14:** Councils should report on separate bodies they have set up or which they own as part of their annual governance statement and give a full picture of their relationship with those bodies. Separate bodies created by local authorities should abide by the Nolan principle of openness and publish their board agendas and minutes and annual reports in an accessible place.

**Best practice 15:** Senior officers should meet regularly with political group leaders or group whips to discuss standards issues.

- ~~Sheffield City Council Electronic Communications Policy~~
- ~~Members' ICT Usage Policy~~
- ~~Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy~~
- ~~Sheffield City Council Equality Objectives 2019-22~~



## Report to Council

---

**Report of:** David Hollis - General Counsel and Monitoring Officer

---

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024

---

**Subject:** Appointment of the Independent Persons and Co-Opted Members of Audit and Standards Committee

---

**Author of Report:** Sarah Hyde – Democratic Services Team Manager,  
Democratic Services

0114 273 4015

---

### Summary:

The report advises Council:-

-of the recommended appointment of two Independent Persons that assist the Monitoring Officer in dealing with Standards complaints following the recent recruitment process; and

-of the recommended appointment of one non-voting Co-opted Member to join the Audit and Standards Committee to oversee and assess the Council's risk management, control, and corporate governance arrangements.

---

### Recommendations:

That Council:-

- approves the appointment of the two Independent Persons (David Irvine and Martyn Thorpe) for a term of four years;
- approves the appointment of one non-voting Co-Opted Member of the Audit and Standards Committee (James Brackley) for a four-year term; and
- extends the term of the current non-voting Co-Opted Member of the Audit and Standards Committee (Alison Howard) for a further 4 years from May 2024.

**Background Papers:**

None

---

**Category of Report:** OPEN



## Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

<b>Financial &amp; Commercial Implications</b>
YES
<b>Legal Implications</b>
YES – Cleared by Andrea Simpson
<b>Equality of Opportunity Implications</b>
YES
<b>Climate impact</b>
NO
<b>Tackling Health Inequalities implications</b>
NO
<b>Human Rights implications</b>
NO
<b>Economic impact</b>
NO
<b>Community Safety implications</b>
NO
<b>Human Resources implications</b>
NO
<b>Property implications</b>
NO
<b>Area(s) affected</b>
NONE
<b>Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?</b>
YES
<b>Press release</b>
NO

**1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**

1.1 The report advises Council of the recommended appointment of two Independent Persons that assist the Monitoring Officer in dealing with Standards complaints, and the recommended appointment of one non-voting Co-Opted Member of the Audit and Standards Committee to oversee and assess the Council's risk management, control, and corporate governance arrangements, following recent recruitment processes. The report also recommends extending the term of the current non-voting Co-Opted Member of Audit and Standards for a further four years.

**2. PROPOSALS**

**2.1 Independent Persons**

2.1.1 The Localism Act 2011 introduced a new statutory framework for dealing with Standards Issues. In July 2012, the Council adopted a new Code of Conduct, created a Standards Committee and adopted a procedure for investigating Standards Complaints. The Act also created the new role of Independent Person which must be appointed by a Council.

2.1.2 This role is reflected in the procedures adopted by the Council. In addition, the role may also involve serving on a panel that would advise the Council on matters relating to the dismissal of any of the three Statutory Officers (Head of Paid Services, Monitoring Officer and the Chief Finance Officer).

2.1.3 The Independent Persons must be consulted at various stages of the complaints' process and assist the Monitoring Officer in considering complaints that a Member may have breached the Code of Conduct.

2.1.4 It has often been challenging to recruit suitable volunteers to serve as Independent Persons. Due to the nature of the role, there are parameters set out in legislation regarding who and who may not be appointed. Consequently, the Council has adopted a pragmatic approach to recruitment of Independent Persons by entering into joint arrangements with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

2.1.5 The Council Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022 appointed two Independent Persons for a term of four years. This was undertaken jointly with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, with the remuneration of the posts shared between the three authorities.

## 2.2 **Co-Opted Members**

- 2.2.1 Although not a legal requirement, CIPFA good practice suggests that local authority Audit Committees should include at least two co-opted committee members to supplement the expertise of existing membership. Article 9 of the Council's Constitution allows up to 3 non-voting Co-Opted Members to sit on the Audit and Standards Committee. The role plays a crucial part of the Council's corporate governance structure and is responsible for overseeing and assessing the Council's risk management, control and corporate governance arrangements.
- 2.2.2 As a member of the Committee the Co-Opted Member will advise the Council on the adequacy and effectiveness of its arrangements, ensuring that they are in line with industry standards. In addition to these responsibilities, as a member of the Committee or its Hearing Sub-Committee, the Co-Opted Member will also be responsible for promoting high standards of conduct by Councillors and Co-Opted Members, overseeing the Councillor Code of Conduct and considering complaints alleging that a Member may have breached the Code.
- 2.2.3 The Council currently has one Co-Opted Member (Alison Howard) who was appointed to the role at Full Council in May 2020, following a recruitment process in November 2019. Similar to the Independent Person these roles can also be challenging to recruit to due to the specialist nature of the role and parameters set to who can be considered for the roles.

## 3. **RECRUITMENT PROCESSES**

### 3.1 **Independent Persons**

- 3.1.1 It was felt that having a larger pool of Independent Persons would be beneficial to SCC and BMBC, which would enable more independence and resilience in dealing with Standards matters. A recruitment process began in September 2023 to appoint an extra two Independent Persons to the new posts. The posts were advertised for a four-week period on the Council's website and we sought to contact a wide range of local organisations in the public, private and voluntary sector to raise awareness of the vacancies.
- 3.1.2 The shortlisted candidates were interviewed on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and the new appointments would be made jointly with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC).
- 3.1.3 The interview panel comprised of Robert Parkin, Assistant Director, Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer (Interim) (SCC), Sarah Hyde, Democratic Services Team Manager (SCC), and Sukdave Ghuman, Service Director and Monitoring Officer (BMBC). Two candidates were interviewed by the panel.

- 3.1.4 Both applicants were considered by the panel to be of a satisfactory standard and had relevant related experience in dealing with standards complaints. The panel considered that the following two applicants should be appointed to the position of Independent Person for a four-year term:

Mr. David Irvine  
Mr. Martyn Thorpe

- 3.1.5 Following on from this recruitment one of the Council's longer serving Independent Persons, David Waxman, has decided to step down from his role and this will be effective from the end of this municipal year.

## 3.2 **Co-Opted Members**

- 3.2.1 The recruitment process for the Co-Opted Members ran in tandem with the Independent Member recruitment process and began in September 2023 to appoint an extra two Co-Opted Members to the new posts. The posts were advertised for a four-week period on the Council's website, and we sought to contact a wide range of local organisations in the public, private and voluntary sector to raise awareness of the vacancies.

- 3.2.2 The shortlisted candidates were interviewed on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The interview panel comprised of Councillor Mohammed Mahroof, Chair of Audit and Standards Committee, Phillip Gregory, Director of Finance and Commercial Services (S151 Officer) and David Hollis, General Counsel and Monitoring Officer. Two candidates were interviewed by the panel.

- 3.2.3 One candidate was considered to be of a satisfactory standard and had the relevant experience and skills to carry out the role of Co-Opted Member of Audit and Standards Committee. The panel considered that the following candidate should be appointed to the position of Co-Opted Member for a four-year term:

Dr James Brackley

- 3.2.4 The existing Co-opted Member of Audit and Standards Committee, Alison Howard's term comes to an end in May 2024 and after a discussion between her and the Monitoring Officer, David Hollis, it was agreed that her term would be recommended for renewal for a further four years. This would ensure the Committee has two serving Co-Opted Members and continuity of having an experienced Co-Optee on the Committee.

- 3.2.5 The third vacancy would go back out to advert at a later date.

## 4. **RISK ANALYSIS & IMPLICATIONS**

### 4.1 **Legal Implications**

4.1.1 Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011 prescribes the need for a council to appoint at least one Independent Person, although no term of office is specified; the role that the Independent Person plays in the arrangements for dealing with allegations of misconduct by councillors; and the various requirements for independence that those applying for appointment must satisfy. In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the authority appoints the Independent Person and so appointment has to be approved by a majority of the Members of the Full Council.

4.1.2 Committees are appointed by the Council in accordance with section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and may include members who are not elected members of the local authority. The appointment of the Co-Opted Member for Audit and Standards Committee has to be approved by a majority of the Members of the Full Council.

#### 4.2 **Financial and Commercial Implications**

4.2.1 The Independent Persons receive their annual allowance of £787.00, split over a monthly basis. The allowances are split between Sheffield City Council and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. The allowance rate is set by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

4.2.2 The Co-Opted Members receive an annual allowance of £809.21 and this is split over a monthly basis. These roles are not shared with any other authority and the allowance rate is set by Sheffield City Council.

#### 4.3 **Equality of Opportunity Implications**

4.3.1 We sought to attract a diverse range of candidates through the recruitment processes. The adverts for each role were shared widely with community groups and organisations throughout South Yorkshire.

#### 4.4 **Other Implications**

4.4.1 In total the Council will have three Independent Persons for Standards matters:

- Mrs Karen Widdowson – term until municipal year end 2027
- Mr David Irvine – term until municipal year end 2028
- Mr Martyn Thorpe – term until municipal year end 2028

4.4.2 In total the Council will have two non-voting Co-Opted Members on the Audit and Standards Committee:

- Mrs Alison Howard – term until municipal year end 2028
- Dr James Brackley – term until municipal year end 2028

There is still an open vacancy for a third Co-Opted Member.

### 5. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 The Council must appoint at least one Independent Person as per the Localism Act 2011 and as per CIPFA guidance at least two Co-Opted Members of the Audit and Standards Committee. There was no option to do nothing.
- 5.2 The Council could have allowed the current Co-Opted Member's appointment to lapse, however it was felt beneficial to extend this appointment for a further term so the Council has at least one experienced Co-Opted Member. This allows the Council to satisfy the requirements of two appointed Co-Opted Members.

6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 To ensure that the Council complies with the requirement to have at least one Independent Person as per the Localism Act 2011 and at least two Co-Opted Members as recommended good practice by CIPFA.

# Agenda Item 14

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 1 November 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>Richard Shaw<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>Fran Belbin<br>Abdul Khayum<br>Abtisam Mohamed               | 21 | <i>Richmond Ward</i><br>David Barker<br>Dianne Hurst  |
| 4 | <i>Broomhill &amp; Sharrow Vale Ward</i><br>Angela Argenzio<br>Maleiki Haybe                    | 13 | <i>Fulwood Ward</i><br>Sue Alston<br>Andrew Sangar                                     | 22 | <i>Shiregreen &amp; Brightside Ward</i><br>Dawn Dale<br>Garry Weatherall                    |
| 5 | <i>Burngreave Ward</i><br>Talib Hussain<br>Mark Jones<br>Safiya Saeed                           | 14 | <i>Gleadless Valley Ward</i><br>Alexi Dimond<br>Marieanne Elliot<br>Paul Turpin        | 23 | <i>Southey Ward</i><br>Tony Damms<br>Jayne Dunn   |
| 6 | <i>City Ward</i><br>Douglas Johnson<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>Lewis Chinchin<br>Julie Grocutt<br>Janet Ridler |
| 8 | <i>Darnall Ward</i><br>Mazher Iqbal<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>Bernard Little<br>Laura McClean                          |
| 9 | <i>Dore &amp; Totley Ward</i><br>Joe Otten<br>Colin Ross  | 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<br>Paul Wood                          |

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Chaplin, Mike Drabble, Brian Holmshaw, Ruth Mersereau, Peter Price, Vickie Priestley, Martin Smith and Cliff Woodcraft.
- 1.2 Further to the reporting of the apologies for absence from Councillor Priestley, it was RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: On the motion of the Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross), seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn), that in view of the ill-health of Councillor Vickie Priestley, approval be given for her period of office to be extended beyond 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023, being the six-month period of non-attendance provided for within Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **2. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 3.1 Councillor Douglas Johnson declared a personal interest in item 11 on the agenda (Notice of Motion regarding "Stopping The Conservative Government Sewage Pollution Scandal") (item 10 of these minutes) on the grounds that he serves as a member of the Yorkshire Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and as a Director of the River Stewardship Company, having been appointed to those roles by the Council.

## **4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

### **4.1 Lord Mayor's Announcements**

- 4.1.1 The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross) made a plea in relation to the conduct of the business relating to the terrible situation in Israel and Palestine, where views on the matter would be strongly held and expressed at the meeting. He reported that the previous day, he had presided over a citizenship ceremony where he had been proud to welcome, as new UK citizens, people from over 20 countries from all around the world. In that ceremony he had emphasised Sheffield's status as a City of Sanctuary and how its diverse communities all contribute to the life of the city. He asked that participants at this meeting be mindful of the effect that words can have and not to allow the debate at this meeting to disrupt the community spirit and harmony that exists in the city. Furthermore, to be respectful to others in the Council Chamber, and he added that he was aware



that some Councillors had, regrettably, been subjected to threats and abuse in recent days.

The Lord Mayor also reminded elected Members of the Public Sector Equality Duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, including the duty to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 4.1.2 At the conclusion of the meeting, reference was made to the tragic accident that happened at the Sheffield Arena during the Sheffield Steelers ice hockey match on Saturday 28 October, where Nottingham Panthers player, Adam Johnson, sadly lost his life. The Lord Mayor reported that the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive had written to both teams involved offering the Council's heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the player's loved ones and to the Nottingham Panthers and Sheffield Steelers teams and staff.

#### 4.2 Petitions and Public Questions

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross) reported that one petition was to be received at the meeting and questions would be taken from 15 members of the public. The petition and questions submitted by nine members of the public related either directly to, or as a consequence of, the conflict in Gaza. He would firstly deal with the questions on subject matters other than the conflict in Gaza, and then receive the petition and questions regarding the conflict. The debate on item 8 on the agenda (Notice of Motion Regarding "Stopping Genocide in Gaza") would then be taken as the next item of business.

#### 4.3 Public Questions (On Various Topics)

##### 4.3.1 Question from Josh Cheeseman

*"In light of the ongoing concerns over human rights in the People's Republic of China, including, but not limited to:-*

- *The violation of the right to freedom of speech and assembly (notably within Hong Kong, under the National Security Law where Chow Hang-tung was sentenced to 15 months in prison for a social media post).*
- *Restrictions on the freedom of expression, persecution of human rights defenders (like legal scholar Xu Zhiyong).*
- *Suppression of freedom of religion & expression of culture (not least those of the Uyghurs and Kazakhs).*
- *Harassing members of the LGBT community, including Tsinghua University students for leaving rainbow flags on the campus.*
- *Its continued position as the world's leading state executioner.*

*Does the Council feel it appropriate to retain its twinning with the Chinese cities of Anshan and Chengdu, and its Trade & Collaboration Agreements with the cities of Daqing and Nanchang?"*

In response, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) confirmed that Sheffield had twinned with Anshan in 1983 and whilst the two cities remain twin cities, there had been extremely limited engagement with Anshan since 2006. He added that the relationship with Chengdu was one of Sheffield's more recent international partnerships which was established in 2010 and the collaboration agreements with Daqing and Nanchang were signed in 2016, both for an initial 3-year period, but none of those agreements had subsequently been renewed.

Councillor Hunt stated that, earlier this year, the Council's Strategy and Resources Policy Committee had agreed to undertake a full review of the Council's twinning relationships and partnership arrangements with cities and places across the world. He added that a report on the outcome of that review was scheduled for submission to the meeting of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to be held on 20th November 2023.

#### 4.3.2 Question from Clara Cheung

*"Has Sheffield Council had any exchanges or dialogues about protection of human rights at municipal level, with the cities in the People's Republic of China that hold twin-city relationship or a collaboration agreement with Sheffield (i.e. Anshan, Chengdu, Daqing and Nanchang)? If so, can you please tell us more about the details? If not, why not? Besides, what other exchanges or dialogues has Sheffield Council had with these cities?"*

In response, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) stated that there had not been any dialogue in respect of human rights at a municipal level with representatives from any of the four named cities, and he added that, due to budgetary constraints and the ending of the Council's dedicated Sheffield China Business Programme, there had not been any active engagement with any of the cities in recent years.

He reported that, together with Kate Martin, the Council's Executive Director for City Futures, he had met with the Manchester Chinese Consul-General on 17th October 2023 and this had been a short meeting to facilitate introductions. He confirmed that human rights had not been discussed during that short meeting but added that human rights concerns would be taken into account in the review of Sheffield's twinning relationships and partnership arrangements which he had referred to earlier at the meeting and which was due to be discussed by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee on 20th November.

#### 4.3.3 Question from Simon Jenkins

*"My question is regarding Minimum Service Levels. As the onus is on the employer to bring in a Minimum Service Level during industrial action, can the Council confirm if they or any of their outsourced partners will be using this legislation and has there been any discussion with central government regarding this?"*

In response, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) confirmed that no work had been undertaken with regards to minimum service levels at the Council and he was not aware that any of its contractors had undertaken this work either.

Councillor Hunt stated that in his view the Government's proposals for minimum service levels in the event of a strike action would place severe and unacceptable restrictions on the fundamental right of workers to take industrial action to defend their pay and conditions. He believed that the proposals were unfair and undemocratic, were likely to put the UK in breach of international legal commitments, would make disputes harder to solve and lead to more frequent and longer periods of strike action. He stated that he was committed to working with the trades unions to explore every possible option to avert the prospect of work notices being issued within the Council and added that his Party was opposed to the Government's proposals on this matter.

#### 4.3.4 Question from Calvin Payne

*"Six years ago this week, I was convicted on three counts of contempt of court for standing up to the Council's 'unwise' legal approach and proceedings. Six months ago I, despite some misgivings, went along with the process the Council set out for personal apologies and mitigation. Part of this process was explained by the Leader and Chief Executive to the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee on June 19<sup>th</sup> when they wrote:*

*"The Council understands that this unwise course of action had serious implications for the small number of people who were found in breach of the injunctions. The Council will contact these people directly and work with them to do everything possible to mitigate any ongoing impact."*

*I would like to ask the Leader of the Council if he is satisfied that SCC have worked with me to do everything possible to mitigate the ongoing impact, and whether he can tell me specifically what actions the Council have taken to achieve this."*

Mr. Payne added that the stated deadline for the Council to provide personal apologies was 31<sup>st</sup> October, but he had not yet been offered his personal apology. He also referred to the fact that Council representatives had not been held responsible for their actions in the dispute as they had since left the Council, whereas the campaigners were continuing to have to face the consequences of their actions. He did, however, acknowledge the fact that the Council's General Counsel had met with him on a couple of occasions recently, him being the only Council representative to do so.

In response, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) acknowledged the impact the proceedings had had on Mr Payne and others who were subject to legal action by the Council. He advised that the Council was keen to mitigate the impact of its actions, which it had made clear in its response to the Lowcock report, and that he had been personally involved in the apology process. He stated that he was aware that Mr Payne had met with the General Counsel in relation to an appropriately worded apology taking into account Mr Payne's

experience, as well as the offer of specific and general support to explain the circumstances should Mr. Payne encounter any difficulties in the future as a result of the Court's findings, and that Mr. Payne had provided information to the General Counsel that he wanted to be taken into account. Councillor Hunt stated that those matters should be finalised soon. He stated that, whilst this process had taken longer than was ideal, the Council was aiming to progress all the apologies in a consistent way, and he added that he would be happy to have a follow up conversation with Mr Payne to help improve the process.

#### 4.3.5 Questions from Isabel O' Leary

##### 1. *"Cross-departmental working*

*The Lowcock Report revealed that a large part of the reason for the Streets Ahead Contract being so flawed in relation to street trees was that one department (in this case, Highways) did not consult with any other departments (for example, the Ecology Unit) when writing or agreeing the Contract. This kind of working in silos is commonplace in large organisations but is not good practice. At the risk of sounding as though I'm setting an essay question, can you reassure me that cross departmental working is becoming embedded in Sheffield City Council by giving me at least 3 examples of current projects that do involve true collaboration between several different departments. I am particularly interested in projects that are using the expertise of the Ecology Unit.*

##### 2. *Partnership with communities*

*The Lowcock Report recommended that the Council should sustain and embed its recent emphasis on partnership, local engagement and consultation. I'm not sure how well this is going. I have been following issues about Graves and Hillsborough Parks and have attended meetings of the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee which is the sole body administering a number of Charities, including several Sheffield Parks. The members of this Sub-Committee are all Sheffield City Councillors and membership is solely Councillors. Whilst I welcome the very recent decision of the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee to form a partnership with 2 community groups, I do wonder whether decisions and action to restore the café building in Graves Park could have been arrived at much more quickly than the 15 months it has taken, if these local community groups had been listened to earlier.*

*In order to inject some vigour into the bureaucratic paralysis of Council processes, would the Council consider co-opting members of Friends or other community groups onto the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee at a much earlier stage when considering issues in which those groups have knowledge, expertise and conduits for local consultation?*

##### 3. *Accountability*

*I welcomed the setting up of the Lowcock Independent Inquiry into the Street Tree Dispute. However, the recommendations of the Lowcock Report were remarkably mild in the light of the damning evidence of Council practices, including the unreasonable and disproportionate use of their legal powers, specifically the aggressive pursuit of Injunctions against residents trying to prevent the unnecessary felling of street trees.*

*This issue of Governmental bodies or Local Authorities using their greater legal and financial power to intimidate environmental protestors is a very live one nationally. I would like other Local Authorities to learn from the Sheffield experience that taking out injunctions against residents involved in environmental protests is a bad idea. However, despite the apologies extensively reported in the press, as these apologies are being made by the current leaders of the Council and not by those who were responsible for those bad decisions at the time, the message so far to public servants is that they can leave a post and move to another post in another city without any personal consequences.*

*We know from the Lowcock Report who was ultimately responsible for pursuing Injunctions against the street tree protestors. Will the Council leaders publicly, without breaching GDPR, use their well-resourced and effective Communications department to ask those who were responsible for the wrongful decisions to apologise? This might go some way to restoring the Council's reputation by showing a desire for accountability."*

In response, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) stated that cross departmental working within Sheffield City Council was vital for enabling progress to be made on the things that the Council wanted to achieve and that was why one of its core organisational values was "Together We Get Things Done". He added that this value was guiding how the Council was operating across its services and with a range of partners on many projects. Councillor Hunt stated that in order to provide a sufficient level of detail in response to the specific question about projects which involve collaboration between several different departments, he would ensure a written response would be provided to Ms O'Leary, and he commented that one such example was likely to be the work being undertaken in one area in the north of the city involving a "team around the place" where different teams have come together to focus on a particular locality.

Regarding partnership with communities, Councillor Hunt stated that the Lowcock Report was clear that the Council as an organisation had not always been good at listening to the views of its communities and actively engaging citizens in decision making, and the lack of involvement of citizens had led to many of the issues in the street trees dispute. Councillor Hunt stated that this was something that the Council was actively seeking to rectify and was now working hard to ensure that different perspectives and views were heard as policy and projects were being developed. He added that there were good examples of where this was happening and he referred to the city's new autism partnership, which includes neurodiverse participants and is co-chaired by a neurodiverse person. He commented that the Local Area Committees provided opportunities for citizens to discuss local issues and shape the development of solutions to problems.

Councillor Hunt acknowledged that more work was needed to ensure that voices of citizens are heard and included in the decision-making processes of the Council and he added that the Governance Committee would be considering public involvement and participation as part of its work plan over the coming months. One aspect of this work was to review the public questions processes to

improve dialogue with citizens in the formal meetings of the Council. He added that the work would also include consideration of the specific points raised about the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee and a further written response would be provided following the outcome of that consideration.

In relation to the question concerning accountability, Councillor Hunt stated that the Lowcock Inquiry and report aimed to provide a process of “truth and reconciliation” to allow the city to move on from the consequences of the Council’s mistakes. Apologies were an important part of this and a process was being undertaken to ensure they were delivered to everybody identified by the report, and also to others who had requested them. He commented that the Lowcock report had stated that the apologies should come from the Council and this was what the Council had agreed it should do on the basis that it was the Council that made the mistakes identified by the Inquiry. He added that had the Inquiry determined that individual apologies were needed for the process, then this would have been recommended in the Lowcock report. Councillor Hunt understood the call being made for apologies to be made by officers and councillors who were involved at the time, and confirmed that this had been considered by the Council but that, as a current and ex-employer, the Council holds legal duties and, on balance, believes that asking those individuals for personal apologies was not the right thing to do. He accepted that some people would be disappointed by that stance, but he reiterated that the Council had come to a considered opinion on that matter and he confirmed that this does not undermine the sincerity with which the Council is progressing the work to rectify the mistakes made and to provide its apologies to individuals.

4.3.6 (NOTE: Questions which had been submitted by Michael Mullin, but which had not been asked at the meeting due to his absence, would receive a written response from the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) and be published on the website.)

4.4 Petition Demanding An Apology and Action From the Council For Raising the Israeli Flag

The Council received a petition containing 1,316 signatures demanding an apology and action from Sheffield City Council for raising the Israeli flag.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners was made by Julie Pearn who asked the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to ask for an immediate cease fire in Gaza and access for humanitarian aid. She gave some examples of occasions and locations in Israel where the Israeli flag is displayed, including on illegal settlements in the West Bank, and stated that the flag represents racism and desecration to Muslims. She stated that the current situation in Gaza constituted ethnic cleansing and genocide, which had led to the flying of the flag causing such outrage to people in Sheffield. An unequivocal apology from Councillors Tom Hunt and Shaffaq Mohammed, for what was considered to be a divisive and provocative action, was expected. She felt that the country’s parliamentary leaders, in calling for a humanitarian pause, were out of step with the views of

the public and she called for all Councillors to make a unanimous call for peace and for the upholding of international law.

The petition was referred to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) to respond. Councillor Hunt made the following statement:-

“Thank you for your petition and thank you to everyone who has come here today to share your views about the tragic events that are taking place in Israel and Palestine. I know that this issue is very important to communities within Sheffield. I feel deep sadness about the heartbreaking events taking place. I know we all do.

On October 7<sup>th</sup> a brutal, appalling terrorist attack was committed by Hamas. An attack that shocked the world and I utterly condemn it. More Jewish people were killed on October 7<sup>th</sup> than on any day since the Holocaust. The flag of Israel was flown to show solidarity with the victims of that attack. Raising the flag was not about endorsing any actions taken by the Netanyahu government either before or after October 7<sup>th</sup>. A Government that has a shameful record of human rights abuses and that has shown little interest in securing peace in the Middle East. Nor was this about taking sides in a decades long conflict. This was about showing solidarity with the victims of a terror attack, and it was a decision that was taken before the heavy bombardment of Gaza and the ground assaults had begun.

The flag was flown on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October. It was to be flown for one day and one day only, until 8pm when it was to be taken down. We could – and should – have been clearer about that at the time. I know that this matters to many people. I understand why people feel that this was not the right thing to do and I fully respect people's right to hold that view. That's why it's important for me to set out the Council's decision-making process for flying a flag.

Sheffield has a flag protocol – a document that governs the flying of flags at the Town Hall and other Council buildings. The protocol states clearly that in normal circumstances, the Union Flag will be flown from the Town Hall. I am proud of this. It also states that there are special circumstances when other flags may be flown for a short period of time. These are as follows:-

1. The national flag of another country may be flown when there is an official civic or other delegation from that country, and it is deemed appropriate to do so.
2. A particular flag may be flown when required to do so by the Government or other official body.
3. A special flag (other than a national flag) may be flown in celebration of a major occasion or achievement of importance to the Council and/or the City of Sheffield.

The protocol sets out that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, will determine any requests for the flying of flags over the Town Hall. On October 8<sup>th</sup> – a day after Hamas' deadly assault - the UK Government asked local authorities to consider flying the flag of Israel as an act of solidarity until 8pm on October 10<sup>th</sup>. This meant that our flag protocol came into force.

In line with the protocol, the Chief Executive sought my view, but in recognition of the fact that I lead a three-party administration, the Chief Executive also sought the view of the two other main group leaders – Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed as Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and Councillor Douglas Johnson as Leader of the Green Group. On balance, Councillor Mohammed and I were both willing to support the Government ask and to fly the flag. Councillor Johnson did not support that view. So, on that basis, the decision to fly the flag was taken to show solidarity with the victims of Hamas' brutal attack on civilians.

Other local authorities also flew the flag of Israel, including the three other councils in South Yorkshire. Around the country, other councils lit up public buildings such as their Town Hall or libraries, which we do not currently have the ability to do without several days' notice. I know that not everyone agreed with the decision that was made here in Sheffield. The decision was taken in good faith and of course, I and others have reflected on it over the last few weeks as the horror of what we saw in Israel on October 7<sup>th</sup> has been followed by the horror of what is happening in Gaza.

Today, I extend my deep sympathy and solidarity to everyone who is grieving, hurting and suffering trauma in Israel and Palestine but also here in Sheffield. How we express our solidarity and whether it is right to express solidarity are two different things. It was right to show solidarity, but I recognise that this act of solidarity caused hurt for some people. I also recognise that some people think local authorities shouldn't fly any flags at all. But I also know that there are many people in Sheffield who greatly appreciated this act of solidarity, including people in our Jewish community, many of whom have friends and family who have been deeply affected by the events on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Flying the flag was not a straightforward decision and it has prompted a range of responses and heartfelt emotions. I do not believe that in this difficult moment it helps us if an apology was to be issued for the act of showing solidarity with the victims of a terrorist attack. It would cause further upset and hurt at a time when we need to come together.

As a council, and as Leader of the Council, I am firmly of the view that we should always review our actions and decision-making processes to ensure we take the right decisions, informed by the right advice. So, it is right that our flag protocol is now to be reviewed, and this will now happen.

Whilst in taking this decision we had regard to our legal duties under the Public Sector Equality Act, as part of the review of the flag protocol, we will look at including a requirement to undertake a formal written Equality Impact Assessment and/or have regard to a Community Tension Impact Assessment via the Police, to ensure that any decision in the future that we may need to make about flying a flag is properly assessed. Future decisions that need to be made about requests to fly flags should also be made following discussions with representatives of faith and community groups in the city.



What has happened in the three weeks since October 7<sup>th</sup> has been utterly heartbreaking. There can be no justification for the loss of innocent lives. There can be no justification for the collective punishment of the people in Palestine.

We need a ceasefire, and we need it now. We need all hostages to be released and we need humanitarian aid to be allowed into Gaza at scale. I urge national and international politicians to do everything they can to put pressure to bring about a ceasefire - and to do everything they can to bring people around the table to restart a peace process with the clear aim and outcome of achieving a free and sovereign Palestine alongside a safe and secure Israel.

As a city, I am proud that Sheffield is home to many diverse communities and faiths. Our diversity is our strength. As Leader of the Council, I commit to do all I can, together with all of my cross-party colleagues, to bring our city together, united for peace and standing up against all forms of hate and racism. Standing together against all forms of racism, including anti-Muslim discrimination and antisemitism, and opposing every effort to divide us. I condemn the abuse that many of my councillor colleagues have received in recent weeks and continue to receive, and I see the pressure you are under. The task at hand for all of us is to bring people together, to work together, to listen, and to work for peace in all of our communities, as the proud City of Sanctuary that we are. That is the task I am committed to.”

The Council noted the petition and response from the Leader of the Council.

#### 4.5 Public Questions (On the Situation in Israel and Palestine)

##### 4.5.1 Questions from Abdullah Okud

*“What were the reasons behind the decision made to erect the Israeli flag above the Town Hall? This decision demands an answer. Firstly, because it shows that we as the City of Sanctuary condone the false equivalence of the coloniser and the colonised, which is inherently a stance that supports apartheid, racism and genocide and is a deeply worrying position, and not one supported by the people of Sheffield.*

*Secondly, this has demonstrated that you do not recognise or understand that the violence we witness today is rooted in over seven decades of an oppressive condition and caging of the Palestinian people which is well documented.*

*Finally, do you agree and uphold the Palestinian people’s inalienable right to resist, as enshrined in UN resolution 2625 as “the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples for independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial domination, apartheid and foreign occupation by all available means”.*

In response, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) stated that flying the Israeli flag was not about taking sides but was about showing solidarity with the victims of a terrorist attack. He advised that he agreed with the comments made by the UN General Secretary that the attack did not happen in a vacuum.

Councillor Hunt outlined that in his view there would be no lasting peace without a negotiated settlement which was grounded in the reality of many decades of conflict, pain and suffering, and he was sure that the resumption of the peace process was what the people of Sheffield wanted. He added that, in his opinion, the only way to end the suffering of people in Palestine and in Israel is through a political process that would have a two-state solution as its outcome and that he hoped everyone could come together to urge national and international politicians to commit every effort to making that happen.

4.5.2 Question from Derek Martin

*“The world just now is a very dangerous and fast changing place. Things are going on just now that are outside our direct control. However, Sheffield is one of the UKs core cities, and what we say and do does matter. Collectively with the other core cities we can have a massive influence on the present Government. Sheffield must do the right thing. The situation in Gaza is appalling, nowhere is safe, they have even been issued with evacuation orders for the main hospitals. This situation cannot go on.*

*I call on the three leaders of the main political parties in the city to act in unanimity, for Sheffield to lead from the front in calling for an immediate ceasefire, release of hostages and an end to hostilities and to call on the leaders of the other core cities to work together and do the same.”*

In response, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) stated that he was in touch with other Core City leaders and he was sure that other core cities would be holding debates on the matter, as this this Council would be doing later at this meeting. He hoped that the chamber would come together to support motions and amendments that called for an immediate ceasefire, for hostages to be released, and for humanitarian aid to be let into Gaza.

4.5.3 Question from Jasmine Murphy

Prior to asking her question, Jasmine Murphy referred to events on the evening of 10th October which had resulted in a couple of protestors climbing to remove the Israeli flag from the Town Hall and replacing it with the Palestinian flag. She then asked -

*“Seeing that the residents of Sheffield were so horrified by this Council's decision to raise the Israeli flag above the Town Hall on our behalf, without our consent, that some of us took it upon ourselves to remove it at great personal risk, will the Leader of this Council, Councillor Tom Hunt, finally recognise not only that raising it was disrespectful to the people of Sheffield who oppose its apartheid regime, but also, because it was symbolically supportive of Israel's illegal occupation and collective punishment, that it was an act of grave disrespect to the Palestinian victims of these war crimes. Will he also apologise to the people of Sheffield for this decision?”*

Ms Murphy also asked whether Councillor Hunt would consider raising the Palestinian flag in view of the scale of the massacres being inflicted on Gaza by the Israeli forces?

In response, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) stated that he did not believe that flying the flag had been disrespectful. He was aware some people had disagreed with it, but it had been intended as an act of solidarity with the victims of a terrorist attack. As reported earlier in the meeting, the Council's flag protocol would be reviewed and having regard to the learning from this recent action would form part of that review process. He advised that the flag flown was the flag of the state of Israel, rather than of the Israeli government. He stated that he opposed the actions of the Netanyahu Government and the flying of the flag was not an endorsement of its actions but was in solidarity with the victims of a terrorist act. He expressed regret that the decision to fly the flag had caused hurt and underlined that, in his view, an apology would risk causing further hurt and driving people further apart at a point when they needed to come together.

Councillor Hunt confirmed that a request had been made by several Councillors to fly the Palestinian Flag. He stated that this would be considered appropriately over the coming days to make sure any decision was properly informed and was in accordance with the flag protocol, and the decision on the matter would be relayed to the requestors.

4.5.4 Question from Sahar Awadallah

*“Given that raising the Israeli flag can be deemed to be standing in solidarity with an apartheid state and settler colonialism, as described by UN special Rapporteur, in addition to being contrary to S.149 of the Equality Act 2010, Palestinian citizens of Sheffield want to know when will Councillor Tom Hunt and the rest of the City Council express its official support for Sheffield's Palestinian community, and what substantial steps will it take to prove its support?”*

In response, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) stated that he could not imagine the pain and worry that the Palestinian community in Sheffield and around the world were experiencing and that he expected solidarity for the Palestinian community to be expressed in the speeches and written motions and amendments to be debated later in the meeting. He noted that thousands of pounds had already been raised by people in Sheffield over recent days to support the humanitarian aid effort in Gaza and that this reflected its citizen's generosity, kindness and support for the Palestinian community.

4.5.5 Question from Mohammad Maroof

Prior to asking his questions, Mohammad Maroof acknowledged that the names of those Councillors involved in the decision to fly the Israeli flag had been reported earlier at the meeting, and also commended the local Labour Group politicians who had recently expressed support for an immediate ceasefire which was a stance contrary to the official stance of the Leader of the Labour Party.

*“Who was involved in the decision making regarding flying the Israeli flag on Sheffield Town Hall on October 7th, please name the individuals who supported the idea if it is not something confidential?”*

*After learning the disproportionate response to Hamas attack, over 7500 innocent civilians have been killed, amongst those are over 3000 children. The death toll is rising every hour. Can I ask have you changed your position since October 7th that it was a dreadful decision to fly apartheid Israeli state’s flag, which caused hurt to thousands of people of our city? If you regret, why don’t you apologise publicly now?*

*However, if you stand by your decision and don’t apologise, would you consider stepping down before you face a vote of no confidence?*

*Will you accept that Israel is committing war crimes and its actions are genocide and breach of international law, and will you call for an immediate ceasefire, end Israel’s brutal occupation and free Palestine to save Palestinian and Israeli lives?”*

In response, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) confirmed that he had outlined earlier in the meeting the decision-making process for the raising of the flag of Israel, including the names of the Councillors involved and the reasons for deciding to fly the flag. He commented that the pain and suffering being seen is heartbreaking, and the indiscriminate attacks leading to the deaths of civilians including children, are utterly appalling and need to be condemned. He stated that any breach of international law must be investigated and any war crime must be condemned and investigated and he added that the UK Government must support any such investigations. Councillor Hunt stated that he believed there should now be a ceasefire and he confirmed that the statement issued yesterday by the Sheffield Labour Group called for that action. He referred to the Motion and amendments to be debated later at this meeting, which make that same call for a ceasefire.

#### 4.5.6 Question from Famila Hussain

Prior to asking her question, Famila Hussain commented on the escalating humanitarian crisis unfolding in the Gaza strip resulting from the actions of the Israeli Government and its forces.

*“In light of the humanitarian crisis currently unfolding in the Gaza strip, the clear evidence that Israel has committed war crimes and intends to further commit war crimes against Gaza’s civilian population, and the population of Sheffield’s consistent condemnation of Israel’s actions, I ask if this Council will heed the calls of its constituents to lobby the central government to withdraw its official support of Israel? Or will it allow the continued unwavering support of a nation which has repeatedly and flagrantly violated international and humanitarian laws?”*

In response, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) stated that war crimes must always be condemned, international law must always be upheld and there should be no collective punishment of people in Gaza. He advised that a distinction should be made between the government of Israel which was behind

the actions, and the state of Israel. He again referred to the Motion and amendments to be debated later at this meeting, which make the call for a ceasefire. Councillor Hunt called on the UK Government to do everything it could to condemn breaches of international law and to call for a ceasefire, the release of hostages, and for humanitarian aid to be let into Gaza. He reiterated his view that, if there are breaches of international law, the UK Government needs to support efforts to investigate them and ensure that people are held to account.

#### 4.5.7 Question from Hend Rashed

Prior to asking her question, Hend Rashed commented on the Council's proud legacy of opposing apartheid regimes, for example in South Africa in the early 1980s. She added that, in 2022, Amnesty International published a report declaring Israel an apartheid state. She referred to the fact that the South Yorkshire Pension Fund does demonstrate social responsibility in its investments, for example through its climate change policy.

*"On behalf of the citizens of Sheffield who are concerned about the impact of their Pension Fund in supporting the ongoing lethal attacks on civilians in Gaza and the rising death toll from the continuous bombardment, will the Council call on the Finance Committee to review the Local Pension Fund investments and Alternative Investments and to divest from any holdings linked to Israeli settlements and companies that support colonial projects in the Occupied Territories of Palestine?"*

In response, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) acknowledged the importance of ensuring that investments in the pension fund were ethical. He advised that the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority was responsible for administering the local government pension scheme in South Yorkshire, and he added that he had asked Council officers to obtain a full update regarding when the last ethical review of the Pension Fund took place, and what the outcomes of the review were. Upon receipt of this he would provide a written response.

#### 4.5.8 Question from Peter Jones

*"Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinian people of Gaza. They have cut off food, water, fuel, electricity, and all means of communication, causing imminent threat to the lives of 2.2 million people, many thousands of whom have already been killed by relentless and indiscriminate bombing. Why is this Council not doing everything in its power to oppose this genocidal assault and end the complicity of the Government and official opposition in this genocide?"*

Mr Jones added that the Council would be judged, not on what it said but on what it did, in relation to this matter. He stated that sides had to be taken over genocide and that the UK Government is fully supporting Israel, evidenced by its request for local authorities to fly the Israeli flag. He also believed that the Leader of the Opposition is complicit in the genocide and he reported that both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition had received letters from the International Centre for Justice for Palestinians warning them of the Centre's intention to prosecute UK politicians who are complicit in genocide.

In response, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) stated that local Councillors would be raising their voices through their political parties, and that this Council meeting was an opportunity for them to make their views known to the citizens of Sheffield. He underlined that there should be no collective punishment of the Palestinian people, civilians should not be targeted, and the blockade should be lifted, to allow access for essential supplies and utilities. Councillor Hunt stated that there needs to be a resumption of a peace process to ensure a just and lasting settlement for Israel and Palestine, and added that that was what he had heard the Leader of the Opposition call for yesterday. He felt sure that from today, local Councillors will be raising their voices in Sheffield and, through their political parties, with national politicians.

#### 4.5.9 Question from Leni Solinger

Prior to asking her question, Leni Solinger referred to the numerous local demonstrations held in the city over the past three weeks, which shows the strength of feeling that exists in Sheffield in relation to the events in Gaza.

*"I am a Jewish member of Sheffield Palestine Solidarity Campaign and in November 2022 I was proud to take part in the launch of the Sheffield Coalition against Israeli Apartheid and to be one of the first to formally pledge my support to the movement to make Sheffield a city free of all links with Israeli apartheid. I lived in Sheffield when the Council supported the South African anti-apartheid movement and was proud of its moral stance then. There are many Jewish people who feel as I do about the apartheid system against Palestinians.*

*I am here to ask the Leader of the Council and the leaders of all the other political parties represented on this Council if you will meet, as a matter of urgency, with members of the Coalition's co-ordinating group, to discuss ways in which Sheffield City Council can ensure that it works to break all links with Israel's system of apartheid and in particular with all those companies which support Israel's apartheid regime."*

In response, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Tom Hunt) acknowledged that many citizens, from all faiths and of no faith, care deeply and are upset about the events in the Middle East. He confirmed that he was happy to have a follow up conversation with the Group, but he felt it important to be clear that Israel could not be held to a higher standard than any other country's government for their actions. He reiterated his condemnation of the actions of the Netanyahu government but emphasised that they are the actions of a government, not of a nation state or an unelected regime. Councillor Hunt added that the motion to be discussed later in the meeting contained a request for consideration to be given to the Council joining the Coalition, and if this was supported by Members it would be considered by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee. He stated that it would be helpful to have a conversation with the Group at that stage, prior to a decision being taken on that matter.

**5. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "STOPPING GENOCIDE IN GAZA" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ALEXI DIMOND AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MALEIKI HAYBE**

5.1 Earlier in the meeting, prior to the commencement of item 5 on the agenda, it was - RESOLVED: On the motion of the Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross), seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn), that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1, the order of business as published on the Council Summons be altered by taking item 8 on the agenda (Notice of Motion Regarding "Stopping Genocide in Gaza") immediately after item 5 (Public Questions and Petitions).

5.2 It was moved by Councillor Alexi Dimond, and seconded by Councillor Maleiki Haybe, that this Council:-

(a) notes:-

- (i) its unanimous vote in September 2019 to recognise Palestine as a sovereign state, the first Council to do so;
- (ii) that East Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Golan Heights and Gaza are illegally occupied by Israel; and that Gaza has been subject to 16 years of blockade;
- (iii) that the Israeli government has been withholding essential resources from Gaza and what UN Experts have described as "destroying or damaging homes, hospitals, markets and UN Reliefs and Works Agency (UNRWA)" and that Amnesty International has "documented unlawful Israeli attacks, including indiscriminate attacks, which caused mass civilian casualties and must be investigated as war crimes";
- (iv) that under Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, genocide is defined as certain acts "committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group" and that, under Article I, the UK has confirmed that genocide is a crime under international law which it undertakes to prevent and to punish;
- (v) the UK, at the UN Security Council on 18 October 2023, refused to vote for "humanitarian pauses" to deliver lifesaving aid to millions in Gaza; and
- (vi) Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, B'tselem and the South African government recognise that the state of Israel is enacting a system of apartheid;

(b) believes:-

- (i) all atrocities committed against civilians must be condemned and investigated;
  - (ii) all forms of racism, including anti-Palestinian racism, antisemitism and Islamophobia have no place in our city and condemns any attacks on Palestinian, Jewish or Muslim people;
  - (iii) Sir Keir Starmer was wrong to say, in an interview with LBC radio, that Israel “does have that right” to withhold food, water and electricity from Gaza, and he should apologise and retract this statement supporting collective punishment;
  - (iv) all political leaders have a responsibility to try to prevent genocide; and
  - (v) the only one way to secure peace between Israelis and Palestinians is for a just political settlement based on the end of the occupation of Palestinian territories and an end to what one UN Special Rapporteur has described as “apartheid practices”, and another has described “settler-colonialism” and “ethnic cleansing”;
- (c) regrets flying the Israeli flag from the Town Hall; and
- (d) therefore resolves to:-
- (i) call upon the UK Government to:-
    - (i) call for an immediate ceasefire and to vote for this at the UN;
    - (ii) cease all arms sales to Israel and end military aid for Israel; and
    - (iii) call on Israel to resume negotiations with the Palestinians;
  - (ii) request that the Chief Executive submits this Motion to the UK Government; and
  - (iii) request that the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee consider whether the Council should join the Sheffield Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid.

5.3 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Zahira Naz, and seconded by Councillor Abdul Khayum, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (a)(iv) as follows and the re-lettering of original sub-paragraphs (a)(iv) to (vi) as new sub-paragraphs (a)(v) to (vii):-
  - (a)(iv) Save The Children have highlighted that the number of children reported killed in Gaza in the last three weeks has surpassed the



annual number of children killed across the world's conflict zones since 2019;

2. the substitution, in new sub-paragraph (a)(vii) [the original sub-paragraph (a)(vi)], of the words "Israeli Government" for the words "state of Israel";
3. the insertion, at the beginning of sub-paragraph (b)(i), of the words "there can be no justification for the loss of innocent lives, and"
4. the addition of new sub-paragraphs (b)(ii) and (iii) as follows:-
  - (b)(ii) that Hamas' appalling murder of civilians in Israel must be unequivocally condemned, and we continue to call for the safe release of all hostages;
  - (iii) that the Israeli Government's indiscriminate killing of Palestinian civilians must be unequivocally condemned;
5. the re-lettering of original sub-paragraph (b)(ii) as a new sub-paragraph (b)(iv);
6. the deletion of sub-paragraph (b)(iii);
7. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (b)(v) as follows:-
  - (b)(v) we must not allow these tragic events to divide our communities at home, and we understand and feel the pain of all people in Sheffield, especially the Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities;
8. the re-lettering of original sub-paragraph (b)(iv) as a new sub-paragraph (b)(vi);
9. the deletion of sub-paragraph (b)(v);
10. the addition of new sub-paragraphs (b)(vii) to (ix) as follows:-
  - (b)(vii) all UK political leaders must call upon the Israeli Government to ensure enough food, water, medicine and electricity is provided to Gaza, that there must be clear humanitarian corridors, and that all actors must follow and be held accountable under international law;
  - (viii) every effort must be made by the international community to make a two-state solution a reality, which requires a commitment to a formal peace process, an end to the occupation and for all parties to follow international law, in order to bring peace to the region;
  - (ix) that where Palestinians are forced to flee, they must not be permanently displaced from their homes, and calls on the UK Government to use all available pressure to ensure this;

11. the deletion of paragraph (c) and the addition of a new paragraph (c) as follows:-
  - (c) regrets any hurt caused by flying the Israeli flag from the Town Hall, and calls for a review of the Council's flag-flying protocol;
12. the addition of a new paragraph (d) as follows:-
  - (d) regrets the UK Government's abstention at the UN against supporting a sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities;
13. the re-lettering of original paragraph (d) as a new paragraph (e); and
14. the deletion of new sub-paragraph (e)(i)(iii) [the original sub-paragraph (d)(i)(iii)] and the addition of a new sub-paragraph (e)(i)(iii) as follows:-
  - (e)(i)(iii) make every effort to resume the peace process;

5.4 It was then moved by Councillor Penny Baker, and seconded by Councillor Andrew Sangar, 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 new paragraphs (a) to (i) as follows:-

- (a) deeply regrets and condemns the tragic loss of civilian life in both the Hamas terrorist attacks on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October and the ensuing bombardment of the Gaza strip by Israel;
- (b) notes that these horrific events have had a huge effect on many Sheffield citizens, in particular those with relatives and friends in the region;
- (c) calls for the immediate release of all Israeli hostages;
- (d) believes that:-
  - (i) any state has a right to protect its citizens from attacks and terror, subject to international law;
  - (ii) there is ultimately no military solution to this conflict;
  - (iii) innocent Palestinians must not pay the price for Hamas atrocities; and
  - (iv) the world has a duty to prevent civilian deaths;
- (e) condemns the decision by Israel to cut off essential supplies of water, food, and electricity, to the 2.2m residents of the Gaza strip;
- (f) condemns all hate crime against Palestinians, Israelis, Jewish or Muslim people;

- (g) welcomes the generous humanitarian fundraising from Sheffield communities over the last few days, in particular fundraising for aid to Gaza;
- (h) affirms its support for a two state solution and a lasting peace, which will allow the people of Israel and Palestine to live free from fear; and
- (i) resolves to call upon the UK Government to call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, in order to facilitate an intense period of diplomacy, bring humanitarian aid into Gaza, and provide an opportunity to seek the immediate release of all Israeli hostages.

5.5 After contributions from eight other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Alexi Dimond, the amendment moved by Councillor Zahira Naz was put to the vote and was carried, but in part. Parts 1 to 5 and 7 to 14 of the amendment were carried, and Part 6 of the amendment was lost.

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

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| For Part 1 of the Amendment (75)    | - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross), the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Richard Shaw, Sophie Thornton, Ian Horner, Kurtis Crossland, Ann Woolhouse, Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Karen McGowan, Angela Argenzio, Maleiki Haybe, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Safiya Saeed, Douglas Johnson, Martin Phipps, Tim Huggan, Minesh Parekh, Ruth Milsom, Mazher Iqbal, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Joe Otten, Robert Reiss, Craig Gamble Pugh, Alan Woodcock, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Fran Belbin, Abdul Khayum, Abtisam Mohamed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Paul Turpin, Ian Auckland, Mohammed Mahroof, Steve Ayris, 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, Dianne Hurst, Dawn Dale, Garry Weatherall, Tony Damms, Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Julie Grocutt, Janet Ridler, Laura McClean, Tom Hunt, Bernard Little, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery, Ann Whitaker, Mick Rooney, Alison Norris and Paul Wood. |
| Against Part 1 of the Amendment (1) | - Councillor Lewis Chinchin.   |

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Abstained from voting on Part 1 of the Amendment (0)                | - None.   |
| For Parts 2, 9, 11 and 14 of the Amendment (62)                     | - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross), the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Richard Shaw, Sophie Thornton, Ian Horner, Kurtis Crossland, Ann Woolhouse, Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Karen McGowan, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Safiya Saeed, Tim Huggan, Minesh Parekh, Ruth Milsom, Mazher Iqbal, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Joe Otten, Robert Reiss, Craig Gamble Pugh, Alan Woodcock, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Fran Belbin, Abdul Khayum, Abtisam Mohamed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Ian Auckland, Mohammed Mahroof, Steve Ayriss, Sioned-Mair Richards, Terry Fox, Laura Moynahan, Tony Downing, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Ibby Ullah, Nighat Basharat, Ben Miskell, Nabeela Mowlana, David Barker, Dianne Hurst, Dawn Dale, Garry Weatherall, Tony Damms, Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Julie Grocutt, Janet Ridler, Laura McClean, Tom Hunt, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery, Ann Whitaker, Mick Rooney, Alison Norris and Paul Wood. |
| Against Parts 2, 9, 11 and 14 of the Amendment (14)                 | - Councillors Angela Argenzio, Maleiki Haybe, Douglas Johnson, Martin Phipps, Alexi Dimond, Marianne Elliot, Paul Turpin, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage, Maroof Raouf, Sophie Wilson, Lewis Chinchin and Bernard Little.   |
| Abstained from voting on Parts 2, 9, 11 and 14 of the Amendment (0) | - None.   |
| For Part 3 and Part 10 (b) (vii) and (ix) of the Amendment (76)     | - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross), the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Richard Shaw, Sophie Thornton, Ian Horner, Kurtis Crossland, Ann Woolhouse, Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Karen McGowan, Angela Argenzio, Maleiki Haybe, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Safiya Saeed, Douglas Johnson, Martin Phipps, Tim Huggan, Minesh Parekh, Ruth Milsom, Mazher Iqbal, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Joe Otten, Robert   |

Reiss, Craig Gamble Pugh, Alan Woodcock, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Fran Belbin, Abdul Khayum, Abtisam Mohamed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Paul Turpin, Ian Auckland, Mohammed Mahroof, Steve Ayris, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage, Sioned-Mair Richards, Terry Fox, Laura Moynahan, Tony Downing, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Ibbly Ullah, Maroof Raouf, Nighat Basharat, Ben Miskell, Nabeela Mowlana, Sophie Wilson, David Barker, Dianne Hurst, Dawn Dale, Garry Weatherall, Tony Damms, Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Lewis Chinchin, Julie Grocutt, Janet Ridler, Laura McClean, Tom Hunt, Bernard Little, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery, Ann Whitaker, Mick Rooney, Alison Norris and Paul Wood.

- Against Part 3 and Part 10 (b) (vii) and (ix) of the Amendment (0) - None.
- Abstained from voting on Part 3 and Part 10 (b) (vii) and (ix) of the Amendment (0) - None.
- For Parts 4 and 7 of the Amendment (75) - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross), the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Richard Shaw, Sophie Thornton, Ian Horner, Kurtis Crossland, Ann Woolhouse, Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Karen McGowan, Angela Argenzio, Maleiki Haybe, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Safiya Saeed, Douglas Johnson, Martin Phipps, Tim Huggan, Minesh Parekh, Ruth Milsom, Mazher Iqbal, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Joe Otten, Robert Reiss, Craig Gamble Pugh, Alan Woodcock, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Fran Belbin, Abdul Khayum, Abtisam Mohamed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Paul Turpin, Ian Auckland, Mohammed Mahroof, Steve Ayris, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage, Sioned-Mair Richards, Terry Fox, Laura Moynahan, Tony Downing, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Ibbly Ullah, Maroof Raouf, Nighat Basharat, Ben Miskell, Nabeela Mowlana, David Barker, Dianne Hurst, Dawn Dale, Garry

Weatherall, Tony Damms, Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Lewis Chinchin, Julie Grocutt, Janet Ridler, Laura McClean, Tom Hunt, Bernard Little, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery, Ann Whitaker, Mick Rooney, Alison Norris and Paul Wood.

- Against Parts 4 and 7 of the Amendment (1) - Councillor Sophie Wilson.
- Abstained from voting on Parts 4 and 7 of the Amendment (0) - None.
- For Parts 5, 8, 12 and 13 of the Amendment (74) - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross), the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Richard Shaw, Sophie Thornton, Ian Horner, Kurtis Crossland, Ann Woolhouse, Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Karen McGowan, Angela Argenzio, Maleiki Haybe, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Safiya Saeed, Douglas Johnson, Martin Phipps, Tim Huggan, Minesh Parekh, Ruth Milsom, Mazher Iqbal, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Joe Otten, Robert Reiss, Craig Gamble Pugh, Alan Woodcock, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Fran Belbin, Abdul Khayum, Abtisam Mohamed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Paul Turpin, Ian Auckland, Mohammed Mahroof, Steve Ayris, 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, David Barker, Dianne Hurst, Dawn Dale, Garry Weatherall, Tony Damms, Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Julie Grocutt, Janet Ridler, Laura McClean, Tom Hunt, Bernard Little, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery, Ann Whitaker, Mick Rooney, Alison Norris and Paul Wood.
- Against Parts 5, 8, 12 and 13 of the Amendment (2) - Councillors Sophie Wilson and Lewis Chinchin.
- Abstained from voting on Parts 5, 8, 12 and 13 of the Amendment (0) - None.

For Part 6 of the  
Amendment (36)

- The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Karen McGowan, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Safiya Saeed, Minesh Parekh, Ruth Milsom, Mazher Iqbal, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Craig Gamble Pugh, Fran Belbin, Abdul Khayum, Abtisam Mohamed, Sioned-Mair Richards, Terry Fox, Laura Moynahan, Tony Downing, Ibby Ullah, Nighat Basharat, Ben Miskell, Nabeela Mowlana, David Barker, Dianne Hurst, Dawn Dale, Garry Weatherall, Tony Damms, Julie Grocutt, Janet Ridler, Laura McClean, Tom Hunt, Mick Rooney, Alison Norris and Paul Wood.

Against Part 6 of the  
Amendment (40)

- The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Richard Shaw, Sophie Thornton, Ian Horner, Kurtis Crossland, Ann Woolhouse, Angela Argenzio, Maleiki Haybe, Douglas Johnson, Martin Phipps, Tim Huggan, Joe Otten, Robert Reiss, Alan Woodcock, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Paul Turpin, Ian Auckland, Mohammed Mahroof, Steve Ayris, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Maroof Raouf, Sophie Wilson, Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Lewis Chinchen, Bernard Little, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery and Ann Whitaker.

Abstained from voting  
on Part 6 of the  
Amendment (0)

- None.

For Part 10 (b) (viii) of  
the Amendment (64)

- The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross), the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Richard Shaw, Sophie Thornton, Ian Horner, Kurtis Crossland, Ann Woolhouse, Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Karen McGowan, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Safiya Saeed, Tim Huggan, Minesh Parekh, Ruth Milsom, Mazher Iqbal, Mary Lea, Zahira Naz, Joe Otten, Robert Reiss, Craig Gamble Pugh, Alan Woodcock, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Fran Belbin, Abdul Khayum, Abtisam Mohamed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Ian Auckland, Mohammed Mahroof, Steve Ayris, Sioned-Mair Richards, Terry Fox, Laura Moynahan, Tony

Downing, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Ibbly Ullah, Nighat Basharat, Ben Miskell, Nabeela Mowlana, Sophie Wilson, David Barker, Dianne Hurst, Dawn Dale, Garry Weatherall, Tony Damms, Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Lewis Chinchin, Julie Grocutt, Janet Ridler, Laura McClean, Tom Hunt, Alan Hooper, Mike Levery, Ann Whitaker, Mick Rooney, Alison Norris and Paul Wood.

Against Part 10 (b) (viii) of the Amendment (12) - Councillors Angela Argenzio, Maleiki Haybe, Douglas Johnson, Martin Phipps, Alexi Dimond, Marieanne Elliot, Paul Turpin, Christine Gilligan Kubo, Toby Mallinson, Henry Nottage, Maroof Raouf and Bernard Little.

Abstained from voting on Part 10 (b) (viii) of the Amendment (0) - None.

5.6 The amendment moved by Councillor Penny Baker was then put to the vote and was carried, on the basis that the content was to be additional paragraphs to the Substantive Motion, not as a 'delete all' of the original Motion.

5.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 62 Members; AGAINST - 13 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted for the amendment, it was on the basis that the content was to be additional paragraphs to the Substantive Motion, not as a 'delete all' of the original Motion. Although Councillor Lewis Chinchin voted for, he abstained on paragraph (i) of the amendment.)

5.7 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) its unanimous vote in September 2019 to recognise Palestine as a sovereign state, the first Council to do so;
- (ii) that East Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Golan Heights and Gaza are illegally occupied by Israel; and that Gaza has been subject to 16 years of blockade;
- (iii) that the Israeli Government has been withholding essential resources from Gaza and what UN Experts have described as "destroying or damaging homes, hospitals, markets and UN Reliefs and Works Agency (UNRWA)" and that Amnesty International has



- “documented unlawful Israeli attacks, including indiscriminate attacks, which caused mass civilian casualties and must be investigated as war crimes”;
- (iv) Save The Children have highlighted that the number of children reported killed in Gaza in the last three weeks has surpassed the annual number of children killed across the world's conflict zones since 2019;
  - (v) that under Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, genocide is defined as certain acts “committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group” and that, under Article I, the UK has confirmed that genocide is a crime under international law which it undertakes to prevent and to punish;
  - (vi) the UK, at the UN Security Council on 18 October 2023, refused to vote for “humanitarian pauses” to deliver lifesaving aid to millions in Gaza; and
  - (vii) Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, B'tselem and the South African government recognise that the Israeli Government is enacting a system of apartheid;
- (b) deeply regrets and condemns the tragic loss of civilian life in both the Hamas terrorist attacks on the 7th of October and the ensuing bombardment of the Gaza strip by Israel;
- (c) notes that these horrific events have had a huge effect on many Sheffield citizens, in particular those with relatives and friends in the region;
- (d) calls for the immediate release of all Israeli hostages;
- (e) believes:-
- (i) there can be no justification for the loss of innocent lives, and all atrocities committed against civilians must be condemned and investigated;
  - (ii) that Hamas' appalling murder of civilians in Israel must be unequivocally condemned, and we continue to call for the safe release of all hostages;
  - (iii) that the Israeli Government's indiscriminate killing of Palestinian civilians must be unequivocally condemned;
  - (iv) all forms of racism, including anti-Palestinian racism, antisemitism and Islamophobia have no place in our city and condemns any attacks on Palestinian, Jewish or Muslim people;

- (v) Sir Keir Starmer was wrong to say, in an interview with LBC radio, that Israel “does have that right” to withhold food, water and electricity from Gaza, and he should apologise and retract this statement supporting collective punishment;
- (vi) we must not allow these tragic events to divide our communities at home, and we understand and feel the pain of all people in Sheffield, especially the Muslim, Jewish and Christian communities;
- (vii) all political leaders have a responsibility to try to prevent genocide;
- (viii) all UK political leaders must call upon the Israeli Government to ensure enough food, water, medicine and electricity is provided to Gaza, that there must be clear humanitarian corridors, and that all actors must follow and be held accountable under international law;
- (ix) every effort must be made by the international community to make a two-state solution a reality, which requires a commitment to a formal peace process, an end to the occupation and for all parties to follow international law, in order to bring peace to the region;
- (x) that where Palestinians are forced to flee, they must not be permanently displaced from their homes, and calls on the UK Government to use all available pressure to ensure this;
- (xi) any state has a right to protect its citizens from attacks and terror, subject to international law;
- (xii) there is ultimately no military solution to this conflict;
- (xiii) innocent Palestinians must not pay the price for Hamas atrocities;  
and
- (xiv) the world has a duty to prevent civilian deaths;
- (f) regrets any hurt caused by flying the Israeli flag from the Town Hall, and calls for a review of the Council’s flag-flying protocol;
- (g) regrets the UK Government’s abstention at the UN against supporting a sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities;
- (h) condemns the decision by Israel to cut off essential supplies of water, food, and electricity, to the 2.2m residents of the Gaza strip;
- (i) condemns all hate crime against Palestinians, Israelis, Jewish or Muslim people;

- (j) welcomes the generous humanitarian fundraising from Sheffield communities over the last few days, in particular fundraising for aid to Gaza;
- (k) affirms its support for a two state solution and a lasting peace, which will allow the people of Israel and Palestine to live free from fear; and
- (l) therefore resolves to:-
  - (i) call upon the UK Government to:-
    - (A) call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, in order to facilitate an intense period of diplomacy, bring humanitarian aid into Gaza, and provide an opportunity to seek the immediate release of all Israeli hostages;
    - (B) call for an immediate ceasefire and to vote for this at the UN;
    - (C) cease all arms sales to Israel and end military aid for Israel; and
    - (D) make every effort to resume the peace process;
  - (ii) request that the Chief Executive submits this Motion to the UK Government; and
  - (iii) request that the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee consider whether the Council should join the Sheffield Coalition Against Israeli Apartheid.

5.7.1 (NOTE: 1. The result of the vote was FOR - 75 Members; AGAINST - 1 Member; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they voted against sub-paragraph (e)(v) of the Substantive Motion. Although Green Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraphs (b) to (d), sub-paragraphs (e)(ix) and (xi) to (xiv), paragraphs (f) and (h) to (k) and sub-paragraphs (l)(i)(A) and (D) of the Substantive Motion. Although Sheffield Community Councillors Group Members voted for, they voted against sub-paragraph (l)(iii) of the Substantive Motion. Although Councillor Lewis Chinchon voted against, he voted for paragraphs (b) to (e) and (h) to (k) of the Substantive Motion and abstained from voting on paragraph (l)(i)(A) of the Substantive Motion. Although Councillor Sophie Wilson voted for, she voted against paragraphs (b) to (d), sub-paragraphs (e)(ii), (iii), (vi) and (xi) to (xiv), paragraphs (f) to (k), and sub-paragraphs (l)(i)(A) and (D) of the Substantive Motion.)

2. The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross) used his discretion, as chair of the meeting, to permit several Members to speak on the debate, beyond the standard 25-minute time limit allocated for the item of business.)

## **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 Councillor Douglas Johnson had given advance notice of three questions relating to the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and Councillor Ian Horner had given advance notice of two questions relating to the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. Their questions concerned moorland burning and bus services, respectively. The advance notice of the questions had enabled Councillor Tony Damms, the Council's Spokesperson on the Fire and Rescue Authority, and Councillor Tom Hunt, the Council's representative on the Mayoral Combined 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 Councillor Damms stated that although the document circulated at the meeting indicated that a written answer will be provided, he had now provided an answer to Councillor Johnson and would ensure that the answer would be published on the Council's website. He added that the Chief Fire Officer had confirmed that there was no legal requirement for the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority to be consulted in relation to any planned moorland burning. Councillor Johnson thanked Councillor Damms for the answers which he had provided to him and for his years of service on the Fire and Rescue Authority, including in the role as the Council's Spokesperson. He added that the answer from the Chief Fire Officer had confirmed that the Service had not been consulted about moorland burning and he stated that the relevance of this was the extent to which land managers were complying with the code of good practice when burning areas of moorland.

6.2.3 Councillor Ian Horner, as a supplementary question, asked whether the additional funds for public transport which had recently been provided by the Government would be used to reverse the recent cuts made to local bus services. In response, Councillor Tom Hunt stated that whilst he welcomed the additional funding recently provided by the Government for public transport in the region, this was in the context of many years of government underfunding for those services. He added that it would be for the Mayoral Combined Authority to consider how best to utilise the additional funding received for public transport in the region.

6.2.4 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.

**7. REVIEW OF THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

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

- (a) notes the information set out in the report of the Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement on the review of the allocation of seats on the Council's Committees following the recent change to the composition of the Council;
- (b) notes the initial allocation, before final adjustment, of seats to political groups on the individual committees which are subject to proportional balance, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, and which is based on the committees (and their sizes) which were approved at the annual meeting of the Council on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 for operation in the Municipal Year 2023-24;
- (c) gives approval for (i) the size of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to be increased from 11 seats to 13 seats in order to ensure that sufficient seats are available for all Policy Committee Chairs, the Finance Committee Chair and the Deputy Leader of the Council, whilst maintaining political proportionality; this being in accordance with the view expressed by the Governance Committee in its report on the 6 month review of the Council's governance arrangements, submitted to the annual meeting of the Council on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023, which stated that the Deputy Leader should sit on Strategy and Resources Policy Committee and, should the Deputy Leader not be a Policy Committee Chair, their appointment should be facilitated through existing mechanisms around appointments to ensure political proportionality and (ii) the size of the Governance Committee to be reduced from 11 seats to 9 seats to retain the existing 180 seats in total across all the Council's Committees that are subject to political proportionality;
- (d) in order to (i) satisfy the requirement to ensure that the total number of seats on the ordinary committees of the Council are allocated to each political group in the same proportion as the group's membership of the Council and (ii) accommodate a request made by Councillor Lewis Chinchen to move from membership of the Licensing Committee to membership of the Audit and Standards Committee, gives approval to the

final adjustments of seats as shown in the schedule circulated at the meeting;

- (e) (i) approves the appointment of Members to Council Committees for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2023-24 to reflect the arrangements now agreed and the wishes of the political groups, in accordance with the list of proposed memberships circulated at the meeting, and including substitutes where appropriate, (ii) for the purposes of Council Procedure Rule 25.6, gives the consent of the Council in any case where a Member chooses not to be appointed to serve on any Policy or Regulatory Committee and (iii) notes that, where changes are to be made to the composition or membership of sub-committees of Policy Committees, these will need to be formally approved at the next meeting of their parent Policy Committee;
- (f) appoints Councillor Glynis Chapman to serve as Joint Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee, in place of Councillor Mike Chaplin, for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2023/24;
- (g) appoints Councillor Marianne Elliot to serve as Deputy Chair of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee, in place of Councillor Janet Ridler, for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2023/24, and it be noted that Councillor Janet Ridler will act as the Spokesperson for the Labour Group on that Committee;
- (h) appoints Councillor Fran Belbin to serve as Deputy Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2023/24, in view of the fact that the current Deputy Chair (Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards) is no longer a member of the Committee;
- (i) notes that, as respects the appointment of Members to serve on Council Committees, where vacancies exist or in cases of urgency to ensure quoracy or representation, the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the relevant political group whip, has the authority to appoint Members to serve on such Committees, as necessary, on the understanding that details of such appointments will be reported to the next or subsequent meetings of the Council; and
- (j) in light of the change to the composition of the Council, approves a change to the order in which Notices of Motion shall be listed on the Council Summons for the remainder of the 2023/24 Municipal Year, as set out below and which entitles the new Sheffield Community Councillors Group to submit a Notice of Motion during the year -

Current Order:

**November – Green / Labour / LibDem / Labour**

**December – LibDem / Labour / LibDem / Other (Ind)**

**February 2024 – Labour / LibDem / Green / Labour**

Revised Order:

**November – Green / Labour / LibDem / Labour**

**December – LibDem / Labour / LibDem / Other (Ind)**

**February 2024 – Labour / LibDem / Green / Sheffield Community  
Councillors**

<b>Schedule to item 7</b>														
<b>Initial Allocation Of Committee Seats (180 seats amended – S&amp;R x13 seats; Governance x9 seats)</b>														
Arrows show which seats per committee have been reallocated between Groups in order to meet the primary requirement for overall proportionality														
Group name -->		Labour		Liberal Democrat		Green		Lewis Chinchon (Con)		Sophie Wilson (Ind)		Sheffield Community Councillors		TOTAL
Seats on Council -->		31		29		14		1		1		8		84
Total entitlement to seats on politically proportionate committees	180	67		62		30		2		2		17		0
Overall allocation of seats on politically proportionate committees	180		67		62		30		2		2		17	0
Cttee name	Cttee size	exact entitlement on committee	proposed allocation on committee	exact entitlement on committee	proposed allocation on committee	exact entitlement on committee	proposed allocation on committee	exact entitlement on committee	proposed allocation on committee	exact entitlement on committee	proposed allocation on committee	exact entitlement on committee	proposed allocation on committee	Variation between number of seats available and number of seats allocated
Strategy & Resources Policy Committee	13	4.80	5	4.49	5	2.17	2	0.15	0	0.15	0	1.24	1	0
Adult Health & Social Care Policy Committee	9	3.32	3	3.11	3	1.50	2	0.11	0	0.11	0	0.86	1	0
Communities Parks & Leisure Policy Committee	9	3.32	3	3.11	3	1.50	2	0.11	0	0.11	0	0.86	1	0
Education, Children & Families Policy Committee	9	3.32	3	3.11	3	1.50	2	0.11	0	0.11	0	0.86	1	0
Economic Development & Skills Policy Committee	9	3.32	3	3.11	3	1.50	2	0.11	0	0.11	0	0.86	1	0
Housing Policy Committee	9	3.32	3	3.11	3	1.50	2	0.11	0	0.11	0	0.86	1	0
Transport, Regeneration & Climate Policy Committee	9	3.32	3	3.11	3	1.50	2	0.11	0	0.11	0	0.86	1	0
Waste & Streetscene Policy Committee	9	3.32	3	3.11	3	1.50	2	0.11	0	0.11	0	0.86	1	0
Finance Committee	9	3.32	3	3.11	3	1.50	2	0.11	0	0.11	0	0.86	1	0
Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee	9	3.32	↑4	3.11	3	1.50	↓1	0.11	0	0.11	0	0.86	1	0
Charity Trustee Sub-Committee	5	1.85	2	1.73	2	0.83	1	0.06	0	0.06	0	0.48	0	0
Planning & Highways Committee	13	4.80	5	4.49	5	2.17	↓1	0.15	0	0.15	↑1	1.24	1	0
Licensing Committee	15	5.54	6	5.18	↑6	2.50	↓2	0.18	0	0.18	0	1.43	1	0
Audit & Standards Cttee	7	2.58	↓2	2.42	2	1.17	1	0.08	↑1	0.08	0	0.67	1	0
Governance Committee	9	3.32	↑4	3.11	3	1.50	↓1	0.11	0	0.11	0	0.86	1	0
Admissions Cttee	7	2.58	3	2.42	2	1.17	1	0.08	0	0.08	0	0.67	1	0
Senior Officer Employment Cttee	15	5.54	6	5.18	5	2.50	↓2	0.18	0	0.18	↑1	1.43	1	0
Appeals and Collective Disputes Cttee	15	5.54	6	5.18	5	2.50	↓2	0.18	↑1	0.18	0	1.43	1	0
Variance between rounded overall entitlement to seats and overall allocations of seats	0													0

Total entitlement to seats on politically proportionate committees - After rounding, Labour has largest part entitlement (of 0.43) to the final seat.



**MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES 2023/24  
(From 1 November 2023)**

<b>POLICY COMMITTEES</b>					
<b>Title/Post</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Sheffield Community Councillors</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Strategy &amp; Resources Policy Committee</b> 13 seats Split 5 : 5 : 2 : 1 : 0  (Chairs of Policy Committees plus sufficient other Members to achieve proportionality)	Cllr Fran Belbin (Deputy Chair) Cllr Dawn Dale Cllr Tom Hunt (Chair) Cllr Ben Miskell Cllr Zahira Naz	Cllr Penny Baker Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed (Spokesperson) Cllr Joe Otten Cllr Martin Smith Cllr Richard Williams	Cllr Angela Argenzio Cllr Douglas Johnson (Spokesperson)	Cllr Dianne Hurst	
<b>Named Substitutes</b>	Cllr David Barker Cllr Mark Jones Cllr Minesh Parekh	Cllr Mike Levery Cllr Mohammed Mahroof Cllr Andrew Sangar	Vacancy x 3	Cllr Terry Fox Vacancy x 2	

<b>Charity Trustee Sub-Committee</b> 5 seats Split 2 : 2 : 1 : 0 : 0	Cllr Fran Belbin Cllr Zahira Naz (Deputy Chair)	Cllr Richard Williams Cllr Ian Auckland (Chair)	Cllr Douglas Johnson (Spokesperson)		
<b>Named Substitutes</b>	Cllr Mary Lea Cllr Janet Ridler	Cllr Steve Ayris Cllr Mohammed Mahroof	Cllr Angela Argenzio Vacancy x 1		

*(NB. Any changes made to the composition and membership of the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee will need to be formally approved at the next meeting of its parent Policy Committee.)*

<b>Finance Committee</b> 9 seats Split 3 : 3 : 2 : 1 : 0	Cllr Mary Lea Cllr Zahira Naz (Chair) Cllr Ibbby Ullah	Cllr Glynis Chapman Cllr Mike Levery (Deputy Chair)	Cllr Marieanne Elliot Cllr Toby Mallinson (Spokesperson)	Cllr Bryan Lodge	
--	--	--	---	------------------	--

		Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed			
<b>Named Substitutes</b>	Cllr Laura McClean Cllr Minesh Parekh Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards	Cllr Joe Otten Cllr Andrew Sangar Cllr Martin Smith	Cllr Douglas Johnson Cllr Martin Phipps Vacancy x 1	Cllr Paul Wood Vacancy x2	

<b>Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee</b> 9 seats Split 3 : 3 : 2 : 1 : 0	Cllr Laura McClean Cllr Ruth Milsom (Spokesperson) Cllr Mick Rooney	Cllr Steve Ayris Cllr Gail Smith Cllr Sophie Thornton (Deputy Chair)	Cllr Angela Argenzio (Chair) Cllr Martin Phipps	Cllr Julie Grocutt	
<b>Named Substitutes</b>	Cllr Jayne Dunn Cllr Mary Lea Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards	Cllr Glynis Chapman Cllr Alan Woodcock Cllr Ann Woolhouse	Cllr Maleiki Haybe Cllr Bernard Little Vacancy x 1	Cllr Tony Damms Vacancy x 2	

<b>Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee</b> 9 seats Split 4 : 3 : 1 : 1 : 0 (membership to comprise councillors from the parent Committee and the Education, Children & Families Policy Committee)	Cllr Nighat Basharat Cllr Laura McClean Cllr Ruth Milsom (Chair) Cllr Mick Rooney	Cllr Steve Ayris (Deputy Chair) Cllr Sophie Thornton Cllr Ann Whitaker	Cllr Martin Phipps (Spokesperson)	Cllr Dianne Hurst	
<b>Named Substitutes</b>	Cllr Dawn Dale Cllr Jayne Dunn Cllr Mary Lea	Vacancy x 3	Cllr Angela Argenzio Cllr Maleiki Haybe Vacancy x 1	Cllr Julie Grocutt Vacancy x 2	

*(NB. The changes made to the composition and membership of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee will need to be formally approved at the next meeting of its parent Policy Committee.)*

<p><b>Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee</b> 9 seats Split 3 : 3 : 2 : 1 : 0</p>	<p>Cllr Tony Downing Cllr Karen McGowan Cllr Janet Ridler (Spokesperson)</p>	<p>Cllr Alan Hooper Cllr Robert Reiss Cllr Richard Williams (Chair)</p>	<p>Cllr Marieanne Elliot (Deputy Chair) Cllr Bernard Little</p>	<p>Cllr Garry Weatherall</p>	
<p><b>Named Substitutes</b></p>	<p>Cllr Laura McClean Cllr Abtisam Mohamed Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards</p>	<p>Cllr Sue Alston Cllr Mohammed Mahroof Cllr Barbara Masters</p>	<p>Cllr Brian Holmshaw Cllr Christine Gilligan Cllr Kubo Cllr Ruth Mersereau</p>	<p>Cllr Paul Wood Vacancy x 2</p>	

<p><b>Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee</b> 9 seats Split 3 : 3 : 2 : 1 : 0</p>	<p>Cllr Abdul Khayum Cllr Laura Moynahan Cllr Minesh Parekh (Deputy Chair)</p>	<p>Cllr Kurtis Crossland Cllr Barbara Masters Cllr Martin Smith (Chair)</p>	<p>Cllr Henry Nottage (Spokesperson) Cllr Brian Holmshaw</p>	<p>Cllr Terry Fox</p>	
<p><b>Named Substitutes</b></p>	<p>Cllr Safiya Saeed Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards Cllr Ibby Ullah</p>	<p>Cllr Simon Clement-Jones Cllr Mohammed Mahroof Cllr Robert Reiss</p>	<p>Cllr Bernard Little Cllr Martin Phipps Vacancy x 1</p>	<p>Cllr Julie Grocutt Vacancy x 2</p>	

<p><b>Education, Children and Families Policy Committee</b> 9 seats Split 3 : 3 : 2 : 1 : 0 (Chair is also the Statutory Lead Member for Children's Services)</p>	<p>Cllr Nighat Basharat Cllr Dawn Dale (Chair) Cllr Jayne Dunn</p>	<p>Cllr Ian Horner Cllr Mohammed Mahroof (Spokesperson) Cllr Ann Whitaker</p>	<p>Cllr Maleiki Haybe Cllr Maroof Raouf (Deputy Chair)</p>	<p>Cllr Dianne Hurst</p>	
<p><b>Named Substitutes</b></p>	<p>Cllr Mike Drabble Cllr Mazher Iqbal</p>	<p>Cllr Sue Alston Cllr Gail Smith</p>	<p>Cllr Marieanne Elliot Cllr Paul Turpin</p>	<p>Cllr Julie Grocutt Vacancy x 2</p>	

	Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards	Cllr Ann Woolhouse	Vacancy x1		
<b>Housing Policy Committee</b> 9 seats Split 3 : 3 : 2 : 1 : 0	Cllr Mazher Iqbal Cllr Nabeela Mowlana (Spokesperson) Cllr Alison Norris	Cllr Penny Baker (Deputy Chair) Cllr Barbara Masters Cllr Alan Woodcock	Cllr Paul Turpin Cllr Douglas Johnson (Chair)	Cllr Paul Wood	
<b>Named Substitutes</b>	Cllr Fran Belbin Cllr Mike Chaplin Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards	Cllr Kurtis Crossland Cllr Robert Reiss Cllr Sophie Thornton	Cllr Alexi Dimond Cllr Marieanne Elliot Cllr Christine Gilligan Kubo	Cllr Terry Fox Vacancy x 2	
<b>Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee</b> 9 seats Split 3 : 3 : 2 : 1 : 0	Cllr Craig Gamble Pugh Cllr Ben Miskell (Chair) Cllr Safiya Saeed	Cllr Ian Auckland Cllr Andrew Sangar (Spokesperson) Cllr Richard Shaw	Cllr Christine Gilligan Kubo (Deputy Chair) Cllr Ruth Mersereau	Cllr Denise Fox	
<b>Named Substitutes</b>	Cllr Mike Chaplin Cllr Minesh Parekh Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards	Cllr Kurtis Crossland Cllr Barbara Masters Cllr Cliff Woodcraft	Cllr Alexi Dimond Cllr Maroof Raouf Cllr Paul Turpin	Cllr Dianne Hurst Vacancy x 2	
<b>Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee</b> 9 seats Split 3 : 3 : 2 : 1 : 0	Cllr Mike Chaplin Cllr Mark Jones (Deputy Chair) Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards	Cllr Sue Alston Cllr Tim Huggan Cllr Joe Otten (Chair)	Cllr Alexi Dimond (Spokesperson) Cllr Christine Gilligan Kubo	Cllr Tony Damms	

<b>Named Substitutes</b>	Cllr Craig Gamble Pugh Cllr Talib Hussain Cllr Laura Moynahan	Cllr Ian Horner Cllr Barbara Masters Cllr Cliff Woodcraft	Cllr Ruth Mersereau Cllr Henry Nottage Cllr Maroof Raouf	Cllr Garry Weatherall Vacancy x 2	
--------------------------	--	---	--	--------------------------------------	--

<b>STATUTORY/REGULATORY COMMITTEES</b>					
<b>Title/Post</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Sheffield Community Councillors</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Planning and Highways Committee</b> 13 seats Split 5 : 5 : 1 : 1 : 1	Cllr Mike Chaplin Cllr Tony Downing Cllr Laura Moynahan Cllr Peter Price Cllr Ibbly Ullah	Cllr Glynis Chapman (Joint Chair) Cllr Roger Davison Cllr Barbara Masters Cllr Alan Woodcock (Joint Chair) Cllr Cliff Woodcraft	Cllr Bernard Little	Cllr Garry Weatherall	Cllr Sophie Wilson
<b>Planning and Highways Committee Substitute Members</b>	Cllr Mike Drabble Cllr Jayne Dunn Cllr Alison Norris	Cllr Ian Auckland Cllr Tim Huggan Cllr Joe Otten Cllr Andrew Sangar Cllr Richard Williams	Cllr Christine Gilligan Kubo Cllr Douglas Johnson Cllr Henry Nottage	Cllr Tony Damms Cllr Dianne Hurst Vacancy x 1	

<b>Licensing Committee</b> 15 seats Split 6 : 6 : 2 : 1 : 0	Cllr David Barker (Joint Chair) Cllr Talib Hussain Cllr Abdul Khayum (Joint Chair) Cllr Karen McGowan Cllr Nabeela Mowlana	Cllr Kurtis Crossland Cllr Roger Davison Cllr Ian Horner Cllr Joe Otten Cllr Cliff Woodcraft Cllr Ann Woolhouse	Cllr Henry Nottage Cllr Maroof Raouf	Vacancy x 1	
---	--	--	---	-------------	--

	Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards				
--	---------------------------	--	--	--	--

<b>Governance Committee</b> 9 seats Split 4 : 3 : 1 : 1 : 0	Cllr Fran Belbin (Chair) Cllr Laura Moynahan Cllr Minesh Parekh Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards	Cllr Sue Alston (Deputy Chair) Cllr Simon Clement-Jones Cllr Mike Levery	Cllr Paul Turpin	Cllr Garry Weatherall	
<b>Governance Committee Substitute Members</b>	Cllr Dawn Dale Cllr Craig Gamble Pugh Cllr Ruth Milsom Cllr Alison Norris	Cllr Andrew Sangar Cllr Joe Otten	Cllr Douglas Johnson Vacancy x 1	Cllr Dianne Hurst Vacancy x 1	

<b>Audit and Standards Committee</b> 7 seats Split 2 : 2 : 1 : 1 : 1	Cllr Fran Belbin (Deputy Chair) Cllr Laura McClean	Cllr Simon Clement-Jones Cllr Mohammed Mahroof (Chair)	Cllr Henry Nottage	Cllr Bryan Lodge	Cllr Lewis Chinchen
--	---	---	--------------------	------------------	---------------------

<b>Admissions Committee</b> 7 seats Split 3 : 2 : 1 : 1 : 0 (Substitute Members to be appointed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair or Spokesperson of the relevant Policy Committee, as appropriate)	Cllr Talib Hussain Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards Cllr Safiya Saeed (Deputy Chair)	Cllr Ann Whitaker Cllr Ann Woolhouse	Cllr Maleiki Haybe (Chair)	Cllr Denise Fox	
--	---	---	----------------------------	-----------------	--

<b>Senior Officer Employment Committee</b> 15 seats Split 6 : 5 : 2 : 1 : 1	Cllr Fran Belbin Cllr Dawn Dale Cllr Tom Hunt (Deputy Chair) Cllr Ben Miskell (Chair) Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards Cllr Zahira Naz	Cllr Penny Baker Cllr Mike Levery Cllr Mohammed Mahroof Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed Cllr Andrew Sangar	Cllr Douglas Johnson Vacancy x 1	Cllr Paul Wood	Cllr Sophie Wilson
<b>Appeals and Collective Disputes Committee</b> 15 seats Split 6 : 5 : 2 : 1 : 1	Cllr David Barker Cllr Mazher Iqbal Cllr Karen McGowan Cllr Laura Moynahan Cllr Zahira Naz (Chair) Cllr Peter Price	Cllr Alan Hooper Cllr Ian Horner Cllr Tim Huggan Cllr Gail Smith Cllr Ann Woolhouse	Cllr Marieanne Elliot Cllr Maroof Raouf	Cllr Denise Fox	Cllr Lewis Chinchen

7.2 (NOTE: The above appointments incorporate the addition to the schedule of appointments circulated to the meeting, which was reported to the meeting by Councillor Joe Otten and which was to appoint Councillor Mohammed Mahroof as a substitute member of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee.)

**8. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS FOR CARE EXPERIENCED PEOPLE" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR DAWN DALE AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR JAYNE DUNN**

8.1 It was moved by Councillor Dawn Dale, and seconded by Councillor Jayne Dunn, that this Council:-

- (a) notes the campaign to make care experience a protected characteristic and the drive to extend Corporate Parenting beyond Children's Social Care;
- (b) notes the Council has:-

- (i) developed a Voice and Influence Team which employs a group of Care Experienced Young People to deliver a range of consultation, training, and scrutiny activities to ensure the voice of Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People are central to service development and decision making;
  - (ii) a “Staying Close” project to enable Care Leavers to enjoy enhanced support to independence;
  - (iii) continued to support friendships and tackle loneliness with a programme of free activities and events;
  - (iv) implemented a new Pathway Plan snapshot document; this enables Care Leavers to clearly see their agreed plan as they transition to independence;
  - (v) developed a range of work experience, training and apprenticeship offers for Care Experienced young people; and
  - (vi) provided a full Tenancy Ready Programme to prepare Care Experienced young people for managing their own accommodation and award priority status to Care Leavers;
- (c) believes:-
- (i) that despite the resilience of Care Experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account;
  - (ii) Care Experienced people often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system;
  - (iii) as corporate parent, the Council has a responsibility to provide the best possible care and safeguard children who are looked after by us as an Authority;
  - (iv) Councillors should be champions of our looked after children and young people and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exist; and
  - (v) the Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation of people with protected characteristics; and
- (d) therefore resolves to request that the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee, as part of the forthcoming Equalities Framework, consider:-
- (i) introducing a requirement that, when making any policy decisions, the Council recognises Care Experienced people are a vulnerable group who face discrimination;



- (ii) treating care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic so that future services and policies consider care experience through Equality Impact Assessments;
- (iii) putting the needs of vulnerable people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration; and
- (iv) calling upon all other bodies to adopt corporate parenting for children in care and care experienced people until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.

8.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Sue Alston, and formally seconded by Councillor Mohammed Mahroof, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new sub-paragraphs (d)(v) to (vii) as follows:-

(d)(v) formally supporting the LGA's Step Ahead campaign;

(vi) continuing to build on the existing ringfenced apprenticeship opportunities for care experienced people by committing to an agreed number of apprenticeships places each year delivered through the Council's levy funding; and

(vii) taking an intersectional approach and commit to tackling the systemic discrimination and disproportionality faced by specific groups of care experienced people.

8.3 It was then formally moved by Councillor Angela Argenzio, and formally seconded by Councillor Douglas Johnson, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraph (c)(v) and the addition of a new paragraph (c)(v), in line with Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, so that it reads as follows:-

(c)(v) the Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to have due regard to the need to:-

- (A) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (B) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (C) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

2. the substitution, in sub-paragraph (d)(iv), of the words "calling upon other bodies to support the Council in its Corporate Parenting responsibility" for the words "calling upon other bodies to adopt corporate parenting"; and

3. the addition of new sub-paragraphs (d)(v) to (vii) as follows:-
- (v) the impact on people with other protected characteristics such as race, sexual orientation or disability, as well as issues of intersectional or multiple discrimination;
  - (vi) the scope for a trial scheme for a basic income pilot for care leavers, as piloted by the Welsh Government; and
  - (vii) requesting the Government to ensure full funding that is needed to meet all the recommendations of the independent review of children's social care by Josh MacAlister.
- 8.4 The amendment moved by Councillor Sue Alston was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.
- 8.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Angela Argenzio was then put to the vote and was also carried unanimously.
- 8.6 The original Motion, as amended, was then put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and was carried unanimously:-

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That this Council:-

- (a) notes the campaign to make care experience a protected characteristic and the drive to extend Corporate Parenting beyond Children's Social Care;
- (b) notes the Council has:-
  - (i) developed a Voice and Influence Team which employs a group of Care Experienced Young People to deliver a range of consultation, training, and scrutiny activities to ensure the voice of Children in Care and Care Experienced Young People are central to service development and decision making;
  - (ii) a "Staying Close" project to enable Care Leavers to enjoy enhanced support to independence;
  - (iii) continued to support friendships and tackle loneliness with a programme of free activities and events;
  - (iv) implemented a new Pathway Plan snapshot document; this enables Care Leavers to clearly see their agreed plan as they transition to independence;
  - (v) developed a range of work experience, training and apprenticeship offers for Care Experienced young people; and

- (vi) provided a full Tenancy Ready Programme to prepare Care Experienced young people for managing their own accommodation and award priority status to Care Leavers;
- (c) believes:-
  - (i) that despite the resilience of Care Experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account;
  - (ii) Care Experienced people often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system;
  - (iii) as corporate parent, the Council has a responsibility to provide the best possible care and safeguard children who are looked after by us as an Authority;
  - (iv) Councillors should be champions of our looked after children and young people and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exist; and
  - (v) the Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to have due regard to the need to:-
    - (A) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
    - (B) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
    - (C) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (d) therefore resolves to request that the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee, as part of the forthcoming Equalities Framework, consider:-
  - (i) introducing a requirement that, when making any policy decisions, the Council recognises Care Experienced people are a vulnerable group who face discrimination;
  - (ii) treating care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic so that future services and policies consider care experience through Equality Impact Assessments;
  - (iii) putting the needs of vulnerable people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration;

- (iv) calling upon other bodies to support the Council in its Corporate Parenting responsibility for children in care and care experienced people until such time as it may be introduced by legislation;
- (v) formally supporting the LGA's Step Ahead campaign;
- (vi) continuing to build on the existing ringfenced apprenticeship opportunities for care experienced people by committing to an agreed number of apprenticeships places each year delivered through the Council's levy funding;
- (vii) taking an intersectional approach and commit to tackling the systemic discrimination and disproportionality faced by specific groups of care experienced people;
- (viii) the impact on people with other protected characteristics such as race, sexual orientation or disability, as well as issues of intersectional or multiple discrimination;
- (ix) the scope for a trial scheme for a basic income pilot for care leavers, as piloted by the Welsh Government; and
- (x) requesting the Government to ensure full funding that is needed to meet all the recommendations of the independent review of children's social care by Josh MacAlister.

**9. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "REGULATING THE SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION SECTOR" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR PENNY BAKER AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR SOPHIE THORNTON**

9.1 It was formally moved by Councillor Penny Baker, and formally seconded by Councillor Barbara Masters, that this Council:-

- (a) notes with alarm the significant projected overspend of £8.4m due to a shortfall in DWP subsidy for our Housing Benefit bill, which has increased rapidly, and specifically:-
  - (i) notes that £4.9m of this overspend is due to increased Council homeless placements in B&B's and hotels, and reaffirms its support for increasing social housing stock, work on void performance, and working with partner organisations to expand available housing to relieve homelessness; and
  - (ii) notes that £3.5m of this overspend is due to increased numbers of people using exempt Supported Accommodation (SA), which is not commissioned by the Council or regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH), and notes that £2.6m of the overspend

within supported accommodation is due to placements by a single provider, which has reportedly provided just one hour of support to residents per fortnight;

- (b) notes that:-
  - (i) serious concerns have been raised around the quality of support provided in the unregulated Exempt SA sector, with a Select Committee report stating that *“in the worst instances the system involves the exploitation of vulnerable people who should be receiving support, while unscrupulous providers make excessive profits by capitalising on loopholes [...] all paid for by taxpayers through housing benefit”*; and
  - (ii) despite limited information due to a nationwide lack of regulation, similar concerns have been raised within Sheffield, with one former provider perpetrating *“institutional financial abuse of residents”*, and one large currently operating provider prosecuted for providing *“unsafe and unsatisfactory accommodation”*;
- (c) believes that quality SA is necessary to support residents and relieve the crisis in homeless provision, however, believes that low quality supported accommodation is seriously harmful to vulnerable people and detrimental to the Council’s finances;
- (d) notes incoming new Local Authority powers from the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act (subject to consultation), including:-
  - (i) an obligation to develop a SA strategy; and
  - (ii) a potential discretionary power to introduce a licensing scheme for exempt SA; and
- (e) therefore, resolves to ask the Housing Policy Committee to:-
  - (i) engage with Government consultation and consider supporting the introduction of a SA licensing scheme in Sheffield;
  - (ii) consider investigating whether the largest exempt accommodation providers are providing quality support for vulnerable people, and value for money for Sheffield taxpayers;
  - (iii) consider whether to introduce a policy to require future tendered services to avoid referring into non-registered exempt supported accommodation where possible; and
  - (iv) consider writing to the Government requesting reform to Housing Benefit subsidy regulations to remove this financial burden.

9.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Nabeela Mowlana, and formally seconded by Councillor Fran Belbin, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (a)(iii) as follows:-
  - (a)(iii) notes that the need for the regulation of the Supported Accommodation sector was identified in 2020 by Steve McCabe MP who highlighted concerns about the growing number of exempt accommodation providers housing vulnerable people without any expertise or experience and so launched the Supported Accommodation Bill to legislate for proper checks on the support provided by these registered providers, a fit and proper check on potential landlords and the standard of accommodation to ensure all tenants are safe and receive appropriate support;
2. the addition of a new paragraph (c) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraphs (c) to (e) as new paragraphs (d) to (f):-
  - (c)(i) notes that the Local Government Association (LGA) wants to see a locally-led fully funded oversight and enforcement regime for exempt accommodation within a strengthened national regulatory framework, stating that this should include a requirement for all exempt accommodation providers to be Registered Providers, and ensure that councils' responses can be tailored to the challenges they face and the contexts of local housing markets and demand; and
  - (ii) further notes that the LGA has highlighted that most councils' concerns about non-commissioned exempt accommodation could also be addressed by establishing council control over all referrals into exempt accommodation supported housing in their area;

9.3 It was then formally moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson, and formally seconded by Councillor Bernard Little, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the substitution, in paragraph (c), of the words "good quality SA" for the words "quality SA";
2. the addition of new paragraphs (d) to (f) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraphs (d) and (e) as new paragraphs (g) and (h):-
  - (d) notes the loss of 32,245 Council homes through Right to Buy and believes the transfer of so many homes from the public sector to private landlords through the consequences of this policy is one of the drivers of the current record levels of homelessness and use of temporary accommodation;

- (e) believes that this Council is currently doing what it can to increase the amount of social housing, despite all parties having to face the reality of inflation in the construction sector and the consequent reduction in the expected number of new homes that can be built;
  - (f) believes that not everyone gets the same chance in housing and recognises that many groups, such as refugees, are more likely to experience homelessness than people who are not refugees and may also experience worse standards when living in temporary accommodation.
- 9.4 The amendment moved by Councillor Nabeela Mowlana was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.
- 9.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson was then put to the vote and was carried.
- 9.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 64 Members; AGAINST - 1 Member; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. Although Labour Group and Sheffield Community Councillors Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraph (e) in Part 2 of the amendment.)
- 9.6 The original Motion, as amended, was then put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes with alarm the significant projected overspend of £8.4m due to a shortfall in DWP subsidy for our Housing Benefit bill, which has increased rapidly, and specifically:-
  - (i) notes that £4.9m of this overspend is due to increased Council homeless placements in B&B's and hotels, and reaffirms its support for increasing social housing stock, work on void performance, and working with partner organisations to expand available housing to relieve homelessness;
  - (ii) notes that £3.5m of this overspend is due to increased numbers of people using exempt Supported Accommodation (SA), which is not commissioned by the Council or regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH), and notes that £2.6m of the overspend within supported accommodation is due to placements by a single provider, which has reportedly provided just one hour of support to residents per fortnight; and
  - (iii) notes that the need for the regulation of the Supported Accommodation sector was identified in 2020 by Steve McCabe MP who highlighted concerns about the growing number of exempt accommodation providers housing vulnerable people without any

expertise or experience and so launched the Supported Accommodation Bill to legislate for proper checks on the support provided by these registered providers, a fit and proper check on potential landlords and the standard of accommodation to ensure all tenants are safe and receive appropriate support;

- (b) notes that:-
  - (i) serious concerns have been raised around the quality of support provided in the unregulated Exempt SA sector, with a Select Committee report stating that *“in the worst instances the system involves the exploitation of vulnerable people who should be receiving support, while unscrupulous providers make excessive profits by capitalising on loopholes [...] all paid for by taxpayers through housing benefit”*; and
  - (ii) despite limited information due to a nationwide lack of regulation, similar concerns have been raised within Sheffield, with one former provider perpetrating *“institutional financial abuse of residents”*, and one large currently operating provider prosecuted for providing *“unsafe and unsatisfactory accommodation”*;
- (c) (i) notes that the Local Government Association (LGA) wants to see a locally-led fully funded oversight and enforcement regime for exempt accommodation within a strengthened national regulatory framework, stating that this should include a requirement for all exempt accommodation providers to be Registered Providers, and ensure that councils’ responses can be tailored to the challenges they face and the contexts of local housing markets and demand; and
- (c) (ii) further notes that the LGA has highlighted that most councils’ concerns about non-commissioned exempt accommodation could also be addressed by establishing council control over all referrals into exempt accommodation supported housing in their area;
- (d) believes that good quality SA is necessary to support residents and relieve the crisis in homeless provision, however, believes that low quality supported accommodation is seriously harmful to vulnerable people and detrimental to the Council’s finances;
- (e) notes the loss of 32,245 Council homes through Right to Buy and believes the transfer of so many homes from the public sector to private landlords through the consequences of this policy is one of the drivers of the current record levels of homelessness and use of temporary accommodation;
- (f) believes that this Council is currently doing what it can to increase the amount of social housing, despite all parties having to face the reality of inflation in the construction sector and the consequent reduction in the expected number of new homes that can be built;



- (g) believes that not everyone gets the same chance in housing and recognises that many groups, such as refugees, are more likely to experience homelessness than people who are not refugees and may also experience worse standards when living in temporary accommodation;
- (h) notes incoming new Local Authority powers from the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act (subject to consultation), including:-
  - (i) an obligation to develop a SA strategy; and
  - (ii) a potential discretionary power to introduce a licensing scheme for exempt SA; and
- (i) therefore, resolves to ask the Housing Policy Committee to:-
  - (i) engage with Government consultation and consider supporting the introduction of a SA licensing scheme in Sheffield;
  - (ii) consider investigating whether the largest exempt accommodation providers are providing quality support for vulnerable people, and value for money for Sheffield taxpayers;
  - (iii) consider whether to introduce a policy to require future tendered services to avoid referring into non-registered exempt supported accommodation where possible; and
  - (iv) consider writing to the Government requesting reform to Housing Benefit subsidy regulations to remove this financial burden.

9.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 66 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. Although Labour Group and Sheffield Community Councillors Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraph (f) of the Substantive Motion. Although Councillor Lewis Chinchon voted for, he voted against paragraphs (e) and (f) of the Substantive Motion.)

**10. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "STOPPING THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT SEWAGE POLLUTION SCANDAL" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ALISON NORRIS AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR RUTH MILSOM**

10.1 It was formally moved by Councillor Alison Norris, and formally seconded by Councillor Ruth Milsom, that this Council:-

- (a) notes that:-

- (i) under this Government, water companies have polluted waters and coastal waters across the country with filthy raw sewage;
  - (ii) people are appalled by disgusting sewage discharges into our rivers and coastal waters;
  - (iii) this Government has slashed the monitoring of water pollution, enforcement actions and prosecutions;
  - (iv) in Parliament, Conservative MPs have consistently failed to support tougher measures to stop the sewage scandal;
  - (v) in 2022, there were 1335 spills counted in Penistone and Stocksbridge constituency lasting for 7,161 hours; and the local Conservative MP, Miriam Cates, has voted against ending the sewage scandal; and
  - (vi) sewage and pollution in our rivers and coastal waters harm wildlife, hurt the visitor economy and can cause illness;
- (b) believes that:-
- (i) the people of Sheffield are proud of our rivers and deserve high quality water standards;
  - (ii) people using and enjoying our rivers and waterways – wild swimmers, anglers, walkers, kayakers – should not have to put up with sewage and pollution in our waters;
  - (iii) volunteer ‘river ranger’ groups in Sheffield that monitor the health of our rivers do amazing work and deserve our praise and thanks;
  - (iv) it is a sad state of affairs that citizens have felt compelled to take action themselves to monitor sewage and pollution in our water due to government inaction;
  - (v) high profile campaigners like Feargal Sharkey and Paul Whitehouse have done excellent work to raise awareness about sewage in our rivers;
  - (vi) we need mandatory monitoring of sewage outlets; automatic fines for sewage discharges, with tough penalties for water companies whose outlets do not have monitoring in place, and ambitious targets to cut illegal discharges through sewage outflows and clean up our rivers, streams, and seas once and for all; and
  - (vii) Ofwat, the regulator, should be given the powers to ban the payment of bonuses to water bosses who are found to pump significant levels of raw sewage into our precious rivers, lakes and seas; and

- (c) resolves to ask the Government to:-
  - (i) clean up our rivers and end the sewage scandal;
  - (ii) make polluters pay and to work with the Environment Agency and our other partners to identify, monitor and report pollution; and
  - (iii) hold Yorkshire Water to account to ensure they are investing in our water infrastructure and improving water quality.

10.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Mike Levery, and formally seconded by Councillor Richard Williams, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the substitution, in sub-paragraph (a)(i), of the words “since 2015” for the words “under this Government”;
2. the insertion, also in sub-paragraph (a)(i), of the word “increasingly” following the words “water companies have”;
3. the addition of a new paragraph (a)(iv) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original sub-paragraphs (a)(iv) to (vi) as new sub-paragraphs (a)(v) to (vii):-
  - (a)(iv) in particular, staff at the Environment Agency dedicated to responding to pollution incidents have seen their numbers decline by 15% since 2015;
4. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (a)(viii) as follows:-
  - (a)(viii) Welsh Water, a public benefit company, was recently criticised for illegal discharge of untreated sewage from sewage treatment works over several years;
5. the deletion of sub-paragraphs (b)(vi) and (vii), and the addition of new sub-paragraphs (b)(vi) to (ix) as follows:-
  - (b)(vi) all discharges of raw sewage from sewage treatment works should result in significant fines and the fines reinvested in improvements, as was the case before 2015;
  - (vii) retention tanks should be constructed at all sensitive storm overflow sites;
  - (viii) water should be provided through public benefit companies, but as seen in the case of Welsh Water, tougher regulation is required even for these companies; and

(ix) Ofwat has consistently failed to regulate water companies properly since 2015, labelling three companies “top performers” even though they are responsible for more than 2.6m hours of sewage dumps in the last two years, and therefore believes that Ofwat should be abolished and replaced with a tough new UK wide regulator;

6. the addition of new sub-paragraphs (c)(iv) to (vi) as follows:-

(c)(iv) ban water company executive bonuses until sewage discharges and serious leaks end;

(v) abolish Ofwat and replace it with a tough new UK wide regulator with new powers to prevent sewage dumping; and

(vi) begin work to transform water companies into public benefit companies.

10.3 It was then formally moved by Councillor Marieanne Elliot, and formally seconded by Councillor Alexi Dimond, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (a)(vii) as follows:-

(a)(vii) as reported by The Guardian newspaper, £57bn has been handed out in payouts to shareholders over the last 30 years;

2. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (b)(iv) as follows, and the re-lettering of original sub-paragraphs (b)(iv) to (vii) as new sub-paragraphs (b)(v) to (viii):-

(iv) thousands of voluntary River Rangers, Citizen Scientists and active swimmers, kayakers, anglers and walkers, armed with the invaluable data supplied by the Rivers Trust and other researchers, are contributing to monitoring water quality;

3. the addition of new sub-paragraphs (b)(ix) to (xi) as follows:-

(ix) a rising tide of sewage discharges, such as the discharges in Sheffield by the Lady's Bridge into the River Don, threaten projects to support reintroducing salmon and trout to our rivers;

(x) water privatisation has been a failed experiment, and that a service as vital as water and sewerage needs to be run by the public and for the public good; and

(xi) shareholder payouts and CEO bonuses need to be halted with immediate effect where water quality is substandard;

4. the deletion of sub-paragraph (c)(ii) and the addition of a new sub-paragraph (c)(ii) as follows:-
    - (c)(ii) make polluters pay by committing to resourcing the Environment Agency to effectively monitor and guide the water industry and agriculture, including a restoration of staff resources and a much more aggressive and focussed approach to enforcement and prosecution, working closely with voluntary organisations;
  5. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (c)(iv) as follows:-
    - (c)(iv) bring water back into public ownership as soon as practicable to stop sewage discharges and cut bills;
  6. the addition of a new paragraph (d) as follows:-
    - (d) resolves to pro-actively consider every opportunity to implement nature based solutions in Sheffield that reduce the amount of rain in the sewage system to reduce flood and pollution risk, creating more vegetated green land, wetlands, Sustainable urban Drainage Schemes (SuDS) and rain gardens on council land and buildings.
- 10.4 The amendment moved by Councillor Mike Levery was put to the vote and was carried, but in part. Parts 2, 3, 4, sub-paragraphs (vi) and (vii) of Part 5 and sub-paragraph (iv) of Part 6 of the amendment were carried, and Parts 1, sub-paragraphs (viii) and (ix) of Part 5 and sub-paragraphs (v) and (vi) of Part 6 of the amendment were lost.
- 10.4.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 54 Members; AGAINST - 11 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they voted against Parts 1, sub-paragraphs (viii) and (ix) in Part 5 and sub-paragraphs (v) and (vi) in Part 6 of the amendment. Although Sheffield Community Councillors Group Members voted for, they voted against Part 1 of the amendment. Although Councillor Lewis Chinchon voted against, he voted for Part 4 of the amendment and abstained from voting on sub-paragraph (vii) in Part 5 of the amendment.)
- 10.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Marieanne Elliot was then put to the vote and was carried, but in part. Parts 1, 2, sub-paragraphs (ix) and (xi) in Part 3, 4 and 6 of the amendment were carried, and Part 5 and sub-paragraph (x) in Part 3 of the amendment were lost.
- 10.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 64 Members; AGAINST - 1 Member; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they voted against Part 5 and sub-paragraph (x) in Part 3 of the amendment. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, they voted against Part 5 of the amendment and abstained from voting on sub-paragraph (x) in Part 3 of the amendment. Although Councillor Lewis Chinchon voted against, he voted for Parts 2 and 6 of the amendment.)

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

(a) notes that:-

- (i) under this Government, water companies have increasingly polluted waters and coastal waters across the country with filthy raw sewage;
- (ii) people are appalled by disgusting sewage discharges into our rivers and coastal waters;
- (iii) this Government has slashed the monitoring of water pollution, enforcement actions and prosecutions;
- (iv) in particular, staff at the Environment Agency dedicated to responding to pollution incidents have seen their numbers decline by 15% since 2015;
- (v) in Parliament, Conservative MPs have consistently failed to support tougher measures to stop the sewage scandal;
- (vi) in 2022, there were 1335 spills counted in Penistone and Stocksbridge constituency lasting for 7,161 hours; and the local Conservative MP, Miriam Cates, has voted against ending the sewage scandal;
- (vii) sewage and pollution in our rivers and coastal waters harm wildlife, hurt the visitor economy and can cause illness;
- (viii) Welsh Water, a public benefit company, was recently criticised for illegal discharge of untreated sewage from sewage treatment works over several years; and
- (ix) as reported by The Guardian newspaper, £57bn has been handed out in payouts to shareholders over the last 30 years;

(b) believes that:-

- (i) the people of Sheffield are proud of our rivers and deserve high quality water standards;
- (ii) people using and enjoying our rivers and waterways – wild swimmers, anglers, walkers, kayakers – should not have to put up with sewage and pollution in our waters;

- (iii) volunteer 'river ranger' groups in Sheffield that monitor the health of our rivers do amazing work and deserve our praise and thanks;
  - (iv) thousands of voluntary River Rangers, Citizen Scientists and active swimmers, kayakers, anglers and walkers, armed with the invaluable data supplied by the Rivers Trust and other researchers, are contributing to monitoring water quality;
  - (v) it is a sad state of affairs that citizens have felt compelled to take action themselves to monitor sewage and pollution in our water due to government inaction;
  - (vi) high profile campaigners like Feargal Sharkey and Paul Whitehouse have done excellent work to raise awareness about sewage in our rivers;
  - (vii) all discharges of raw sewage from sewage treatment works should result in significant fines and the fines reinvested in improvements, as was the case before 2015;
  - (viii) retention tanks should be constructed at all sensitive storm overflow sites;
  - (ix) a rising tide of sewage discharges, such as the discharges in Sheffield by the Lady's Bridge into the River Don, threaten projects to support reintroducing salmon and trout to our rivers; and
  - (x) shareholder payouts and CEO bonuses need to be halted with immediate effect where water quality is substandard;
- (c) resolves to ask the Government to:-
- (i) clean up our rivers and end the sewage scandal;
  - (ii) make polluters pay by committing to resourcing the Environment Agency to effectively monitor and guide the water industry and agriculture, including a restoration of staff resources and a much more aggressive and focussed approach to enforcement and prosecution, working closely with voluntary organisations;
  - (iii) hold Yorkshire Water to account to ensure they are investing in our water infrastructure and improving water quality; and
  - (iv) ban water company executive bonuses until sewage discharges and serious leaks end; and
- (d) resolves to pro-actively consider every opportunity to implement nature based solutions in Sheffield that reduce the amount of rain in the sewage system to reduce flood and pollution risk, creating more vegetated green

land, wetlands, Sustainable urban Drainage Schemes (SuDS) and rain gardens on council land and buildings.

- 10.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 65 Members; AGAINST - 1 Member; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. Although Councillor Lewis Chinchon voted against, he voted for sub-paragraphs (a)(vii) and (viii), (b)(i) to (iv), (c)(iii) and (d) and abstained from voting on sub-paragraph (b)(viii) of the Substantive Motion.)

**11. APPOINTMENT TO CHIEF OFFICER POST : APPROVAL OF SALARY PACKAGE**

- 11.1 RESOLVED: On the motion formally moved by Councillor Mike Levery and formally seconded by Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards, that this Council:-

- (a) notes the information contained in the report now submitted on the recruitment exercise and salary package for the post of Director of People and Culture; and
- (b) approves the total salary range for that post, in the range £99,784 to £106,960.

- 11.1.2 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the motion was FOR - 60 Members; AGAINST - 4 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members.)

**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) it be noted that, at its meeting held on 5th October 2023, the South East Local Area Committee had appointed Councillor Kurtis Crossland to serve as Chair, and Councillor Gail Smith to serve as Deputy Chair, of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, filling vacancies which had arisen in those positions;

(b) Councillor Nabeela Mowlana be appointed as 'Migrant Champion';

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

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority - Councillor Mike Chaplin to replace Councillor Tony Damms



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 Chinchen, 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 subparagraph (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, Ibbi 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 the Amendment (0) - None.

- 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 Lavery 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 Ayris, Sioned-Mair Richards, Terry Fox, Laura Moynahan, Tony Downing, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Ibbly 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 Lavery, 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 Amendment (32)                      | - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross) and 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 Ayriss, 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, Ibbi 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 Ayriss, 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, Ibbby 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, Ibbby 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 Lavery 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, Ibbi 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 Ayriss, Glynis Chapman, Gail Smith, Penny Baker, Richard Williams, Alan Hooper, Mike Lavery 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.)

## **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.

This page is intentionally left blank