

# Agenda Item 3

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 2 April 2014, at 2.00 pm, pursuant to notice duly given and Summonses duly served.

## PRESENT

THE LORD MAYOR (Councillor Vickie Priestley)  
THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR (Councillor Peter Rippon)

1	<i>Arbourthorne Ward</i> Julie Dore Mike Drabble Jack Scott	10	<i>Dore &amp; Totley Ward</i> Keith Hill Joe Otten Colin Ross	19	<i>Mosborough Ward</i> David Barker Isobel Bowler Tony Downing
2	<i>Beauchief &amp; Greenhill Ward</i> Simon Clement-Jones Roy Munn Clive Skelton	11	<i>East Ecclesfield Ward</i> Garry Weatherall Steve Wilson Joyce Wright	20	<i>Nether Edge Ward</i> Nikki Bond Anders Hanson Qurban Hussain
3	<i>Beighton Ward</i> Helen Mirfin-Boukouris Chris Rosling-Josephs Ian Saunders	12	<i>Ecclesall Ward</i> Penny Baker Roger Davison	21	<i>Richmond Ward</i> John Campbell Martin Lawton Lynn Rooney
4	<i>Birley Ward</i> Bryan Lodge Karen McGowan	13	<i>Firth Park Ward</i> Sheila Constance Alan Law Chris Weldon	22	<i>Shiregreen &amp; Brightside Ward</i> Peter Price Sioned-Mair Richards Peter Rippon
5	<i>Broomhill Ward</i> Jayne Dunn Shaffaq Mohammed Stuart Wattam	14	<i>Fulwood Ward</i> Sue Alston Andrew Sangar Cliff Woodcraft	23	<i>Southey Ward</i> Leigh Bramall Tony Damms Gill Furniss
6	<i>Burngreave Ward</i> Jackie Drayton Ibrar Hussain Talib Hussain	15	<i>Gleadless Valley Ward</i> Steve Jones Cate McDonald Tim Rippon	24	<i>Stannington Ward</i> David Baker Katie Condliffe Vickie Priestley
7	<i>Central Ward</i> Jillian Creasy Mohammad Maroof Robert Murphy	16	<i>Graves Park Ward</i> Bob McCann Denise Reaney	25	<i>Stockbridge &amp; Upper Don Ward</i> Philip Wood
8	<i>Crookes Ward</i> Sylvia Anginotti Rob Frost Geoff Smith	17	<i>Hillsborough Ward</i> Janet Bragg Bob Johnson George Lindars-Hammond	26	<i>Walkley Ward</i> Ben Curran Neale Gibson
9	<i>Darnall Ward</i> Harry Harpham Mazher Iqbal Mary Lea	18	<i>Manor Castle Ward</i> Jenny Armstrong Pat Midgley	27	<i>West Ecclesfield Ward</i> Trevor Bagshaw Adam Hurst Alf Meade
				28	<i>Woodhouse Ward</i> Mick Rooney Jackie Satur Ray Satur

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ian Auckland, Alison Brelsford, Richard Crowther, Denise Fox, Terry Fox and Diana Stimely.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from Members of the City Council.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Pat Midgley, seconded by Councillor Gill Furniss, that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 5 February 2014 and minutes of the Special Meeting (Budget) of the Council held on 7 March 2014 be approved as a correct record.

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

**4.1 Former Councillor Nikki Sharpe**

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Vickie Priestley) moved a vote of thanks to former Councillor Nikki Sharpe for her contribution to the work of the Council since May 2011. She had resigned from her office as a Member for the Walkley Ward with effect from 31 March 2014 in the light of her continuing ill health and the demands of her full-time employment. Later in the meeting, Members of the Council paid tribute to her.

RESOLVED: That this Council thanks former Councillor Nikki Sharpe for her contribution to the work of the Council since May 2011.

**4.2 Petitions**

- (a) Petition Requesting a Plaque, and the Naming of a Street in the City Centre, in Memory of the Late El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X)

The Council received a joint paper and electronic petition containing 1641 signatures and requesting a plaque, and the naming of a street in the City Centre, in memory of the late El-Hajj Malik Shabazz (Malcolm X).

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Mohammed Fiaz Hafiz. He referred to the visit to Sheffield by El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X) in December 1964, at which time he gave a speech at Sheffield University Students Union and to his contribution to human rights and his stance against exploitation and racism. The petition requested the City Council to place a permanent plaque in Sheffield City Centre in memory of El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcolm X) and requested that a road in Sheffield City Centre to be

named after him.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Jack Scott, Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene. Councillor Scott thanked the petitioners and set out current policy guidance relating to street naming, which advised that names should have a proven relevance to the history of the area and any personality must have made a significant contribution to the community or have a historical connection to the area.

Street names should also be easily understood and recognised in the event of an emergency and by the emergency services and they should generally be easy to pronounce and this may rule out the use of the name "Malcolm X" because a single letter could not be used. Any choice of street name would have to be considered carefully. The Council would not rename an existing street, because of the confusion that can create.

Whilst there were the significant achievements of Malcolm X, he was also, in some respects, a controversial figure and a balanced judgment was needed of his role as an activist and other aspects of his life.

A plaque could be placed on a building, provided the permission of the owner was given and, if necessary, planning permission. Councillor Scott suggested he meet with the petitioners and relevant parties to see how the request might best be accommodated in an appropriate way.

(b) Petition Objecting to the Proposed Closure of Broomhall Nursery and Children's Centre

The Council received an electronic petition, containing 203 signatures, objecting to the proposed closure of Broomhall Nursery and Children's Centre.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Naomi Watkins. She made reference to an Ofsted Inspection which had reported that the Nursery was outstanding. It promoted the all-round development of children, including their physical and emotional needs. Parental comments on the Nursery and Children's Centre were positive and there was an exceptional team of passionate and dedicated people working there. It was a surprise then that the Centre was faced with closure because of Council budget cuts. It was suggested that there was over-provision, although that did not account for the waiting list of children for the Nursery which offered high quality provision.

The possibility of developing a social enterprise was being explored and she invited the Council to look at this issue to retain the provision, which was of an exceptional standard and to visit the Nursery and Children's Centre.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Jackie Drayton, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families. Councillor Drayton thanked the petitioners for the invitation to visit the Nursery and Children's Centre and said she would welcome the opportunity. She explained that a number of years ago, the Government changed the way in which nursery schools were funded. Previously, funding was based on the number of places. It was now based on

the number of children. Therefore, some centres were financially unviable. In Broomhill, there were three organisations doing different things for children and young people – these were the Nursery School, City Council Childcare provision and Surestart. In order to protect provision, all of the existing provision would be brought together.

Councillor Drayton explained that she and the Executive Director of Children, Young People and Families had met with the governing body of Broomhill Nursery School to discuss the future following Government changes in funding to Nursery Schools, which made all three Nursery Schools in the City financially unviable. The two other nursery schools had decided to merge with other local schools. However, the governors at Broomhill Nursery decided not to do this but carry on as an independent nursery.

The Government's new policy of providing free early learning for two, three and four year olds and the funding for that provision was attached to the individual child and Broomhill would receive this funding for the children who attended the nursery.

The Council officers were working hard to ensure there would continue to be provision in Broomhill. Councillor Drayton confirmed that she would be pleased to meet with representatives of the petitioners should they wish.

(c) Petition Supporting Fir Vale Welfare Centre

The Council received an electronic petition containing 51 signatures and supporting the building of a new Community Welfare Centre in Fir Vale and the surrounding areas.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Rabia Mirza who stated that the petition was to ask the Council to support the provision of a new Community Welfare Centre in Fir Vale. The aim was to provide welfare in the community and to make optimum use of the facilities to enrich local residents' lives. It was intended to foster social inclusion and to encourage participation, educate and tackle social issues.

Working with Sheffield City Council aimed to promote the wellbeing and quality of life of the residents in line with the Council's strategic objectives to provide accessible social, recreational, educational and cultural facilities. The group wished to work with others in the community and the third sector and believed that Burngreave will benefit socially, culturally and economically. There was not a building from which the Welfare Centre could be run and the petitioners would like the Council to help to provide such a place.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Mazher Iqbal, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion. Councillor Iqbal stated that the Council does invest in a number of community buildings in the City. He referred to the financial constraints on the Council and to the context of Government funding cuts. The Council was encouraging community groups to work together. He had,

with Burngreave Ward Members and Cabinet Members, worked in Page Hall with the Pakistan Advice Community Association (PACA) Centre and there was community space there. The Council wanted to utilise space in existing buildings and to make sure that everybody had access.

- (d) Petition Concerning Somaliland – Supporting the Campaign for Sovereign State Recognition on Behalf of the Burngreave Community

The Council received a petition, containing 130 signatures, supporting the campaign for sovereign state recognition of Somaliland on behalf of the Burngreave Community.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Mohamed Issa. He urged the Council to support the Notice of Motion at item 15 on the Summons and thanked Councillor Mohammad Maroof for bringing the Motion to Council. He also thanked Burngreave Ward Councillors for their support in bringing the matter to Council and the community for lobbying and campaigning. He stated that the petition also requested that the Motion be brought to the attention of the Foreign Secretary, Leaders of Opposition parties in Parliament, the European Parliament and the United Nations.

The Council referred the petition to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Julie Dore.

- (e) Petition Concerning Somaliland - Supporting the Campaign for Sovereign State Recognition

The Council received a petition, containing 1,745 signatures, supporting the campaign for sovereign state recognition of Somaliland.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Adam Yusuf who thanked all of the people, including City Councillors, who had been involved in bringing the issue of Somaliland to the attention of the Council. Sheffield was the first place to recognise Somaliland, which was of great significance. People in the Somali community believed Sheffield was welcoming and hospitable and people had settled and had families here. There was a strong culture among the community and also respect for the culture in the UK. The Somali community also had good role models, for example, the previous President of the University Student Union was a young Somalian. The Somaliland Foreign Minister had come to Sheffield, travelling from Australia to be at this Council meeting. Somaliland had co-existed peacefully for 23 years and had developed a strong civil society and had held peaceful elections. It was testament to Sheffield that the City was the first place prepared to support the recognition of Somaliland.

The Council referred the petition to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Julie Dore.

- (f) Petition Concerning Somaliland – Supporting the Campaign for Sovereign State Recognition

The Council received a petition, containing 68 signatures, supporting the campaign for sovereign state recognition of Somaliland.

On behalf of the petitioners, Ibrahim Jama Ali, MP, addressed the Council. He stated that he hoped there would be international recognition of Somaliland as a sovereign state and nation. In 1990 Somaliland declared unilateral independence from Somalia and since that time it had been a de facto independent state. The people of Somaliland had tried to build a peaceful democracy comprising a separation of government into legislative, executive and judicial functions and had achieved much in the past two decades, including holding peaceful elections and a peaceful transfer of power. Somaliland had also developed an active civil society. However, due to a lack of international recognition, the area suffered financial and economic hardship, which he stated, without such international recognition, could not be overcome. He expressed his deep gratitude to people in Sheffield, including Councillors who supported the Motion on the Council Summons and said that he hoped other places would follow Sheffield City Council's example.

The Council referred the petition to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Julie Dore.

#### 4.3 Public Questions

(a) Public Questions Concerning Somaliland

Kaltun Elmi asked why the international community was reluctant to recognise Somaliland as a sovereign state.

Mubarak Ismail expressed thanks to the Council and to individual Members who had been especially supportive in supporting the Motion regarding Somaliland and stated that he hoped there was unity in the Council on this matter.

The Lord Mayor welcomed distinguished guests from the Somaliland Parliament, the Right Honorable Abdirahman Mohamed Jama, the Right Honorable Ibrahim Jama Ali and the Right Honorable Nasir Hagi Shire. The distinguished guests addressed the Council:-

The Council was informed that people from Somaliland fought with the British in both the First and Second World Wars and came to Sheffield after the Second World War to support the steel industry. It was felt that Somaliland had fulfilled the requirements of a democratic nation and lived side by side with neighbouring countries. What was required was international recognition, of which the Motion as presented at Council today was an important part. The community in Sheffield was also grateful for the support given to them. Somaliland had been a de facto independent state for over 20 years and had lived in peace and stability. This was an historic day for the Somaliland community.

Thanks were given to members of the Somaliland community in Sheffield who had helped to organise the petitions and to Councillors and Members of Parliament. The historical ties with Sheffield and other cities in the UK were

noted. Some of the early African settlers in Sheffield were from Somaliland. Somaliland was independent for a very short time at the end of British colonial rule in 1960 and was then joined with the former Italian colony of Somalia. It declared independence following the overthrow of Siad Barre in 1991. Since then, it had run its own affairs but without international recognition. It was hoped that this would be the start of recognition as a sovereign state by the UK.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Julie Dore, spoke in response to the petitioners and all those who had addressed the Council meeting. Firstly, she thanked those who had attended the meeting and particularly people who had spoken. She welcomed the Ministers and UK Ambassador to Sheffield and people from the Somaliland community to the Town Hall. Councillor Dore stated that thousands of people from Somaliland had settled in Sheffield and it was especially pleasing to see the celebrations which were taking place in the Peace Gardens. Sheffield has always welcomed the Somaliland community.

In reference to international recognition of Somaliland, she understood that Somaliland was a self-declared, de facto autonomous state. The decision regarding the international recognition of Somaliland was a decision for the United Nations. The Council's role was to take part in making representations on behalf of its local community. The Council was supportive of the Somaliland community's cause and would make sure to forward the Motion at item 15 on the Summons to the relevant people, including the Foreign Secretary, as had been requested.

(b) Public Question Concerning Pay Negotiations

Josie Paszek made reference to public sector pay negotiations and stated that the Government had attempted to denigrate public sector workers. She stated that the cuts and pay freezes were being imposed at the same time as tax cuts were being given to millionaires. She asked if an update could be provided on the pay negotiations between the Council and the unions. She also asked about the impact of a proposal to cut the pay of other staff, including social workers.

Councillor Ben Curran, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, responded that he agreed that the Government had made an attack on public sector workers. He referred to issues relating to pay in the wider public sector, including for NHS employees.

Negotiations were taking place with the trades unions and the principles for the negotiations included the national pay bargaining framework and the protection of jobs and protection of low paid workers. The Council had sought to protect incremental progression within a 4 year pay deal. The Council was a responsible employer and wished to remain an employer of choice. He stated that a workforce which was well looked after was ultimately better for services.

(c) Public Question Concerning Answers to Questions

Peter Hartley asked why he had not received written answers to his last two sets of questions to full Council.

In response, Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, stated that she had asked the Cabinet Members to whom Mr Hartley's questions had been addressed and they had confirmed that written responses had been sent. She would make sure that another copy of the letters was sent to him.

(d) Public Question Concerning Libraries

Pauline Rosser stated that in the proposed cuts to libraries, it had been understood that changes would mainly affect branch libraries. However, she was aware that 35 posts were to go in the Central Library. She asked what services were being cut in the Central Library to allow for the reduction in staffing levels; and how can the central services provide support for the rest of the library system if it was losing so many staff?

Councillor Mazher Iqbal, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion, responded that the Council was in the fourth year of budget cuts and jobs had been lost across the Council. £1.7 million savings were being made to the Libraries budget and the detail of the decision was available on the Council's website. Part of the saving was a reduction of 75 full time equivalent posts across the service.

(e) Public Question Concerning Stocksbridge Youth Centre

Lisa Banes referred to a rumour that the Stocksbridge Youth Centre was to close and asked if this was true. There was reference to closure of the Youth Centre in the minutes of a recent meeting of Stocksbridge Town Council. There was some confusion and young people were not certain whether or not the Youth Centre was open. She asked the Cabinet Member to clarify the matter.

Councillor Jackie Drayton, the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families responded that, despite the cuts, through Sheffield Futures, the Council had managed to maintain certain services across the City and especially those for young people in Stocksbridge. There were sessions on Mondays and Tuesdays from 6pm until 8pm with a professional youth worker. Also, another voluntary youth organisation was delivering activities at the Youth Centre at other times during the week.

There had been damage to some windows at the Youth Centre and the windows had been boarded up, which might explain why some people believed it was closed.

Due to Government cuts to the budget the Council was under considerable financial pressure. It was working with partner organisations to maintain services, often in a different way and with a range of providers and wanted the Youth Centre in Stocksbridge to continue to be a resource for the area.

(f) Public Questions Concerning Council Funding and the 'City Centred Campaign'

Nigel Slack stated that at the turn of the year 2012/13, the Commons Political



and Constitutional Reform Committee produced a plan to give Councils throughout England a comprehensive and permanent solution to Council funding being used as a 'political football' by all parties when in Government. This was for a settlement based in law and therefore a permanent rebalancing of the relationship between Town Hall and Whitehall. At the time, the Leader supported the proposal in general, despite that she felt unable to offer the Council's support to the report, as the financial model was not sufficiently developed.

Mr Slack continued that the Council was being asked to support a plan, promulgated by the Mayor of London, for the 'City Centred campaign', which was, by its own admission, only a partial solution to the conundrum of English devolution, will be revenue neutral so will not address the under-funding of those areas with the greatest need and, since it suggests no legal framework for this fiscal model, will be just as vulnerable to changes in Government as the current arrangements.

He asked: (1) why is the Council backing this report and (2) why is the Council supporting a plan that will create an elite league of rich and powerful City Councils, whilst leaving their neighbours to 'wallow in the mud' of Central Government control.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, stated that the issue of the City Centred campaign was also the subject of the Notice of Motion numbered 12 on the Council Summons. The Powerful Cities report not only concerned the campaign. It also recognised that the UK was centralised and the Core Cities performed below national averages. The vast majority of revenue from taxation went to central government and was then redistributed. The Core Cities had demonstrated that when this redistribution took place, it was done unfairly and did not recognise local need. It also put forward that cities should have some control of their own economic destiny. The Minister for Cities, Greg Clark MP had worked with the City Council in relation to the transfer of some powers, which represented small steps in the right direction. The City Deal was for the Sheffield City economic Region, which included 9 local authorities.

(g) Public Question Concerning the Police and Crime Commissioner

Nigel Slack stated that the Police and Crime Commissioner had been in post for some time and, presumably, the Scrutiny Panel has been meeting with him on a regular basis. He said that, throughout, there has been no report back from Councillors on that Panel as to the business conducted and how they have represented the public, at those meetings. He asked if that was ever likely to happen.

Councillor Harry Harpham, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods, responded that the role of the Police and Crime Panel was quite different from that of the former Police Authority. The Panel's role was one of scrutiny and it had little direct power with respect to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Panel had the power to veto the proposed precept and may make recommendations with regard to the proposed appointment of the Commissioner's Chief Executive. The Panel had relatively few other powers.

Rotherham Borough Council was the local authority in South Yorkshire with responsibility for the administration of the Police and Crime Panel and details such as agenda documents and independent and elected Panel Members, including their interests, were available to view on Rotherham Borough Council's website.

Sheffield City Council meetings included an agenda item giving the opportunity for Members' questions on such matters. The Government established the Police and Crime Commissioner model and the Commissioner was directly accountable to the electorate, which would have the opportunity to judge them at the end of their term of office. This represented a shift of power from the previous Police Authority model. Councillor Harpham suggested that if people had questions, they should contact him or one of the other members of the Police and Crime Panel.

(h) Public Questions Concerning Tenants and Residents Participation

Martin Brighton asked the following questions:

- 1 Does this Council believe that it is respecting democracy at its lowest practicable level when volunteer residents who are also levy payers, and who are elected to a Tenants and Residents Association (TARA) committee and also to represent a tenant and resident community, are excluded from sitting on the Council's various city-wide tenant and resident management groups?
- 2 If the new Council housing consultations are claimed by the Council to be tenant-led, and residents are to be excluded from their previously held equivalent positions as described above, does this Council believe it is respectful of tenants if any elected member driving the Council's agenda can also be a resident?
- 3 There are volunteer residents, often past tenants, who have given decades of service to their community via their respective TARAs, to the extent that several TARAs would have folded long ago but for their dedication. What does it say about this Council when those residents are to be excluded from the same level of engagement, and to the serious detriment of their communities?
- 4 Will this Council please provide an explanation as to why it refuses to allow the District Auditor to inspect the books of a TARA, when such an action would show once and for all that, even as publicly admitted by this Council, there is no evidence whatsoever to justify the allegations made against the TARA.
- 5 Does this Council have any plans, however tentative, for the management of, or which effect in any way, TARAs – that it has not yet shared with TARAs – and if so, what are these plans?

Councillor Harry Harpham, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods, responded to the questions.

He stated that the newly established Housing and Neighbourhood Advisory Panel would be limited to tenants and leaseholders. These were the people that paid rent and which funded housing services. It was right that those people should be the decision makers. There were many opportunities for citizens to get involved in other aspects of service delivery.

If there are any concerns about the conduct of an elected Member, these should be brought to the attention of the appropriate officer and the matter would be investigated. If there were concerns about the service not meeting the required standard, these should be brought to the attention of the Housing Ombudsman.

There was currently a review of the Recognition Policy and the Council was talking to partners and others. The review is ongoing and when there is more detail, the Council will speak with the TARAs, tenants and others.

4.4 Petition Requesting a Pedestrian Crossing on Beech Hill Road/Glossop Road

The Council received an electronic petition containing five signatures requesting a pedestrian crossing on Beech Hill Road/Glossop Road.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Leigh Bramall, the Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Development.

4.5 Order of Business

In accordance with the Council Procedure Rule 9.1, the order of business as published on the Council Summons was altered and item 15, the Notice of Motion given by Councillor Mohammad Maroof concerning Somaliland, was taken as the next item of business.

**5. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MOHAMMAD MAROOF**

**Somaliland – Campaign for Sovereign State Recognition**

**RESOLVED:** On the Motion of Councillor Mohammad Maroof, seconded by Councillor Ben Curran, that this Council:-

- (a) notes that thousands of people from Somaliland live in Sheffield and recognise and appreciate the important contribution they make to the City and the close ties Sheffield has with Somaliland;
- (b) supports the Somaliland community in Sheffield and their campaign to have Somaliland recognised as a sovereign state and gain a seat in the UN, with reasons for recognition including:
  - (i) the Somaliland government believes that recognition would entrench

- democracy in the Horn of Africa;
- (ii) recognising Somaliland will aim to strengthen cooperation in the fight against terrorism, extremism, piracy, illegal fishing, toxic dumping, and other serious crimes; and
  - (iii) the marketing of Somaliland as a safe tourist destination, primarily cultural and eco-tourism could also emerge as an important segment of the Somaliland economy;
- (c) notes that since 1991 Somaliland have had a democratically elected Government and President, in this time there have been 4 elections and changes of president, it looks after international waters with no piracy, it has opposition parties and is not a recipient of international aid;
- (d) believes that recognition will help to bring about stability in Somaliland, creating a situation where people can live in peace and harmony with the support of the International Community, and that recognition would bring international banks, jobs and finance;
- (e) welcomes the support for this campaign by local MP's Paul Blomfield and Clive Betts and the work they are doing with the Cross Party Somaliland Group and would encourage other local MP's to also support this Group; and
- (f) calls upon the Government to recognise Somaliland as an independent state and to encourage other Governments around the world to do the same.

(Note: Councillor Trevor Bagshaw abstained from voting on the above Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

## **6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

### Urgent Business

- 6.1 There was one item of urgent business asked by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed and answered by Councillor Julie Dore (The Leader of the Council) under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6 (ii) and concerning the Syrian Refugee Programme.

### 6.2 Questions

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

### 6.3 South Yorkshire Joint Authorities

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 16.7 relating to the time period allocated for Members' questions, the item concerning Questions on the Joint Authorities was not considered.

**7. REPRESENTATION, DELEGATED AUTHORITY AND RELATED ISSUES**

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Pat Midgley, seconded by Councillor Gill Furniss, that this Council notes that the Senior Officer Employment Committee, at its meeting held on 14 March 2014, appointed Mr Antony Hughes to the post of Children's Commissioner for Sheffield.

**8. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Pat Midgley, seconded by Councillor Gill Furniss, that this Council adopts the changes to Parts 4, 5 and 7 of the Council's Constitution, as set out in the report of the Chief Executive now submitted and Appendices 1 to 4, and notes the minor/consequential changes to the Constitution made by the Director of Legal and Governance, in consultation with the Lord Mayor, under delegated authority, outlined at section 4 of the report and Appendices 5 and 6.

**9. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR LEIGH BRAMALL**

**Fixed Odds Betting Terminals**

It was moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards, that this Council:-

- (a) is concerned that the clustering of betting shops in or close to deprived communities is being driven by increasing revenue from fixed odds betting terminals (FOBT) rather than traditional over the counter betting and recognises that this is an issue facing Sheffield and many other towns and cities across the country;
- (b) believes that this has encouraged betting shop operators to open more than one premises in close proximity to one another;
- (c) is aware of the growing concern of many communities about the detrimental effect this is having on the diversity and character of UK high streets;
- (d) is alarmed that people can stake as much as £100 every 20 seconds on these machines;
- (e) is further concerned that the practice of single staffing in betting shops leaves staff vulnerable and deters them from intervening if customers suffer

heavy losses;

- (f) further believes that local authorities should be able to establish a separate planning class for betting shops and that they should be given additional licensing powers to determine the number of FOBT machines within existing and proposed shops and to require that the machines are modified to slow the rate of play and to interrupt when people play for long periods; and
- (g) calls on the Government to put local people before the interests of the betting shop operators and give local authorities the powers they need to respond to concerns from their local communities and stop the proliferation of FOBT machines and betting shops.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, seconded by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the re-lettering of paragraphs (b) to (f) as new paragraphs (d) to (h) and paragraph (g) as a new paragraph (j); and
2. the addition of new paragraphs (b), (c) and (i) as follows:-
  - (b) believes this is a direct consequence of the Gambling Act 2005, introduced by the last Government, which removed the need for operators to prove unmet demand;
  - (c) notes the comments of the Labour MP, Tom Watson, who stated the Labour Party 'dropped the ball' over the 2005 Gambling Act;
  - (i) therefore welcomes the motion passed by the Liberal Democrat Conference in September 2013 on High Street Gambling, which called for a separate planning use class for betting shops;

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

(Note: Councillors Jillian Creasy and Robert Murphy voted for Paragraph (b) and abstained on Paragraphs (c) and (i) of the above amendment and asked for this to be recorded.)

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Jillian Creasy, seconded by Councillor Robert Murphy, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (h) and (i) as follows:-

- (h) notes the proposal for a separate use class for betting shops made by Hackney Council under the Sustainable Communities Act, which has been supported by 62 other councils, the Greater London Authority and the Local Government Association and which is currently being considered by Government;

- (i) therefore also calls on the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, The Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP, to agree to this proposal and directs that a copy of this motion be forwarded to him and to Local Works who are orchestrating this aspect of the campaign to control betting shops.

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

After a Right of Reply by Councillor Leigh Bramall the original Motion, as amended, was put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

- RESOLVED:** That this Council:-
- (a) is concerned that the clustering of betting shops in or close to deprived communities is being driven by increasing revenue from fixed odds betting terminals (FOBT) rather than traditional over the counter betting and recognises that this is an issue facing Sheffield and many other towns and cities across the country;
  - (b) believes that this has encouraged betting shop operators to open more than one premises in close proximity to one another;
  - (c) is aware of the growing concern of many communities about the detrimental effect this is having on the diversity and character of UK high streets;
  - (d) is alarmed that people can stake as much as £100 every 20 seconds on these machines;
  - (e) is further concerned that the practice of single staffing in betting shops leaves staff vulnerable and deters them from intervening if customers suffer heavy losses;
  - (f) further believes that local authorities should be able to establish a separate planning class for betting shops and that they should be given additional licensing powers to determine the number of FOBT machines within existing and proposed shops and to require that the machines are modified to slow the rate of play and to interrupt when people play for long periods;
  - (g) calls on the Government to put local people before the interests of the betting shop operators and give local authorities the powers they need to respond to concerns from their local communities and stop the proliferation of FOBT machines and betting shops;
  - (h) notes the proposal for a separate use class for betting shops made by Hackney Council under the Sustainable Communities Act, which has been supported by 62 other councils, the Greater London Authority and the Local Government Association and which is currently being considered by Government; and
  - (i) therefore also calls on the Secretary of State for Communities and Local

Government, The Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP, to agree to this proposal and directs that a copy of this motion be forwarded to him and to Local Works who are orchestrating this aspect of the campaign to control betting shops.

**10. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JULIE DORE**

**Business Support and Economic Development**

It was moved by Councillor Julie Dore, seconded by Councillor Isobel Bowler, that this Council:-

- (a) continues to support the priorities of the present Administration of focusing on jobs and being a business friendly Council;
- (b) welcomes the recent success of the city being named in the Financial Times' FDI Magazine's top 10 northern European cities for foreign direct investment and Breeze Investment recognising Sheffield as its 'location of the year 2013';
- (c) welcomes the Administration building on this momentum by announcing the creation of a Sheffield city centre investment fund for the Council to bring forward major regeneration projects in the city centre, including a new retail quarter, in an innovative partnership with private sector investment partners;
- (d) further welcomes existing business-focused policies from the present Administration to grow the local economy, particularly small and medium enterprises, through initiatives such as the Keep Sheffield Working Fund, which has funded:
  - (i) RISE Graduate Programme
  - (ii) Export Pilot Project
  - (iii) Threshold Company Programme
  - (iv) Summer Saturday's
  - (v) Business Loan Fund
  - (vi) Work Programme Start Up Project
- (e) welcomes recent analysis that shows the Keep Sheffield Working Fund has:
  - (i) supported over 90 businesses, due to increase to 130 by the end of December 2014;
  - (ii) seen £740,000 invested into supporting business growth and job creation, of which £342,500 has been direct investment into small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to support companies' growth or export plans;



- (iii) supported companies to extend trade relationships to 17 different countries;
  - (iv) levered in a further £2,110,000 funding from the initial £800,000 investment through partners and private sector match, and that this will increase to an estimated £2,300,000 by December 2015; and
  - (v) seen the Fund on target to deliver 86 jobs over the course of the project's life;
- (f) therefore welcomes that a further £200,000 has been allocated to the Keep Sheffield Working Fund to continue supporting local businesses and economic development;
- (g) welcomes the work of the present Administration to continue to support Sheffield's Events Programme, despite the unprecedented level of cuts that the Government is making to the Council's budget, thereby making it increasingly difficult to support city centre vibrancy and the considerable economic benefits this brings;
- (h) welcomes the Sheffield Events Programme 2014 and recognises the estimated economic benefit of some of the events on the local economy including:
- (i) Sports events, including British Indoor Athletics, British University and College Sport Finals £4m
  - (ii) World Snooker £1.9m
  - (iii) Sheffield Doc Fest £1.2m
  - (iv) Tramlines £443k
  - (v) Off The Shelf £119k
- (i) welcomes the £270,000 cultural destinations funding from Arts Council England to improve the profile and economic impact of 5 key cultural events (Art Sheffield, Doc Fest, Off the Shelf, Tramlines and Festival of the Mind);
- (j) welcomes the current Administration's role, along with partners, in bringing the Tour de France to Sheffield this year and notes that this will bring significant benefits to the local economy both in 2014 and in years to come; and
- (k) resolves to continue to take proactive action to build a strong economy in the city, welcoming recent developments around the Keep Sheffield Working Fund and Events Programme, and looks forward to the International Trade Strategy, to further drive economic growth, being submitted to the Cabinet in April.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, seconded by Councillor Colin Ross, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraphs (a) and (e) to (k);
2. the re-lettering of paragraphs (b) to (d) as new paragraphs (c) to (e); and
3. the addition of new paragraphs (a) and (b) and (f) to (j) as follows:-
  - (a) praises the action of the previous Administration, which took Sheffield – in the words of local businesses – from “the worst place to do business in South Yorkshire to the best”;
  - (b) underlines the importance of the Council continuing to work by the business-friendly principles introduced by the previous Administration;
  - (f) however, regrets that the actions of the current Administration do not live up to their rhetoric and notes the following as examples of the anti-business sentiments held by members of the ruling group:
    - (i) rejecting a proposal by NEXT to locate a new department store in Sheffield;
    - (ii) providing a lukewarm reception to the proposal for an IKEA superstore;
    - (iii) failing to hold the full MADE entrepreneur festival in 2013;
    - (iv) introducing city-centre parking charges on evening and Sundays, which was opposed by many city-centre retailers;
    - (v) ignoring appeals from traders in Millhouses for additional parking over the Christmas period; and
    - (vi) a bizarre attempt to ban ice cream vans more than 5 years old;
  - (g) believes these examples have helped contribute to the following comments made by businesses that Sheffield City Council is:
    - (i) “closing its doors” to business;
    - (ii) “out of touch with the business reality of the 21st Century”; and
    - (iii) “killing us”;
  - (h) in contrast endorses the action that Liberal Democrats in Government have helped to secure to support Sheffield businesses, including:
    - (i) providing business rate discounts and enhanced capital allowances in Enterprise Zones;
    - (ii) cutting National Insurance contributions to give businesses an ‘employment allowance’ of £2,000;
    - (iii) supporting businesses to take on apprenticeships through the Apprenticeship Grants scheme;

- (iv) capping business rates at Consumer Price Index (CPI) in 2014 and providing new rebates and discounts;
- (v) reducing business energy costs by freezing the Carbon Price Support rate and giving special help to companies who are 'energy intensive';
- (vi) doubling the amount of money that companies can set off against tax for investing in new equipment; and
- (vii) reducing corporation tax to 20%;
- (i) furthermore, thanks the Government for enabling £30 million of investment to allow the New Retail Quarter to proceed but regrets that so little progress has been made in the past year by the current Administration;
- (j) implores the Administration to drop their anti-business attitude and work towards a genuinely business-friendly Council.

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

After a Right of Reply by Councillor Julie Dore, the original Motion was then put to the vote and carried, as follows:-

**RESOLVED:** That this Council:-

- (a) continues to support the priorities of the present Administration of focusing on jobs and being a business friendly Council;
- (b) welcomes the recent success of the city being named in the Financial Times' FDI Magazine's top 10 northern European cities for foreign direct investment and Breeze Investment recognising Sheffield as its 'location of the year 2013';
- (c) welcomes the Administration building on this momentum by announcing the creation of a Sheffield city centre investment fund for the Council to bring forward major regeneration projects in the city centre, including a new retail quarter, in an innovative partnership with private sector investment partners;
- (d) further welcomes existing business-focused policies from the present Administration to grow the local economy, particularly small and medium enterprises, through initiatives such as the Keep Sheffield Working Fund, which has funded:
  - (i) RISE Graduate Programme
  - (ii) Export Pilot Project
  - (iii) Threshold Company Programme
  - (iv) Summer Saturday's
  - (v) Business Loan Fund
  - (vi) Work Programme Start Up Project

- (e) welcomes recent analysis that shows the Keep Sheffield Working Fund has:
  - (i) supported over 90 businesses, due to increase to 130 by the end of December 2014;
  - (ii) seen £740,000 invested into supporting business growth and job creation, of which £342,500 has been direct investment into small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to support companies' growth or export plans;
  - (iii) supported companies to extend trade relationships to 17 different countries;
  - (iv) levered in a further £2,110,000 funding from the initial £800,000 investment through partners and private sector match, and that this will increase to an estimated £2,300,000 by December 2015; and
  - (v) seen the Fund on target to deliver 86 jobs over the course of the project's life;
- (f) therefore welcomes that a further £200,000 has been allocated to the Keep Sheffield Working Fund to continue supporting local businesses and economic development;
- (g) welcomes the work of the present Administration to continue to support Sheffield's Events Programme, despite the unprecedented level of cuts that the Government is making to the Council's budget, thereby making it increasingly difficult to support city centre vibrancy and the considerable economic benefits this brings;
- (h) welcomes the Sheffield Events Programme 2014 and recognises the estimated economic benefit of some of the events on the local economy including:
  - (i) Sports events, including British Indoor Athletics, British University and College Sport Finals £4m
  - (ii) World Snooker £1.9m
  - (iii) Sheffield Doc Fest £1.2m
  - (iv) Tramlines £443k
  - (v) Off The Shelf £119k
- (i) welcomes the £270,000 cultural destinations funding from Arts Council England to improve the profile and economic impact of 5 key cultural events (Art Sheffield, Doc Fest, Off the Shelf, Tramlines and Festival of the Mind);
- (j) welcomes the current Administration's role, along with partners, in bringing the Tour de France to Sheffield this year and notes that this will bring significant benefits to the local economy both in 2014 and in years to come;

and

- (k) resolves to continue to take proactive action to build a strong economy in the city, welcoming recent developments around the Keep Sheffield Working Fund and Events Programme, and looks forward to the International Trade Strategy, to further drive economic growth, being submitted to the Cabinet in April.

(Note: Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Shaffaq Mohammed, Robert Frost, Sylvia Anginotti, Colin Ross, Joe Otten, Keith Hill, Penny Baker, Roger Davison, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Denise Reaney, Bob McCann, Anders Hanson, Katie Condliffe, David Baker and Trevor Bagshaw voted for Paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (h), (i), (j) and against Paragraphs (a), (e), (f), (g) and (k) of the Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

## **11. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR COLIN ROSS**

### **Apprenticeships**

It was moved by Councillor Colin Ross, seconded by Councillor Andrew Sangar, that this Council:-

- (a) believes that apprenticeships are one of the best ways to support young people in long-term careers;
- (b) is proud that Liberal Democrats have campaigned for better apprenticeships in Government and highlights that one of the first acts of this Government was to increase spending on apprenticeships by £250 million – a 50% increase on the previous Government’s commitments;
- (c) notes that under this Government the number of people starting apprenticeships in Sheffield has increased by 54%;
- (d) welcomes the latest announcements set out in the Budget, which will help to create another 100,000 apprenticeships, including the extension of the Apprenticeship Grants for Employers scheme;
- (e) is pleased that a radical apprenticeship programme forms part of the Sheffield City Deal pioneered by Nick Clegg MP and welcomes the further allocation of £5 million to support apprenticeships in Sheffield City Region through the Youth Contract;
- (f) expresses extreme concern at the Labour Party policy review paper which argued that Intermediate Apprenticeships (level two) are ‘of no value to either employers or learners’, and also claimed scrapping them ‘would minimise deadweight’;
- (g) notes that 3,200 young people in Sheffield are on level two apprenticeships

and is appalled that Labour Party documents have branded these 'deadweight';

- (h) fears that under a Labour Government level two apprenticeships could be scrapped, resulting in the loss of almost 60% of apprenticeships in Sheffield; and
- (i) is committed to supporting young people into work, underlines the importance of apprenticeships and calls on Labour politicians to apologise for these crass and uninformed comments.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraphs (b) to (i) and the addition of new paragraphs (b) to (j) as follows:-

- (b) therefore welcomes the record of the present Administration in ensuring that Sheffield has the best record of apprenticeships of all the Core Cities and notes recent figures for the Core Cities are as follows:

•	Sheffield	7.8%
•	Liverpool	5.6%
•	Nottingham	5.2%
•	Leeds	5.0%
•	Bristol	4.9%
•	Newcastle	3.5%
•	Manchester	2.5%
•	Birmingham	2.4%

- (c) believes that the commitment to apprenticeships made by the present Administration has played a significant role in helping to achieve this success with policies such as:
  - (i) a One Hundred Apprenticeship Programme for young people furthest from the jobs market which has now operated successfully for three years;
  - (ii) a locally developed Skills Made Easy apprenticeship programme, which this Council played a key role in designing, that seeks to create 4000 additional apprenticeships across the Sheffield City Region and uniquely puts the purchasing power for skills in the hands of business, thereby meeting the needs of the local economy, young people and the business community far better than national programmes;
  - (iii) the RISE graduate internship programme, which encourages small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to take on graduates; and
  - (iv) piloting a recent hugely successful Employment and Skills event that has matched young people with real jobs and advice on apprenticeships and other training offers;

- (d) recalls that when the present Administration first introduced the Sheffield Apprenticeship Programme, the former Leader of the Council publically criticised the scheme in a local business magazine;
- (e) remembers the previous Administration's appalling record at tackling youth unemployment and particularly the broken promise made by the previous Leader of the Council who publically pledged to commit £1 million of Council funding to the previous Government's Future Jobs Fund, only to scrap this commitment;
- (f) reiterates its opposition to the Liberal Democrat complicity in abolishing the previous Government's Future Jobs Fund;
- (g) notes with interest the article on the respected Channel 4 Fact Check Website entitled "Factcheck: Lib Dem spin out of control on apprenticeships";
- (h) notes that the Factcheck article states "There is no suggestion in the paper that a Labour government should scrap the funding for people who want to do the equivalent of an intermediate qualification. This would simply be an exercise in rebranding.

It also specifically says a Labour government should not do what is set out in that Lib Dem bar chart and just axe the intermediate apprenticeship overnight.

The report states: 'These measures would inevitably lead to a dramatic fall in apprenticeship numbers if introduced suddenly. Employers and providers should therefore be given time to improve the quality of their apprenticeships over an agreed period.'";

- (i) is appalled at Liberal Democrat attempts to scaremonger and notes that the Factcheck article states "Another piece of mischief here is the use of the word "deadweight" in the press release, as though Labour are saying the people doing those apprenticeships are a weight dragging on society. In policy circles, deadweight or "additionality" is simply a technical term for 'what would have happened anyway if we had done nothing.'"; and
- (j) believes that the motion is attempting to mislead the Council, for which the mover of the motion should apologise, and furthermore, that the main opposition group are equally as untrustworthy as the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party and considers that this is just a latest example of what the Deputy Prime Minister meant when he said "read the small print" when trying to explain Liberal Democrat literature.

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

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Joe Otten, seconded by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be

amended by the re-lettering of paragraphs (h) and (i) as new paragraphs (i) and (j) and the addition of a new paragraph (h) as follows:-

- (h) furthermore, notes that 90% of young people that passed through the Sheffield Apprenticeship Programme completed Level 2 qualifications and regrets that a Labour policy review is in effect rubbishing this important local scheme;

On being put to the vote the amendment was negatived.

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

**RESOLVED:** That this Council:-

- (a) believes that apprenticeships are one of the best ways to support young people in long-term careers;
- (b) therefore welcomes the record of the present Administration in ensuring that Sheffield has the best record of apprenticeships of all the Core Cities and notes recent figures for the Core Cities are as follows:
- Sheffield 7.8%
  - Liverpool 5.6%
  - Nottingham 5.2%
  - Leeds 5.0%
  - Bristol 4.9%
  - Newcastle 3.5%
  - Manchester 2.5%
  - Birmingham 2.4%
- (c) believes that the commitment to apprenticeships made by the present Administration has played a significant role in helping to achieve this success with policies such as:
- (i) a One Hundred Apprenticeship Programme for young people furthest from the jobs market which has now operated successfully for three years;
  - (ii) a locally developed Skills Made Easy apprenticeship programme, which this Council played a key role in designing, that seeks to create 4000 additional apprenticeships across the Sheffield City Region and uniquely puts the purchasing power for skills in the hands of business, thereby meeting the needs of the local economy, young people and the business community far better than national programmes;
  - (iii) the RISE graduate internship programme, which encourages small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to take on graduates; and



- (iv) piloting a recent hugely successful Employment and Skills event that has matched young people with real jobs and advice on apprenticeships and other training offers;
- (d) recalls that when the present Administration first introduced the Sheffield Apprenticeship Programme, the former Leader of the Council publically criticised the scheme in a local business magazine;
- (e) remembers the previous Administration's appalling record at tackling youth unemployment and particularly the broken promise made by the previous Leader of the Council who publically pledged to commit £1 million of Council funding to the previous Government's Future Jobs Fund, only to scrap this commitment;
- (f) reiterates its opposition to the Liberal Democrat complicity in abolishing the previous Government's Future Jobs Fund;
- (g) notes with interest the article on the respected Channel 4 Fact Check Website entitled "Factcheck: Lib Dem spin out of control on apprenticeships";
- (h) notes that the Factcheck article states "There is no suggestion in the paper that a Labour government should scrap the funding for people who want to do the equivalent of an intermediate qualification. This would simply be an exercise in rebranding.  
  
It also specifically says a Labour government should not do what is set out in that Lib Dem bar chart and just axe the intermediate apprenticeship overnight.  
  
The report states: 'These measures would inevitably lead to a dramatic fall in apprenticeship numbers if introduced suddenly. Employers and providers should therefore be given time to improve the quality of their apprenticeships over an agreed period.'";
- (i) is appalled at Liberal Democrat attempts to scaremonger and notes that the Factcheck article states "Another piece of mischief here is the use of the word "deadweight" in the press release, as though Labour are saying the people doing those apprenticeships are a weight dragging on society. In policy circles, deadweight or "additionality" is simply a technical term for 'what would have happened anyway if we had done nothing'."; and
- (j) believes that the motion is attempting to mislead the Council, for which the mover of the motion should apologise, and furthermore, that the main opposition group are equally as untrustworthy as the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party and considers that this is just a latest example of what the Deputy Prime Minister meant when he said "read the small print" when trying to explain Liberal Democrat literature.

(Note: Councillors Jillian Creasy and Robert Murphy voted for Paragraphs (a), (b)

and (c) and abstained on Paragraphs (d) to (j) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

## **12. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR BEN CURRAN**

### **Cost of Living**

It was moved by Councillor Ben Curran, seconded by Councillor Adam Hurst, that this Council:-

- (a) believes that the recent budget proves that Sheffield people are worse off under the current government who are taking no action to deal with the cost-of-living crisis;
- (b) regrets that wages are down £1,600 a year since Nick Clegg MP became Deputy Prime Minister;
- (c) notes that the Office of Budget Responsibility have confirmed that people will be worse off in 2015 than they were in 2010 and energy bills are up by almost £300 since Nick Clegg MP became Deputy Prime Minister;
- (d) regrets the Government of which Nick Clegg MP is Deputy Prime Minister has overseen the slowest recovery for 100 years and acknowledges that Italy is the only G7 country to recover at a slower rate than the UK;
- (e) regrets that George Osborne MP has borrowed more since becoming Chancellor than Labour did in 13 years of Government
- (f) is alarmed that that the Government has forecast to borrow over £190 billion more than it initially planned;
- (g) completely condemns the decision taken by the Government, including the Deputy Prime Minister, to cut the top rate of tax for people earning over £150,000;
- (h) believes Sheffield needs a Labour Government which will:
  - (i) freeze energy bills until 2017 and reform the broken energy market;
  - (ii) put young people back to work, with a job the young unemployed have to take – paid for by a tax on bank bonuses;
  - (iii) expand free childcare for working parents to 25 hours a week for 3 and 4 year olds;
  - (iv) cut taxes for 24 million working people on middle and low incomes with a lower 10p starting rate of income tax;

- (v) cut business rates for small firms and a plan to get 200,000 homes built a year by 2020; and
- (vi) balance the books in a fairer way by reversing the £3 billion tax cut for people earning over £150,000;
- (i) specifically supports the policy of taxing bank bonuses to put young people back to work;
- (j) is appalled at the recent Conservative Party poster from the budget which states that “Cutting the Bingo Tax & Beer Duty: To help Hardworking People Do More Of The Things They Enjoy” and believes that this is just the latest example of how out of touch this Government is; and
- (k) believes this is reminiscent of reported comments by a Government minister three years ago that “We don’t want more people from Sheffield flying away on cheap holidays.”, and believes it is unbelievable that these ministers are only able to continue in Government because of the support of Nick Clegg MP.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Roger Davison, seconded by Councillor Penny Baker, 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 substitution of the following words therefor:-

- (a) recalls the record of the last Government who built up a record deficit year-on-year from 2001 onwards and oversaw the biggest collapse in this country’s economy in recent memory;
- (b) notes that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) now expects the UK economy to grow faster than any other G7 economy in the first six months of this year and believes that Liberal Democrats in Government have been crucial in securing this economic recovery;
- (c) furthermore notes figures from the Office of National Statistics that demonstrate that the number of people claiming jobseekers allowance has fallen for the fifteenth consecutive month;
- (d) asks Members to consider the following facts:
  - (i) Employment – May 2010: 28.93 million; Now: 30.15 million; Result: 1.22 million more people in work;
  - (ii) Unemployment – May 2010: 7.9%; Now: 7.2%; Result: 0.7% reduction in unemployment; and
  - (iii) Inflation – May 2010: 3.4%; Now: 1.7%; Result: Inflation halved;
- (e) contrasts the wild predictions of Labour politicians with the economic reality of the country;

- (i) STATEMENT – The Rt. Hon. Ed Miliband MP: [The Government] have a programme which will lead to the disappearance of a million jobs; REALITY – More than one million more people in work than 2010;
- (ii) STATEMENT – The Rt. Hon. Ed Balls MP: [The Government] have turned Britain’s recovery into ... a deep and deepening recession; REALITY – OECD expects the UK economy to grow faster than any other G7 economy in the first six months of this year; and
- (iii) STATEMENT – Councillor Julie Dore: [Government policies] will contribute to the break-up of civil society if we do not turn back; REALITY – State of Sheffield Report 2013 claims “It is widely argued that the look and feel of the city, and its quality of life and place has never been stronger for many people”;
- (f) recognises that as a result of the massive economic crash this country faced, many families have seen their household budgets stretched and continue to struggle to make ends meet;
- (g) therefore welcomes the action of this Government and believes Liberal Democrats in Government have been vital in securing policies to support local people with the cost of living, including:
  - (i) giving 24 million ordinary workers an £800 tax cut;
  - (ii) increasing the state pension by £650 thanks to the ‘triple lock’;
  - (iii) supporting Council Tax freezes, saving the average Sheffield household £185 this year;
  - (iv) delivering an average saving of £50 on household energy bills;
  - (v) freezing fuel duty, saving motorists £170 per year;
  - (vi) introducing 15 hours free childcare for disadvantaged two-year-olds; and
  - (vii) delivering free school meals for all infant pupils from this September;
- (h) contrasts this action with the appalling record of the last Government, who:
  - (i) scrapped the 10p tax, leaving half a million of the lowest paid workers worse off; and
  - (ii) increased the state pension by an insulting 75p;
- (i) notes that British workers – excluding the richest 10% – saw their take-home pay rise in real terms in the past year;
- (j) furthermore welcomes news that inflation has fallen again to 1.7%, the lowest level for four years, and confirms that this could not have been achieved without tough action on the massive deficit that the last Government left behind; and

- (k) notes that the national Labour Party has changed its policy on bankers' bonuses on a staggering eleven occasions since 2011 and believes this confirms their complete ineptitude.

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

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

**RESOLVED:** That this Council:-

- (a) believes that the recent budget proves that Sheffield people are worse off under the current government who are taking no action to deal with the cost-of-living crisis;
- (b) regrets that wages are down £1,600 a year since Nick Clegg MP became Deputy Prime Minister;
- (c) notes that the Office of Budget Responsibility have confirmed that people will be worse off in 2015 than they were in 2010 and energy bills are up by almost £300 since Nick Clegg MP became Deputy Prime Minister;
- (d) regrets the Government of which Nick Clegg MP is Deputy Prime Minister has overseen the slowest recovery for 100 years and acknowledges that Italy is the only G7 country to recover at a slower rate than the UK;
- (e) regrets that George Osborne MP has borrowed more since becoming Chancellor than Labour did in 13 years of Government
- (f) is alarmed that that the Government has forecast to borrow over £190 billion more than it initially planned;
- (g) completely condemns the decision taken by the Government, including the Deputy Prime Minister, to cut the top rate of tax for people earning over £150,000;
- (h) believes Sheffield needs a Labour Government which will:
- (i) freeze energy bills until 2017 and reform the broken energy market;
  - (ii) put young people back to work, with a job the young unemployed have to take – paid for by a tax on bank bonuses;
  - (iii) expand free childcare for working parents to 25 hours a week for 3 and 4 year olds;
  - (iv) cut taxes for 24 million working people on middle and low incomes with a lower 10p starting rate of income tax;
  - (v) cut business rates for small firms and a plan to get 200,000 homes built a year by 2020; and

- (vi) balance the books in a fairer way by reversing the £3 billion tax cut for people earning over £150,000;
- (i) specifically supports the policy of taxing bank bonuses to put young people back to work;
- (j) is appalled at the recent Conservative Party poster from the budget which states that “Cutting the Bingo Tax & Beer Duty: To help Hardworking People Do More Of The Things They Enjoy” and believes that this is just the latest example of how out of touch this Government is; and
- (k) believes this is reminiscent of reported comments by a Government minister three years ago that “We don’t want more people from Sheffield flying away on cheap holidays.”, and believes it is unbelievable that these ministers are only able to continue in Government because of the support of Nick Clegg MP.

(Note: Councillors Jillian Creasy and Robert Murphy voted for Paragraph (g) and abstained on Paragraphs (a) to (f) and (h) to (k) of the Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

### 13. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JULIE DORE

#### **City Centred Campaign for Decentralised Fiscal Reform**

**RESOLVED:** On the Motion of Councillor Julie Dore, seconded by Councillor Jackie Drayton, that this Council:-

- (a) notes that English cities have a proud tradition of independence, ambition and innovation, but that the ability of cities to act on their ambition is undermined by the high levels of central Government control over public finances, which is out of step with international comparisons and constrains their ability to drive economic growth or meet local need;
- (b) believes that major cities worldwide outperform their national economies, but that in England only the capital city is consistently able to achieve this;
- (c) confirms that there is robust international evidence to show that cities with more local control over funding and policy achieve better economic results;
- (d) regrets that English cities have control over a very small share of their funding when compared to their international counterparts, with direct control over as little as 5% of the taxes raised within them and restrictions on how funding can be spent;
- (e) believes that in order to drive national economic growth and to remain competitive on a global stage, cities require the freedom to invest in the levers of growth;

- (f) further believes that the current situation for cities leads to inefficient use of public money and missed opportunities for local reforms of the public sector and for national economic growth;
- (g) notes that together the Core Cities and London represent more than half of the national economy and almost half of the population;
- (h) believes that the devolution of financial freedoms would enable cities to be more competitive and would incentivise cities to drive growth, increase job creation, reduce dependency and improve lives;
- (i) welcomes that the Core Cities Group, London Councils and Mayor of London have jointly launched a City Centred campaign to call for decentralised fiscal reform, beginning with the devolution of property taxes, in order to enable cities to drive economic growth; and
- (j) resolves to endorse and support the City Centred Campaign and to continue to call for the devolution of increased fiscal controls to the Core Cities and London, starting with the implementation of the London Finance Commission recommendations.

(Note: Councillors Jillian Creasy and Robert Murphy voted for Paragraphs (a) to (h) and abstained on Paragraphs (i) and (j) of the Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

#### **14. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW SANGAR**

##### **Shared Services**

It was moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, seconded by Councillor Colin Ross, that this Council:-

- (a) stresses that a time when budgets are reducing the Administration need to work innovatively and find ways of doing things differently;
- (b) notes that there are clear financial benefits to be delivered from sharing services with other local authorities and highlights in particular:
  - (i) the Tri-borough initiative in London which aims to save £40 million by 2015-16;
  - (ii) the joint working of Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, which achieved savings of £3.79 million in its first full year; and
  - (iii) the co-operation between Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire, which achieved staff savings of £3.9 million in the first two years of sharing services;

- (c) notes research from the Local Government Association that shows there are only fifteen shared services projects in Yorkshire & Humber compared to sixty-four in the East Midlands;
- (d) recalls the main opposition group's budget amendment, which was signed off by finance officers with a modest savings target for shared services, but confirms that the potential for savings is far greater;
- (e) regrets that despite consistent calls from opposition councillors the current Administration have failed to deliver significant savings from additional shared services;
- (f) believes the current Administration simply prefer to blame someone else, rather than looking to more innovative ways of reducing costs; and
- (g) calls upon the Chief Executive to hold an immediate review into the potential for shared services, which will report back to this Council within three months.

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

- (a) regrets that the reason that "budgets are reducing" is that the Government are making unprecedented cuts to the Council's budget and by 2015/16 the Council will have had an overall reduction in Government formula funding by 50%;
- (b) confirms that since this Government came to power, the Council has had to make savings of over £230 million with more cuts to come in future years and regrets that at the same time as Sheffield has to make these savings some of the wealthiest areas of the country receive just a fraction of the cuts;
- (c) welcomes that the present Administration have attempted to deal with this unprecedented budget gap as far as possible through finding efficiencies within the Council including:
  - (i) reducing spending on computers and technology by 30%;
  - (ii) reducing the number of offices occupied by the Council, saving £34 million;
  - (iii) reducing staff in corporate services, for example the finance department's budget has already been cut by 45% since 2010/11; and
  - (iv) saving £1 million through a review of senior management in addition to the management savings that are made year upon year;



- (d) resolves to continue to work innovatively to make savings that reduce the impact of cuts on front line services, however, regrets that the level of cuts that the Government have made to the Council's budget means it is not possible to achieve the savings targets through efficiencies alone and believes it is impossible to take the amount of money the Government is cutting from the Council without impacting on front line services;
- (e) recalls that when the previous Administration entered into a shared service with Rotherham Council for the Emergency Planning Service, there was an increase in costs not a reduction and is shocked at the hypocrisy of the main opposition group who criticise the present Administration for not reducing costs through sharing services, when they increased costs through sharing services, not reduced them;
- (f) notes that despite claiming that their budget would save money through sharing services, the main opposition group failed to identify a single service where savings could be made through this practice and fears that like all of the policies of the main opposition group when you "read the small print" you discover the gap between the rhetoric and the reality; and
- (g) resolves to continue to do everything to make savings to reduce the impact of cuts on front line services as the Council continues to deal with the unprecedented and unfair cuts imposed by the Government, however, will take no lessons from the main opposition group who have not put forward a single service that could be shared.

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

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

**RESOLVED:** That this Council:-

- (a) regrets that the reason that "budgets are reducing" is that the Government are making unprecedented cuts to the Council's budget and by 2015/16 the Council will have had an overall reduction in Government formula funding by 50%;
- (b) confirms that since this Government came to power, the Council has had to make savings of over £230 million with more cuts to come in future years and regrets that at the same time as Sheffield has to make these savings some of the wealthiest areas of the country receive just a fraction of the cuts;
- (c) welcomes that the present Administration have attempted to deal with this unprecedented budget gap as far as possible through finding efficiencies within the Council including:
  - (i) reducing spending on computers and technology by 30%;

- (ii) reducing the number of offices occupied by the Council, saving £34 million;
  - (iii) reducing staff in corporate services, for example the finance department's budget has already been cut by 45% since 2010/11; and
  - (iv) saving £1 million through a review of senior management in addition to the management savings that are made year upon year;
- (d) resolves to continue to work innovatively to make savings that reduce the impact of cuts on front line services, however, regrets that the level of cuts that the Government have made to the Council's budget means it is not possible to achieve the savings targets through efficiencies alone and believes it is impossible to take the amount of money the Government is cutting from the Council without impacting on front line services;
- (e) recalls that when the previous Administration entered into a shared service with Rotherham Council for the Emergency Planning Service, there was an increase in costs not a reduction and is shocked at the hypocrisy of the main opposition group who criticise the present Administration for not reducing costs through sharing services, when they increased costs through sharing services, not reduced them;
- (f) notes that despite claiming that their budget would save money through sharing services, the main opposition group failed to identify a single service where savings could be made through this practice and fears that like all of the policies of the main opposition group when you "read the small print" you discover the gap between the rhetoric and the reality; and
- (g) resolves to continue to do everything to make savings to reduce the impact of cuts on front line services as the Council continues to deal with the unprecedented and unfair cuts imposed by the Government, however, will take no lessons from the main opposition group who have not put forward a single service that could be shared.

(Councillors Jillian Creasy and Robert Murphy voted for Paragraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) and abstained on Paragraphs (e), (f) and (g) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

## 15. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JILLIAN CREASY

### Financial Transaction Tax Extension

**RESOLVED:** On the Motion of Councillor Jillian Creasy, seconded by Councillor Robert Murphy, that this Council:-

- (a) deplores the cuts being imposed on Sheffield City Council by central

- government against a background of cuts to public services, job and benefits facing the city as a whole;
- (b) notes that extending the current Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) or “Robin Hood Tax” on shares to other asset classes such as bonds and derivatives could raise £20bn of additional annual revenue in the UK;
  - (c) believes that this could be used to offset cuts to public services and local authorities, including in Sheffield;
  - (d) also believes that whilst extending the FTT would have a negligible effect on jobs in the city of London, investing the additional revenue elsewhere would see a significant increase in employment levels in other sectors and in other parts of the country;
  - (e) notes that at least 11 European nations including France, Germany, Italy and Spain favour an extended FTT;
  - (f) notes that nearly 50 councils have joined the campaign for an extended FTT;
  - (g) therefore calls on the Government to work towards the implementation of an extended FTT by international agreement to ensure that all major financial centres are subject to the tax and that additional revenues are available for domestic public services and international development; and
  - (h) directs that a copy of this motion be sent to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer.

**16. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR DAVID BAKER**

**Library Services**

It was moved by Councillor David Baker, seconded by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, that this Council:-

- (a) notes that more than 32,000 signatures have been presented to the Council regarding the Administration’s disastrous review of library services;
- (b) confirms that under the Administration’s current plans sixteen community libraries remain under threat of closure;
- (c) believes the Administration’s attitude has been an insult to local campaigners with genuine concerns snubbed and simple questions ignored;
- (d) recognises that the Council need to make savings and do things differently but believes that local people have been clear that closing libraries is not the right way forward;
- (e) believes that every library deserves access to professional staff;

- (f) recalls the budget amendment of the main opposition group, which was signed off by Council finance officers, and identified sensible savings which, if implemented, would mean reductions in funding to the libraries service could be restored; and
- (g) urges the Administration to listen to local residents and re-think their plans for local libraries to ensure that no library is under threat of closure.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Mazher Iqbal, seconded by Councillor Geoff Smith, 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 substitution of the following words therefor:-

- (a) recognises that the Council is facing an unprecedented level of cuts from Central Government, meaning that by 2015/16 the Council will have had an overall reduction in Government formula funding by 50% and recognises that with this level of funding reductions all services across the Council will be seriously affected;
- (b) further recognises that over the past three years, the Council has done everything possible to make budget reductions in libraries without making substantial changes to the service, however recognises that with the level of cuts now facing the Council, this is no longer possible;
- (c) welcomes that the Council is looking to find new ways of delivering library services given the serious situation facing libraries nationally and notes reports stating that over 400 libraries have closed nationally and 1000 are estimated to close by 2016;
- (d) welcomes the changes to the proposals for associate libraries recently announced which will now ensure that they have all running costs met and will continue to offer internet access and be on the Council's catalogue;
- (e) recognises that this extra support is based on the feedback from what community groups said that they need to operate associate libraries and appreciates that the proposals offer a genuine opportunity to keep all libraries open at a time when libraries across the country are closing due to the unprecedented and unfair cuts that the Government is making to cities such as Sheffield; and
- (f) resolves to continue to do everything possible to work with local community groups to support them to keep all libraries open in the city, in the face of unprecedented Government cuts.

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

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

**RESOLVED:** That this Council:-

- (a) recognises that the Council is facing an unprecedented level of cuts from Central Government, meaning that by 2015/16 the Council will have had an overall reduction in Government formula funding by 50% and recognises that with this level of funding reductions all services across the Council will be seriously affected;
- (b) further recognises that over the past three years, the Council has done everything possible to make budget reductions in libraries without making substantial changes to the service, however recognises that with the level of cuts now facing the Council, this is no longer possible;
- (c) welcomes that the Council is looking to find new ways of delivering library services given the serious situation facing libraries nationally and notes reports stating that over 400 libraries have closed nationally and 1000 are estimated to close by 2016;
- (d) welcomes the changes to the proposals for associate libraries recently announced which will now ensure that they have all running costs met and will continue to offer internet access and be on the Council's catalogue;
- (e) recognises that this extra support is based on the feedback from what community groups said that they need to operate associate libraries and appreciates that the proposals offer a genuine opportunity to keep all libraries open at a time when libraries across the country are closing due to the unprecedented and unfair cuts that the Government is making to cities such as Sheffield; and
- (f) resolves to continue to do everything possible to work with local community groups to support them to keep all libraries open in the city, in the face of unprecedented Government cuts.

(Note: Councillors Jillian Creasy and Robert Murphy voted for Paragraphs (a) and (f), against Paragraphs (b) and (e) and abstained on Paragraphs (c) and (d) of the Substantive Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

## **17. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR SUE ALSTON**

### **Bus Fares/Sheffield Bus Partnership**

It was moved by Councillor Sue Alston, seconded by Councillor Penny Baker, that this Council:-

- (a) notes the latest announcement by First buses that fares will rise in the city by as much as 13%;
- (b) highlights that these changes come in the context of average profit margins for bus operators in South Yorkshire which are double those in London;

- (c) believes these hikes are unnecessary and unfair on many local residents, particularly hard working people who continue to struggle with finances;
- (d) holds this up as another example of the failure of the Sheffield Bus Partnership, which has delivered worse services for higher charges; and
- (e) believes the Administration should call time on their disastrous Bus Partnership and begin immediate work on developing Quality Contracts which will finally restore power to local people.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Mick Rooney, 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 substitution of the following words therefor:-

- (a) agrees with comments from Liberal Democrat Minister, Norman Baker MP, "The Sheffield Bus Agreement is good news for the city and shows what can be achieved when local councils, bus operators and transport authorities work together for the benefit of passengers. This partnership will transform passengers' experience by making bus travel easier and cheaper";
- (b) confirms that since its launch in October 2012, the Partnership has seen:
  - (i) 3.99 million more fare-paying passengers on Sheffield's buses;
  - (ii) over 60% of adult fare paying customers benefitting from cheaper fares;
  - (iii) improvements in customer satisfaction by up to 45%;
  - (iv) 50,000 bus users benefitting from new links and better frequencies;
  - (v) significantly improved reliability month on month to 98.6%;
  - (vi) 80 new buses provided in 2013/14 together with £4.7m of improved infrastructure; and
  - (vii) two UK Bus Awards won;
- (c) confirms that many prices are still below what they were before the Bus Partnership Agreement was introduced and in particular welcomes the new reductions in prices for children and young people;
- (d) confirms that if the bus partnership agreement were to be scrapped, fares could go back up to their higher levels making passengers pay more and the millions of investment secured would be put at risk; and
- (e) believes that the main opposition group should put the interests of passengers before their own narrow political interest and support the

Partnership which has been described by a senior Liberal Democrat as “good news for the city”.

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

It was then moved by Councillor Robert Frost, seconded by Councillor Colin Ross, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the insertion of the words “and Stagecoach” after the word “First” in paragraph (a); and
2. the re-lettering of paragraph (e) as a new paragraph (f) and the addition of a new paragraph (e) as follows:-
  - (e) furthermore regrets the collapse of the Optio ticket range, which was introduced with a fanfare just two years ago, and believes it was a half-hearted attempt at cross-ticketing, which failed to simplify the ticketing system;

On being put to the vote the amendment was negated.

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

**RESOLVED:** That this Council:-

- (a) agrees with comments from Liberal Democrat Minister, Norman Baker MP, “The Sheffield Bus Agreement is good news for the city and shows what can be achieved when local councils, bus operators and transport authorities work together for the benefit of passengers. This partnership will transform passengers’ experience by making bus travel easier and cheaper”;
- (b) confirms that since its launch in October 2012, the Partnership has seen:
  - (i) 3.99 million more fare-paying passengers on Sheffield’s buses;
  - (ii) over 60% of adult fare paying customers benefitting from cheaper fares;
  - (iii) improvements in customer satisfaction by up to 45%;
  - (iv) 50,000 bus users benefitting from new links and better frequencies;
  - (v) significantly improved reliability month on month to 98.6%;
  - (vi) 80 new buses provided in 2013/14 together with £4.7m of improved infrastructure; and
  - (vii) two UK Bus Awards won;

- (c) confirms that many prices are still below what they were before the Bus Partnership Agreement was introduced and in particular welcomes the new reductions in prices for children and young people;
- (d) confirms that if the bus partnership agreement were to be scrapped, fares could go back up to their higher levels making passengers pay more and the millions of investment secured would be put at risk; and
- (e) believes that the main opposition group should put the interests of passengers before their own narrow political interest and support the Partnership which has been described by a senior Liberal Democrat as “good news for the city”.

(Note: Councillors Jillian Creasy and Robert Murphy voted against Paragraphs (a), (d) and (e) and abstained on Paragraphs (b) and (c) and asked for this to be recorded.)

## **18. NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ROBERT FROST**

### **Income Tax**

It was moved by Councillor Robert Frost, seconded by Councillor Andrew Sangar, that this Council:-

- (a) notes the Liberal Democrat policy of raising the income tax threshold from £6,475 to £10,000, to which the now-Prime Minister said “we cannot afford it”;
- (b) confirms that the Liberal Democrat plan for a £700 tax cut has been surpassed and an £800 tax cut for 27 million ordinary workers has been delivered, including for 195,000 people in Sheffield;
- (c) compares this tax cut for ordinary workers with the record of the Labour Party, who scrapped the 10p tax, and the priorities of the Conservative Party, who wanted more tax cuts for the wealthiest; and
- (d) commends Liberal Democrat action in Government, which is helping to build a stronger economy and a fairer society.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Ben Curran, seconded by Councillor Martin Lawton, 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 substitution of the following words therefor:-

- (a) welcomes any moves to give much needed support to people on low incomes, however, regrets that people are worse off under this Government and wages are down £1,600 a year due to the Government’s failure to tackle the cost of living crisis;



- (b) regrets that at the same time as people on low and average incomes are losing out, people earning over £150,000 have been singled out for a tax cut and reiterates its opposition to the 'millionaires tax cut';
- (c) is disappointed that the Government has chosen its flagship budget announcement as an increase of the ISA limit to £15,000, at a time when workers on the minimum wage and the living wage won't even earn £15,000;
- (d) believes this is evidence that the Government is not serious about helping people on low incomes;
- (e) welcomes the policy of the Labour Party to reintroduce the 10p tax rate which will give support to people on low incomes;
- (f) further supports the Labour Party policy of introducing a mansion tax on high value properties and regrets that the Liberal Democrats have failed to deliver this policy in Government;
- (g) regrets that this Government cannot tackle the cost of living crisis because they do not believe there is one and recalls that this is best highlighted through their opposition to Labour's energy price freeze policy; and
- (h) believes it is unbelievable of the main opposition group to celebrate the record of the Government on living standards when people are worse off and believes that this is just a further example of how out of touch they are.

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

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

**RESOLVED:** That this Council:-

- (a) welcomes any moves to give much needed support to people on low incomes, however, regrets that people are worse off under this Government and wages are down £1,600 a year due to the Government's failure to tackle the cost of living crisis;
- (b) regrets that at the same time as people on low and average incomes are losing out, people earning over £150,000 have been singled out for a tax cut and reiterates its opposition to the 'millionaires tax cut';
- (c) is disappointed that the Government has chosen its flagship budget announcement as an increase of the ISA limit to £15,000, at a time when workers on the minimum wage and the living wage won't even earn £15,000;
- (d) believes this is evidence that the Government is not serious about helping

people on low incomes;

- (e) welcomes the policy of the Labour Party to reintroduce the 10p tax rate which will give support to people on low incomes;
- (f) further supports the Labour Party policy of introducing a mansion tax on high value properties and regrets that the Liberal Democrats have failed to deliver this policy in Government;
- (g) regrets that this Government cannot tackle the cost of living crisis because they do not believe there is one and recalls that this is best highlighted through their opposition to Labour's energy price freeze policy; and
- (h) believes it is unbelievable of the main opposition group to celebrate the record of the Government on living standards when people are worse off and believes that this is just a further example of how out of touch they are.