

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of the City of Sheffield held in the Council Chamber within the Town Hall, Sheffield, on Wednesday, 4th April 2012 pursuant to notice duly given and Summonses duly served.

PRESENT

THE LORD MAYOR (Councillor Sylvia Dunkley)
THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR (Councillor John Campbell)

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>1 <i>Arbourthorne Ward</i>
Jack Scott
Julie Dore</p> | <p>10 <i>Dore & Totley Ward</i>
Joe Otten
Keith Hill
Colin Ross</p> | <p>19 <i>Mosborough Ward</i>
David Barker
Isobel Bowler
Gail Smith</p> |
| <p>2 <i>Beauchief/Greenhill Ward</i>
Simon Clement-Jones
Clive Skelton
Louise McCann</p> | <p>11 <i>East Ecclesfield Ward</i>
Steven Wilson
Garry Weatherall
Colin Taylor</p> | <p>20 <i>Nether Edge Ward</i>
Qurban Hussain
Anders Hanson
Ali Qadar</p> |
| <p>3 <i>Beighton Ward</i>
Chris Rosling-Josephs
Helen Mirfin-Boukouris
Ian Saunders</p> | <p>12 <i>Ecclesall Ward</i>
Diana Stimely
Roger Davison</p> | <p>21 <i>Richmond Ward</i>
Martin Lawton
Lynn Rooney</p> |
| <p>4 <i>Birley Ward</i>
Denise Fox
Karen McGowan
Bryan Lodge</p> | <p>13 <i>Firth Park Ward</i>
Chris Weldon
Alan Law
Joan Barton</p> | <p>22 <i>Shiregreen & Brightside Ward</i>
Peter Price

Jane Bird</p> |
| <p>5 <i>Broomhill Ward</i>
Stuart Wattam
Shaffaq Mohammed
Paul Scriven</p> | <p>14 <i>Fulwood Ward</i>
Andrew Sangar

John Knight</p> | <p>23 <i>Southey Ward</i>
Leigh Bramall
Gill Furniss
Tony Damms</p> |
| <p>6 <i>Burngreave Ward</i>
Ibrar Hussain
Talib Hussain
Jackie Drayton</p> | <p>15 <i>Gleadless Valley Ward</i>
Tim Rippon
Cate McDonald</p> | <p>24 <i>Stannington Ward</i>
Vickie Priestley
David Baker
Arthur Dunworth</p> |
| <p>7 <i>Central Ward</i>
Jillian Creasy
Mohammad Maroof
Robert Murphy</p> | <p>16 <i>Graves Park Ward</i>
Ian Auckland
Bob McCann
Peter Moore</p> | <p>25 <i>Stocksbridge & Upper Don Ward</i>
Philip Wood
Alison Brelsford
Jack Clarkson</p> |
| <p>8 <i>Crookes Ward</i>
Geoff Smith
Sylvia Anginotti
Brian Holmes</p> | <p>17 <i>Hillsborough Ward</i>
Robert Johnson
Janet Bragg
Joe Taylor</p> | <p>26 <i>Walkley Ward</i>
Nikki Sharpe
Ben Curran
Diane Leek</p> |
| <p>9 <i>Darnall Ward</i>
Harry Harpham
Mazher Iqbal</p> | <p>18 <i>Manor Castle Ward</i>
Jenny Armstrong
Terry Fox
Pat Midgley</p> | <p>27 <i>West Ecclesfield Ward</i>
Alf Meade
Trevor Bagshaw
Kathleen Chadwick</p> |
| | | <p>28 <i>Woodhouse Ward</i>
Mick Rooney
Ray Satur
Jackie Satur</p> |

1. **FORMER COUNCILLOR TONY HOLMES**

Members of the City Council observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect and in memory of former Councillor Tony Holmes who had represented Beauchief and Greenhill Ward between 2004 and 2008. Tributes were paid to him by Members of the Council later during the meeting.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mary Lea, Peter Rippon, John Robson and Janice Sidebottom.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mick Rooney declared a personal interest in the item of business concerning a petition and relating to Sevenfields and Hazelhurst Resource Centres, as he is a Non Executive Director of the Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust.

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Pat Midgley, seconded by Councillor Gill Furniss, that the minutes of the meeting of the City Council held on 1st February 2012 and the Special Meeting (Budget) held on 9th March 2012, both be approved as a correct record.

5. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

5.1 Petitions

(a) Petition Requesting the Council to Provide Support for Shopmobility Sheffield

The Council received a petition, containing 2853 signatures, requesting the Council to provide support in the form of funding and premises in the City Centre to enable Shopmobility to deliver its services.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Julie Smethurst, who stated that it was the City Council's responsibility to support Shopmobility Sheffield and to find a more suitable location in the City Centre, together with adequate funding. At the present time, the Shopmobility scheme was situated in a location some distance from the City Centre and it needed to be more highly visible and accessible and part of the City's marketing and retail offer. She referred to the Shopmobility scheme at Crystal Peaks as an example of a successful and self sustaining scheme.

The Council referred the petition to the Cabinet Member for Communities (Councillor Mick Rooney), who stated that he was responsible for voluntary sector grant aid and although he was not a position to divulge the result of this

year's application for funding, he would not disagree with the petitioners with regard to the limitations of the location of Shopmobility on Eldon Street. He acknowledged that a discussion in relation to a sustainable Shopmobility scheme which was part of the City Centre offer was overdue. He gave an undertaking that, after the local elections, the Council would discuss these matters with representatives of Shopmobility and other interested parties, including retailers, to put Shopmobility on a more sustainable and long term footing.

(b) Petition Objecting to the Proposed Staffing Changes at Verdon Street Recreation Centre

The Council received a petition containing 510 signatures, objecting to the proposed staffing changes at Verdon Street Recreation Centre. The petition was submitted to and noted by the North East Community Assembly at its meeting on 21st March, 2012.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Zabeda Hussain, who stated that the petition was supported by parents and friends of the school, young people, users and the parents' group. The Recreation Centre was an important and accessible place for the community in Burngreave, providing a very positive atmosphere. She stated that it was felt the proposed replacement of a member of staff at the Verdon Street centre would be a negative development.

The Council referred the petition to the Cabinet Member for Business, Jobs and Growth (Councillor Helen Mirfin-Boukouris), who stated that she understood that the Verdon Street Recreation Centre was an important facility to the community. The Council had done its best to make sure there was no reduction in funding in 2012/13. However, she was not able to comment on a specific member of staff. Local Councillors had discussed matters relating to the Recreation Centre with her.

(c) Petition Supporting the Model for a Directly Elected Mayor for Sheffield

The Council received a petition containing 14 signatures and supporting the model for a directly elected Mayor for Sheffield.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Kevin Meagher, who stated that, in the forthcoming referendum on 3 May 2012, the City had a choice in relation to the strategic future of the City and how it was governed. He referred to the Notice of Motion on the Summons for this meeting of the City Council and argued that there was a debate to be had and urged Members not to close their minds to debate on the issue.

Mr Meagher stated that, in the referendum, people in the City would decide on how the City is run and he would expect the Council to engage with them in a meaningful way. Other large cities in England may decide to have an elected mayor and he believed they would be in the 'premier league' of cities following the election of a mayor.

The Council referred the petition to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore) who stated that Notice of Motion numbered 11 on the Summons for this meeting of the City Council asked the Council to recall previous Motions passed on the subject of an elected mayor. The petitioner had rightly said it was not for the Council to decide, but was up to the people of Sheffield. Members of Council would have a proper debate with people. Councillor Dore stated that it is the opinion of Council not to choose a mayoral system of governance, although she would work within whatever system the people choose.

In response to the suggestion that cities not choosing to have an elected mayor would be a negative position, Councillor Dore stated that, if people in the City voted not to have an elected mayor, the Government should listen to their wishes. It was not acceptable to suggest that by not choosing to opt for an elected mayor, a city would be a negative position relative to those other cities which had an elected mayor.

In the Sheffield City Region, the Local Enterprise Partnership was concentrating on growing the economy, which the existing leaders of areas within the region would have to work together to achieve. Councillor Dore also referred to the offer by the Prime Minister to establish a cabinet of elected mayors with twice yearly access to the Prime Minister and stated that the Deputy Prime Minister was one of the City's MPs, who had access to the Prime Minister on a daily basis.

Petition Objecting to the Proposed Staffing Changes at Pitsmoor Adventure Playground

The Council received a petition containing 149 signatures and objecting to the proposed staffing changes at Pitsmoor Adventure Playground. The petition was submitted to and noted by the North East Community Assembly at its meeting on 21st March, 2012.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Lisa Swift who stated that the petition had been produced by young people aged between 10 and 11 years and expressed concern about the replacement of staff at the Playground. It was considered that consistency of staff was important as the Playground was sometimes not an easy place to work in and long term relationships were critical in order that the facilities were properly run. Young people had said that they feel safe and wished to keep the existing staff. They also questioned the fairness of replacing staff at the Playground with other staff on a higher grade.

The petition was referred to the Cabinet Member for Business, Jobs and Growth (Councillor Helen Mirfin-Boukouris), who stated that the Council had a commitment to play areas and realised their importance to children and these had not been subject to budget cuts. Moving forward, the Council would look at how the playgrounds can be maintained, albeit with a different staff configuration. Councillor Mirfin Boukouris suggested that a separate meeting be held with the petitioners, including Ward Councillors, to provide further explanation.

5.2 Public Questions

(a) Public questions concerning Sevenfields and Hazelhurst Resource Centres

Jean Grayson asked a question concerning future provision for older people, given the background of potential care home closures.

Helen Roe asked what had happened to the intermediate care strategy. She stated that the closure of Resource Centres should only be considered within such a strategy and suggested that the decision regarding the Resource Centres should be delayed until the strategy was complete. She also referred to the comments of the Care Quality Commission Inspector, which had stated that the two Resource Centres were excellent, compared with other homes in Sheffield. Provision in the independent sector homes did not provide the outcomes that the Sevenfields and Hazelhurst Resource Centres do.

In response, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore) stated that the Council would debate the petition concerning the Sevenfields and Hazelhurst Resource Centres at this meeting, at which time she hoped that a more detailed response would be provided.

Councillor Dore stated that the Council sought to provide services that people want and need. Older persons' care had been the subject of many changes over the years and further change would be brought about by the Health and Social Care Act. There was a wish to provide people with choice and it was also recognised that people had different needs at different times in their lives. Personalised budgets were a positive development, but not to the detriment of day services, which also needed to be addressed. Care at home was very important to people.

The NHS commissioned nursing care and the City Council was the service provider. However, the NHS did not wish to continue to purchase this particular provision. Specialist care was required for conditions including Alzheimer's and Dementia and for physical and mental learning disabilities. A variety of choice and affordability was also needed. There were constraints within policies and guidelines and in relation to commissioning and purchasing.

(b) Public questions concerning Burngreave Recreation Centre

Safa Hussain asked a question concerning the Burngreave Recreation Centre, namely why the grade for staff was increased and whether this was part of a fair process.

Zaeema Hussain asked why there was no consultation with staff and members of the community concerning effect of the changes relating to the Recreation Centre.

In response, the Cabinet Member for Business, Jobs and Growth (Councillor

Helen Mirfin-Boukouris), stated that she was not in a position to discuss grades of employees as this was a management issue. Her priority was to make sure that the service was provided for young people and the community. Councillor Mirfin Boukouris stated that, to her knowledge, staff had been consulted. As she stated previously in response to the petition on the subject of the Recreation Centre, she would offer to meet with local people, together with Ward Councillors, to discuss the situation further.

(c) Public questions concerning information and answers to questions

Martin Brighton asked the following questions:

“1 Will this chamber please note that this council, and its outgoing ALMO, continue to be obstinate, intransigent and recalcitrant with respect to openness and transparency, still preferring to be secretive for no other reasons than political pragmatism, and, worryingly, who happens to be asking. Is waiting 5 years for a report being impatient? Is arbitrary and selective distribution of ALMO information appropriate? The real question must be; How will the next administration do things differently?”

In response, the Cabinet Member for Homes and Regeneration (Councillor Harry Harpham) stated that he did not recognise Sheffield Homes (the Arms Length Management Organisation) in the terms in which the question described it. It was rare for Councillors or other people say that the ALMO acted in a ‘secretive’ way. He suggested that, if Mr Brighton had experienced difficulties with the Council or ALMO, there were avenues of complaint open to him, which were independent. Councillor Harpham also suggested that, provided Mr Brighton was able to give concrete examples of the difficulties to which he alluded, as the Cabinet Member, he would deal with them.

“2 When questions are asked of this chamber, or elsewhere within this council’s purview, what governance measures are in place to ensure that the answers to those questions actually provide the information that is being requested or implied by the asking, and what governance measures are available to prevent bland, containment, diversionary, or otherwise unhelpful political responses to citizen’s questions ?”

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore) stated that when questions were asked of the Council, the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Legal Officer and Secretariat were available to make sure that responses were made in the correct way. Council meetings were also minuted and the City Council had in place a complaints procedure.

“3 Following this citizen’s spectacularly successful electoral campaign of last year, to be repeated this year, what advice and encouragement can this chamber give to all those who may wish to become involved in and contribute to the political processes that govern our lives?”

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore) congratulated Mr Brighton for deciding to stand as a candidate at the forthcoming elections. She said that she was happy to see that people wished to become involved in the

democratic process and the competition which that brought about, in relation to which the Council had a duty to engage people as did political parties. She stated that Mr Brighton should continue to be involved and also tell other people about what it was like to be a candidate.

“4 For those who have decided they will be leaving this chamber, perhaps to start a career in local politics, and especially those who have remained of independent mind, would this chamber please note at least this citizen’s recognition of their years of contribution?”

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore) stated that she would reiterate Mr Brighton’s recognition of Members’ contributions and noted that the Council would be recognising Members’ individual contributions at the end of the Council meeting

“5 Finally, will this chamber please note this citizen’s gratitude to the Lord Mayor, under whose tenure it has been a most pleasant privilege, who is leaving on a well-deserved high, and to whom is wished all the best for the future. Lord Mayor, thank you.”

The Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore) stated that she agreed with Mr Brighton’s statement relating to the Lord Mayor and added that the Lord Mayor (Councillor Sylvia Dunkley) was a wonderful Lord Mayor.

6. PETITION REQUIRING DEBATE

6.1 Petition regarding Sevenfields and Hazelhurst Resource Centres

The Council considered a petition, containing 7,322 signatures, concerning Sevenfields and Hazelhurst Resource Centres. The petition organisers wished to exercise their right, under the Council’s Petitions Scheme, to have the petition debated by Members of the City Council at this meeting. The wording of the petition was as follows:

“ We the undersigned oppose the closure of Sevenfields in Wisewood and Hazelhurst in Jordanthorpe. We believe that the policy to close the homes is short-sighted, it fails to recognise the valuable contribution made by the service to the communities of Sheffield over many years, and it will remove an essential public resource for the future. Both centres support people, mainly elderly and vulnerable people, in making the transition from being in hospital back to living independently in their own homes. The proposed closure could mean people staying in hospital longer, with less favourable health outcomes, longer NHS waiting times as beds are blocked, and add ultimately more cost on to local tax payers.

We call upon our elected representatives to lead a campaign stop these proposed closures.”

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Gary Aiston, who asked that the Resource Centres, which provided intermediate care for people

leaving hospital before they returned home, should not be closed. Whilst the City Council should look at a range of options to save money, savings should not have a disproportionate adverse effect on older people.

Mr Aiston referred to the proposal to purchase beds from the independent sector and stated that he believed there was not a coherent strategy for intermediate care or dementia care in the City. He also pointed to a sizeable reduction in the number of Council run care homes and to the importance of maintaining public as well as private provision.

He stated that the standard of care provided by both homes was excellent and this was demonstrated by the outcome of an inspection by the Care Quality Commission. The homes were not under occupied, but the 42 beds were full and there was, in fact, a waiting list. The quality of one to one care and positive relationships between staff and services users was also an important factor.

In relation to the private sector, many homes were not newly built nor did they contain state of the art facilities as they had not received adequate investment. Private sector homes did not necessarily provide specialist services. If private sector provision failed, as in the case of Southern Cross, there needed to be an alternative. It was acknowledged that public sector homes were expensive to run, partly because of the investment in staff, including training.

Mr Aiston urged the Council not to close the Sevenfields and Hazelhurst Resource Centres. He requested the Council to commission a strategic review of intermediate care with its health service partners.

Members of the City Council debated the issues raised by the petition, as summarised below.

This was a sensitive and emotional issue and was the subject of a report to Cabinet on 11 April 2012. The Sevenfields and Hazelhurst Resource Centres provided intermediate care.

The Resource Centres were specialist facilities, which focussed on rehabilitation and quickened the pace of a patient's transition from hospital to their own home. They provided specialist beds and diet etc. Fragmenting the provision may not help to meet the needs of people requiring such a service. It was not clear that there was a plan to take this forward, other than buying beds elsewhere. Whilst private provision may be viewed as cheaper than the existing model, there might also be a cost in the form of worse staff pay, facilities and patient outcomes.

Funding for a new intermediate care centre had been withdrawn by the Government and this had restricted the options and flexibility in relation to intermediate care. The cost of refurbishment of the Hazelhurst and Sevenfields Resource Centres was estimated at £1.5 million. The provision was part funded by the NHS, which had indicated that they wished to use nursery beds for intermediate care, which were felt to be an important

component.

In considering the future of the Resource Centres, reference should be made to the strategy in relation to intermediate care. Other options might also be available, other than the provision of beds in the private sector. These included the establishment of a staff co-operative, exploiting the potential for income generation or the use of social impact bonds or the social investment bank announced by the Government.

The NHS was taking the strategic lead in relation to intermediate care. The Sevenfields Resource Centre was an example of a Centre in which staff demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and dedication and the care provided by them was excellent. However, the building itself required substantial investment.

The terms of the consultation, approved in October 2010, included the expansion of personal budgets and alternative support services. It was suggested that the matter is referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee, in order that available options could be explored further.

It was important to make sure that people had the right type of care to enable them to return to their own homes.

The petitioner, Mr Aiston, exercised his right of reply, in which he emphasised that there was still a large demand for the services provided at the Resource Centres; acknowledged the difficulties in funding such services; noted the role of the NHS in the matter as they wished to move patients from hospital in a timely manner.

After the petitioner's right of reply, Members of the City Council considered the relevant courses of action which were available.

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Julie Dore, seconded by Councillor Jack Scott, that the petition concerning Hazelhurst and Sevenfields Resource Centres be referred to the Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee for consideration, having regard to the comments made by Members of the City Council in the course of the debate.

7. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

7.1 Urgent Business

Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed asked a question of the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore) relating to urgent business under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6(ii), as follows:

"What action will you take as Leader of the Council to ensure local people continue to receive weekly collections of their waste despite proposals by the GMB for bin men to strike?"

In response, the Leader of the Council (Councillor Julie Dore) stated that

Veolia was meeting with the trades unions to seek an agreed resolution to the dispute as a matter of urgency, so people would not be inconvenienced by the effects of industrial action.

(Note: with the agreement of the Council, and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.1, Council Procedure Rule 16.6 (ii) was suspended in relation to the deadline for the receipt of questions under urgent business.)

7.2 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.

7.3 South Yorkshire Joint Authorities

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

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

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Pat Midgley, seconded by Councillor Gill Furniss, that (a) approval be given to the following changes to the memberships of Committees, Panels, Groups, etc and to representatives on external bodies:-

7 Hills Leisure Trust	-	Councillor Peter Price to fill a vacancy
7 Hills Leisure Trust Finances and General Purposes Committee	-	Councillor Peter Price to fill a vacancy
Sheffield Tobacco Control Programme Accountable Board	-	Councillor Ibrar Hussain to fill a vacancy
Pakistani Muslim Centre	-	Councillor Mohammad Maroof to fill a vacancy
University Technical College Trust Board	-	Councillor Jackie Drayton to fill a vacancy

9. **NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING THE GOVERNMENT'S 2012 BUDGET**

It was moved by Councillor Julie Dore, seconded by Councillor Jack Scott, that this Council:-

- (a) believes that in the March 2012 Budget the Government made the wrong choices, based on the wrong priorities and demonstrates that they are completely out of touch with people in Sheffield and throughout the country;
- (b) regrets that at the current time more than one million young people are unemployed and the economy has stalled with the Office for Budget Responsibility predicting just 0.8% growth in 2012;
- (c) further regrets that because of the Government's mismanagement of the economy, with slower growth and higher unemployment, spending reductions are now set to continue beyond the current Parliament;
- (d) further regrets that a family with children earning £20,000 loses £253 a year from this April, on top of the VAT rise which is costing families an average of £450 per year;
- (e) is therefore astounded that in this climate the Government have prioritised an income tax cut for the wealthiest people in the country and failed to take action to generate jobs and growth in the economy;
- (f) believes that this budget is fundamentally unfair and opposes:
 - (i) cutting the 50p top rate of income tax which will see 14,000 people earning £1 million or more getting a tax cut of over £40,000 each year;
 - (ii) hitting pensioners with a £3 billion tax as a result of freezing age related allowances and restricting them to existing recipients meaning nearly four and a half million pensioners will lose an average of £83 a year and people turning 65 next year stand to lose up to £323 with very little warning;
 - (iii) plans to pay lower salaries to public sector workers in poorer parts of the country;
- (g) notes that the increase in the personal income tax allowance is outweighed by the VAT rise, cuts to tax credits and higher petrol duty;
- (h) believes any money raised from tax avoidance should be used to ease the squeeze on families on middle and low incomes and is shocked that the Government are giving a tax cut for the richest people in society;
- (i) further believes that more action needs to be taken to strengthen the recovery and supports Labour's five-point growth plan for jobs and

growth which includes:

- (i) repeating the bank bonus tax and using the money to build 25,000 affordable homes and guarantee a job for 100,000 young people;
 - (ii) bringing forward long term investment projects, such as schools, roads and transport, to create jobs;
 - (iii) reversing the Government's VAT rise now for a temporary period;
 - (iv) an immediate one-year cut in VAT to 5% on home improvements, repairs and maintenance;
 - (v) a one-year national insurance tax break for every small firm which takes on extra workers; and
- (j) calls on the Government to immediately reverse their decision to cut the 50p tax rate and instead support middle and low income families and pensioners who have been targeted to fund a tax cut for the rich.

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 all the words after the word "unemployed" in paragraph (b) and the relettering of that paragraph as a new paragraph (a);
2. the deletion of all the words after the word "incomes" in paragraph (h) and the relettering of that paragraph as a new paragraph (d);
3. the deletion of original paragraphs (a), (c) to (g), (i) and (j); and
4. the addition of new paragraphs (b), (c) and (e) to (j) as follows:
 - (b) therefore welcomes the £1bn Youth Contract, launched this week by the Deputy Prime Minister, which will ensure young people in Sheffield get earning or learning;
 - (c) furthermore, supports Government moves to boost the local economy, including the Sheffield Enterprise Zone, launched this month;
 - (e) therefore, commends the Liberal Democrat campaign to raise the income tax threshold further and faster, and supports measures in the Coalition's 2012 budget, which will see 178,000 basic rate taxpayers in Sheffield receive a £220 tax break, while 16,500 Sheffielders will be lifted out of income tax altogether;
 - (f) notes that workers on the minimum wage will see their income

tax bill halved as a result of this policy and recognises the importance of removing high marginal rates of tax that act as a disincentive to work;

- (g) acknowledges that as a result of the Coalition's Budget the wealthiest in the country will pay five times more than they do currently;
- (h) further notes that this month will see the single biggest ever rise in the state pension of £5.30 a week and that, in total, pensions have gone up by £9.80 a week since the Liberal Democrats entered Government, an increase of more than £500 a year;
- (i) believes this represents a welcome boost for thousands of families across Sheffield and applauds this Liberal Democrat action in Government; and
- (j) recalls the last Labour Government's insulting 75p rise in the state pension, their failure to tackle growing problems of youth unemployment, and their complete mismanagement of the national economy.

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

(Note: Councillors Jillian Creasy and Robert Murphy voted against paragraphs 1 to 3 and abstained on paragraph 4 of the above amendment and asked for this to be recorded).

After a right of reply from Councillor Julie Dore, the original Motion was then put to the vote and carried, as follows:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) believes that in the March 2012 Budget the Government made the wrong choices, based on the wrong priorities and demonstrates that they are completely out of touch with people in Sheffield and throughout the country;
- (b) regrets that at the current time more than one million young people are unemployed and the economy has stalled with the Office for Budget Responsibility predicting just 0.8% growth in 2012;
- (c) further regrets that because of the Government's mismanagement of the economy, with slower growth and higher unemployment, spending reductions are now set to continue beyond the current Parliament;
- (d) further regrets that a family with children earning £20,000 loses £253 a year from this April, on top of the VAT rise which is costing families an average of £450 per year;
- (e) is therefore astounded that in this climate the Government have

prioritised an income tax cut for the wealthiest people in the country and failed to take action to generate jobs and growth in the economy;

- (f) believes that this budget is fundamentally unfair and opposes:
 - (i) cutting the 50p top rate of income tax which will see 14,000 people earning £1 million or more getting a tax cut of over £40,000 each year;
 - (ii) hitting pensioners with a £3 billion tax as a result of freezing age related allowances and restricting them to existing recipients meaning nearly four and a half million pensioners will lose an average of £83 a year and people turning 65 next year stand to lose up to £323 with very little warning;
 - (iii) plans to pay lower salaries to public sector workers in poorer parts of the country;
- (g) notes that the increase in the personal income tax allowance is outweighed by the VAT rise, cuts to tax credits and higher petrol duty;
- (h) believes any money raised from tax avoidance should be used to ease the squeeze on families on middle and low incomes and is shocked that the Government are giving a tax cut for the richest people in society;
- (i) further believes that more action needs to be taken to strengthen the recovery and supports Labour's five-point growth plan for jobs and growth which includes:
 - (i) repealing the bank bonus tax and using the money to build 25,000 affordable homes and guarantee a job for 100,000 young people;
 - (ii) bringing forward long term investment projects, such as schools, roads and transport, to create jobs;
 - (iii) reversing the Government's VAT rise now for a temporary period;
 - (iv) an immediate one-year cut in VAT to 5% on home improvements, repairs and maintenance;
 - (v) a one-year national insurance tax break for every small firm which takes on extra workers; and
- (j) calls on the Government to immediately reverse their decision to cut the 50p tax rate and instead support middle and low income families and pensioners who have been targeted to fund a tax cut for the rich.

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

10. **NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING RESIDENTS' PARKING PERMITS**

It was moved by Councillor Paul Scriven, seconded by Councillor Anders Hanson, that this Council:-

- (a) recalls the present Administration's decision to increase residents parking permit fees, including a 300% increase in the cost of visitors permit books, in order to raise an extra £352,000 from residents and businesses within a residents parking permit area;
- (b) notes this includes doubling the charge for permits for carers who require to park outside home of the person they are caring for;
- (c) understands that the decision comes despite promises made during their previous "No Ifs, No Buts, No Profits. Lower the Permit Prices" campaign, headed by Labour MP, Paul Blomfield;
- (d) confirms that Council finance officers have acknowledged this decision could be reversed with savings off-set by reducing spend on non-essential spending such as travel costs, communication costs and use of blackberries; and
- (e) therefore calls upon the Administration to reconsider their position and reverse this proposed unfair hike.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Robert Murphy, seconded by Councillor Jillian Creasy, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the deletion of all the words in paragraph (c) and the substitution of the following words therefor:-
 - (c) believes it is unfair for the Council to continue to make a profit from Permit Parking Zones and to do so is the equivalent to taxing residents for living close to the city centre and areas vulnerable to parking difficulties.
- 2. the substitution of the words "stop making a surplus from Permit Parking Zones" for the words "reverse this proposed unfair hike".

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

The votes on the above amendment were ordered to be recorded and were as follows:-

- For the amendment (30) - Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Clive Skelton, Louise McCann, Shaffaq Mohammed, Paul Scriven, Jillian Creasy, Robert Murphy, Sylvia Anginotti, Brian Holmes, Joe Otten, Keith Hill, Colin Ross, Colin Taylor, Roger Davison, Andrew Sangar, Ian Auckland, Bob McCann, Peter Moore, Joe Taylor, Gail Smith, Anders Hanson, Ali Qadar, Vickie Priestley, David Baker, Arthur Dunworth, Alison Brelsford, Jack Clarkson, Diane Leek, Trevor Bagshaw and Kathleen Chadwick.
- Against the amendment (44) - The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor John Campbell) and Councillors Jack Scott, Julie Dore, Chris Rosling-Josephs, Helen Mirfin-Boukouris, Ian Saunders, Denise Fox, Karen McGowan, Bryan Lodge, Stuart Wattam, Ibrar Hussain, Talib Hussain, Jackie Drayton, Mohammad Maroof, Geoff Smith, Harry Harpham, Mazher Iqbal, Steven Wilson, Garry Weatherall, Chris Weldon, Alan Law, Joan Barton, Tim Rippon, Cate McDonald, Robert Johnson, Janet Bragg, Terry Fox, Pat Midgley, David Barker, Qurban Hussain, Martin Lawton, Lyn Rooney, Peter Price, Jane Bird, Leigh Bramall, Gill Furniss, Tony Damms, Philip Wood, Nikki Sharpe, Ben Curran, Alf Meade, Mick Rooney, Ray Satur and Jackie Satur.
- Abstained on the amendment (1) - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Sylvia Dunkley).

It was then moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Bryan Lodge, 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 need to increase parking permit charges is a direct result of the unachievable budget set by the previous administration where they over-estimated the level of income that the council would receive from parking income last year by £352,000;
- (b) notes that this has created a recurring £352,000 budget gap, which would result in further cuts or increased charges for other services, were it not to be filled by the planned increases in parking income;

- (c) further notes that in addition to the £80 million reduction in the Council's budget in 2011/12, in 2012/13 the Council has had to reduce spending by around £55 million and that by 2015/16 the Council will have £170m less to spend than it did in 2011/12 and acknowledges that this represents a cut of a third of the Council's net budget;
- (d) acknowledges comments by Liberal Democrat Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander MP that local government has "borne the brunt of deficit reduction" and notes that whilst Sheffield is hit with heavy cuts, wealthier areas of the country are receiving next to no cuts at all and believes that this is fundamentally unfair;
- (e) accepts that in the face of unprecedented Government cuts it is not possible for the present Administration to bridge the £352,000 budget gap left by the previous Administration;
- (f) notes that even with the increases the cost of Sheffield resident parking permits are now £20 per year which is low in comparison to many other local authorities; and
- (g) deplores the opportunism and scaremongering of the major opposition group and particularly the former Leader of the Council given the fact that he is responsible for the recurring £352,000 gap in the budget that has led to the increase in parking permit charges and the doubling of on street parking charges in last year's budget.

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

After a right of reply from Councillor Paul Scriven, 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 need to increase parking permit charges is a direct result of the unachievable budget set by the previous Administration where they over-estimated the level of income that the Council would receive from parking income last year by £352,000;
- (b) notes that this has created a recurring £352,000 budget gap, which would result in further cuts or increased charges for other services, were it not to be filled by the planned increases in parking income;
- (c) further notes that in addition to the £80 million reduction in the Council's budget in 2011/12, in 2012/13 the Council has had to reduce spending by around £55 million and that by 2015/16 the Council will have £170m less to spend than it did in 2011/12 and acknowledges that this represents a cut of a third of the Council's net budget;
- (d) acknowledges comments by Liberal Democrat Chief Secretary to the

Treasury, Danny Alexander MP that local government has “borne the brunt of deficit reduction” and notes that whilst Sheffield is hit with heavy cuts, wealthier areas of the country are receiving next to no cuts at all and believes that this is fundamentally unfair;

- (e) accepts that in the face of unprecedented Government cuts it is not possible for the present Administration to bridge the £352,000 budget gap left by the previous Administration;
- (f) notes that even with the increases the cost of Sheffield resident parking permits are now £20 per year which is low in comparison to many other local authorities; and
- (g) deplores the opportunism and scaremongering of the major opposition group and particularly the former Leader of the Council given the fact that he is responsible for the recurring £352,000 gap in the budget that has led to the increase in parking permit charges and the doubling of on street parking charges in last year’s budget.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BILL

At the request of Councillor Pat Midgley and with the consent of the Council the Notice of Motion Numbered 9 on the Summons for this meeting was withdrawn.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING TRANSPORT INVESTMENT

It was moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, seconded by Councillor Colin Ross, that this Council:-

- (a) highlights the importance of the Sheffield to Manchester train line for commuters, local residents and businesses in Sheffield;
- (b) therefore welcomes the Government’s decision to invest £130 million in the Northern Hub service, including extra track and platform at Dore & Totley, a new passing loop, and additional capacity, delivering more frequent trains and shorter journey times;
- (c) notes that this announcement follows a number of Government investments in Sheffield’s transport infrastructure, including;
 - (i) £6.4 million to improve South Yorkshire’s bus network and allow Stagecoach Sheffield to purchase 19 new green buses;
 - (ii) £124 million to install a fourth lane between junction 32 and 35a of the M1;

- (iii) four additional tram vehicles for the Sheffield tram network;
- (iv) support for the Dore & Totley park and ride;
- (d) looks forward to, in addition to these investments, positive Government announcements in relation to plans to;
 - (i) electrify the Midland Main Line to London, resulting in greener faster trains to London from Sheffield;
 - (ii) begin a tram/train pilot, which will see trams travel from Sheffield to Rotherham Parkgate;
- (e) believes that these investments will secure new jobs and demonstrate this Government's commitment to rebuilding the economy of the North and thanks, in particular, the Deputy Prime Minister for helping to secure this investment;
- (f) calls upon the Secretary of State for Transport to ensure these projects, and in particular the Hope Valley Line, are delivered swiftly and on target; and
- (g) directs that copies of this Motion are circulated to the Secretary of State for Transport and to all Sheffield MPs.

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:-

1. the insertion, after the words "therefore welcomes" in paragraph (b), of the words "the Leader of the Council's joint letter with other Council Leaders in the north of England to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills calling on the Government to commit to the Northern Hub service and believes this demonstrates the present Administration's commitment to stand up for Sheffield following"; and
2. the deletion of all the words after the word "jobs" in paragraph (e).

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) highlights the importance of the Sheffield to Manchester train line for commuters, local residents and businesses in Sheffield;
- (b) therefore welcomes the Leader of the Council's joint letter with other Council Leaders in the north of England to the Chancellor of the

Exchequer, Secretary of State for Transport and the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills calling on the Government to commit to the Northern Hub service and believes this demonstrates the present Administration's commitment to stand up for Sheffield following the Government's decision to invest £130 million in the Northern Hub service, including extra track and platform at Dore & Totley, a new passing loop, and additional capacity, delivering more frequent trains and shorter journey times;

- (c) notes that this announcement follows a number of Government investments in Sheffield's transport infrastructure, including;
 - (i) £6.4 million to improve South Yorkshire's bus network and allow Stagecoach Sheffield to purchase 19 new green buses;
 - (ii) £124 million to install a fourth lane between junction 32 and 35a of the M1;
 - (iii) four additional tram vehicles for the Sheffield tram network; and
 - (iv) support for the Dore & Totley park and ride;
- (d) looks forward to, in addition to these investments, positive Government announcements in relation to plans to;
 - (i) electrify the Midland Main Line to London, resulting in greener faster trains to London from Sheffield; and
 - (ii) begin a tram/train pilot, which will see trams travel from Sheffield to Rotherham Parkgate;
- (e) believes that these investments will secure new jobs;
- (f) calls upon the Secretary of State for Transport to ensure these projects, and in particular the Hope Valley Line, are delivered swiftly and on target; and
- (g) directs that copies of this Motion are circulated to the Secretary of State for Transport and to all Sheffield MPs.

(Note: Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Clive Skelton, Louise McCann, Shaffaq Mohammed, Paul Scriven, Sylvia Anginotti, Brian Holmes, Joe Otten, Keith Hill, Colin Ross, Colin Taylor, Roger Davison, Andrew Sangar, Ian Auckland, Bob McCann, Peter Moore, Joe Taylor, Gail Smith, Anders Hanson, Ali Qadar, Vickie Priestley, David Baker, Arthur Dunworth, Alison Brelsford, Jack Clarkson, Diane Leek, Trevor Bagshaw and Kathleen Chadwick voted for paragraphs (a) and (c) to (g) and against paragraph (b) and asked for this to be recorded.)

13. NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYORS

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Joan Barton, seconded by Councillor Diane Leek, that this Council:-

- (a) recalls previous resolutions opposing the introduction of a mayoral system in Sheffield;
- (b) notes the upcoming referendum on 3rd May where local people will vote on the Government's proposals to change the governance of the council through the introduction of a directly elected mayor;
- (c) believes that strong city leadership is already provided for in Sheffield through:
 - (i) civil leadership through a Lord Mayor;
 - (ii) political leadership through the Leader and Cabinet model;
 - (iii) accountability through scrutiny;
- (d) notes Government produced research confirming that moving to a mayoral system has incurred significant costs to other councils that have adopted the system;
- (e) further notes that the mayoral system leads to a greater chance of local views being ignored as currently Sheffielders can vote for councillors three out of every four years but once elected a Mayor can do whatever they want for the next four years;
- (f) believes that the problems generated by the mayoral system are illustrated through observing the situation in neighbouring Doncaster where the Council has experienced gridlock in recent budget discussions because the Mayor's plans are overwhelmingly opposed in the council chamber; and
- (g) reiterates its opposition to the mayoral system and urges the people of Sheffield to vote against adopting it in May and instead to vote in favour of retaining the existing Leader and Cabinet Model.

(Note: Councillor Peter Moore abstained from voting on the Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

14. NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING SENIOR MANAGEMENT COSTS

It was moved by Councillor Simon Clement-Jones, seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, that this Council:-

- (a) notes the proposal of the major opposition group to save nearly £2.5m a year by slightly reducing the salary of the top 25% earning Council staff, in order to save low paid jobs and protect vital front line services;
- (b) is disappointed that the present Administration choose to protect highly paid senior officers' pay, which could have been used to protect the jobs of care workers' and refuse collectors;
- (c) calls upon the present administration to re-consider its opposition to this proposal and urges them to consider some form of reduction in senior management pay in order to avoid future jobs and service cuts;
- (d) requests the Chief Executive to bring forward a report to Cabinet which outlines options to reduce the pay of top earning council staff and corresponding savings.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Bryan Lodge, seconded by Councillor Julie Dore, 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 due to the level of cuts imposed on the Council, both real-term pay reductions and job losses have been unavoidable, noting that in addition to the £80 million reduction in the Council's budget in 2011/12, in 2012/13 the Council has had to reduce spending by around £55 million and that by 2015/16 the Council will have £170m less to spend than it did in 2011/12 and regrets that the main opposition group continue to fully support the level of cuts imposed on the Council by the Conservative-led Government;
- (b) remembers comments by Liberal Democrat Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander MP that local government has "borne the brunt of deficit reduction" and regrets that the Government's cuts are disproportionately affecting the most disadvantaged areas, noting that research looking into cuts to Council budgets shows that cuts are hitting northern towns and cities hard at the same time as some areas of the wealthy south are receiving almost no cuts at all;
- (c) is concerned that the Government is now consulting on plans to pay lower salaries to public sector workers in poorer parts of the country and is concerned that this could impact on many public sector workers throughout Sheffield and believes that this is just the latest example of the current Government's determination to attack Sheffield;
- (d) welcomes that the present Administration have confirmed that the Council will be reducing spending on senior managers by £1 million over the next financial year;

- (e) notes that this saving is in addition to a reduction between January 2011 and January 2012 of 11 managers earning above £50,000, which will already save the Council over £500,000 a year;
- (f) welcomes that reduced spend on senior managers will ensure that the Council is able to protect front line services as much as possible, given the scale of Government cuts expected in the coming years;
- (g) notes that the Council workforce has had real-term pay reductions over the past two years, as the Council is entering the third year of a pay freeze and also notes that pay increments have been frozen since pre-April 2011;
- (h) further notes that by significantly reducing spending on senior managers and freezing staff pay, the Council is more effectively ensuring that savings can be delivered to address this budget gap than through the proposal of the main opposition group which they did not implement when they were in administration last year and faced with an £80 million budget gap and would be subject to a 6 month negotiation period and therefore could not deliver a saving close to £2.5 million this year; and
- (i) believes that addressing inequalities in pay is important in all sectors of the Sheffield economy and welcomes that this is one of the issues that will be considered by the Fairness Commission.

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 due to the level of cuts imposed on the Council, both real-term pay reductions and job losses have been unavoidable, noting that in addition to the £80 million reduction in the Council's budget in 2011/12, in 2012/13 the Council has had to reduce spending by around £55 million and that by 2015/16 the Council will have £170m less to spend than it did in 2011/12 and regrets that the main opposition group continue to fully support the level of cuts imposed on the Council by the Conservative-led Government;
- (b) remembers comments by Liberal Democrat Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander MP that local government has "borne the brunt of deficit reduction" and regrets that the Government's cuts are disproportionately affecting the most disadvantaged areas, noting that research looking into cuts to Council budgets shows that cuts are hitting northern towns and cities hard at the same time as some areas of the wealthy south are receiving almost no cuts at all;
- (c) is concerned that the Government is now consulting on plans to pay

lower salaries to public sector workers in poorer parts of the country and is concerned that this could impact on many public sector workers throughout Sheffield and believes that this is just the latest example of the current Government's determination to attack Sheffield;

- (d) welcomes that the present Administration have confirmed that the Council will be reducing spending on senior managers by £1 million over the next financial year;
- (e) notes that this saving is in addition to a reduction between January 2011 and January 2012 of 11 managers earning above £50,000, which will already save the Council over £500,000 a year;
- (f) welcomes that reduced spend on senior managers will ensure that the Council is able to protect front line services as much as possible, given the scale of Government cuts expected in the coming years;
- (g) notes that the Council workforce has had real-term pay reductions over the past two years, as the Council is entering the third year of a pay freeze and also notes that pay increments have been frozen since pre-April 2011;
- (h) further notes that by significantly reducing spending on senior managers and freezing staff pay, the Council is more effectively ensuring that savings can be delivered to address this budget gap than through the proposal of the main opposition group which they did not implement when they were in administration last year and faced with an £80 million budget gap and would be subject to a 6 month negotiation period and therefore could not deliver a saving close to £2.5 million this year; and
- (i) believes that addressing inequalities in pay is important in all sectors of the Sheffield economy and welcomes that this is one of the issues that will be considered by the Fairness Commission.

(Note: Councillors Jillian Creasy and Robert Murphy abstained from voting on the above Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

15. **NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING SHEFFIELD STATION – THROUGH ACCESS FOR PEDESTRIANS**

It was moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Ian Auckland, that this Council:-

- (a) reconfirms that the Council is firmly against plans to prevent through access for pedestrians at Sheffield Station and welcomes the recent recognition by the Government that open pedestrian access through the station must be maintained;

- (b) welcomes the meeting with the Secretary of State for Transport, local MPs, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport and representatives of Residents Against Station Closure (RASC), where Department of Transport officials agreed to consider the viability of numerous options including the Council's preferred non structural solutions in addition to potential structural, bridge based solutions; and
- (c) applauds the Residents Against Station Closure (RASC) for their relentless campaigning for access through the Station on behalf of the people of Sheffield and resolves to work with all relevant partners to find a solution that maintains open pedestrian access.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Garry Weatherall, seconded by Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (c) to (g) as follows and the re-lettering of the original paragraph (c) as a new paragraph (h):-

- (c) further welcomes that the offer of £3 million funding for the construction of a new pedestrian bridge has now been accepted and the Government have committed not to install barriers until a new bridge is in place and open to the public;
- (d) is disappointed with the Department of Transport's conclusions that the non structural solutions and the upgrading of the goods bridge are not cost effective;
- (e) believes that the option of upgrading the goods bridge should be further explored and Network Rail should be commissioned by the Department for Transport to develop a proposal to Guide to Railway Investment Projects (GRIP) Stage 4 alongside a design for a new north bridge;
- (f) notes that as acknowledged by the Department for Transport, when the Midland Mainline is electrified in the next few years it is likely that public money would have to be spent on raising the goods bridge and therefore believes that progressing this as well as the new bridge option to GRIP Stage 4 will allow the best financial solution to be progressed;
- (g) welcomes that a study into the possibility of a new bridge will now commence, although, acknowledges that should the funding allocated not prove sufficient neither Sheffield City Council nor South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive are in a position to commit to any additional funding; and

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

It was then moved by Councillor Robert Murphy, seconded by Councillor Jillian Creasy, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of a new paragraph as follows:-

() reconfirms the Council's intention to create a public rights of way across the bridge and asks the Council's officers to bring forward the application as soon as possible.

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) reconfirms that the Council is firmly against plans to prevent through access for pedestrians at Sheffield Station and welcomes the recent recognition by the Government that open pedestrian access through the station must be maintained;
- (b) welcomes the meeting with the Secretary of State for Transport, local MPs, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport and representatives of Residents Against Station Closure (RASC), where Department of Transport officials agreed to consider the viability of numerous options including the Council's preferred non structural solutions in addition to potential structural, bridge based solutions;
- (c) further welcomes that the offer of £3 million funding for the construction of a new pedestrian bridge has now been accepted and the Government have committed not to install barriers until a new bridge is in place and open to the public;
- (d) is disappointed with the Department of Transport's conclusions that the non structural solutions and the upgrading of the goods bridge are not cost effective;
- (e) believes that the option of upgrading the goods bridge should be further explored and Network Rail should be commissioned by the Department for Transport to develop a proposal to Guide to Railway Investment Projects (GRIP) Stage 4 alongside a design for a new north bridge;
- (f) notes that as acknowledged by the Department for Transport, when the Midland Mainline is electrified in the next few years it is likely that public money would have to be spent on raising the goods bridge and therefore believes that progressing this as well as the new bridge option to GRIP Stage 4 will allow the best financial solution to be progressed;
- (g) welcomes that a study into the possibility of a new bridge will now commence, although, acknowledges that should the funding allocated not prove sufficient neither Sheffield City Council nor South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive are in a position to commit to any additional funding; and

- (h) applauds the Residents Against Station Closure (RASC) for their relentless campaigning for access through the Station on behalf of the people of Sheffield and resolves to work with all relevant partners to find a solution that maintains open pedestrian access.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING INCOME TAX CHANGES

It was moved by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, seconded by Councillor Clive Skelton, that this Council:-

- (a) commends the Liberal Democrat campaign to raise the income tax threshold further and faster, which will give working families a helping hand in difficult times;
- (b) supports measures in the Coalition's 2012 budget, which will see 178,000 basic rate taxpayers in Sheffield receive a £220 tax break, while 16,500 Sheffielders will be lifted out of income tax altogether;
- (c) welcomes news that the Lib Dem goal of a £10,000 income tax threshold will be reached a year earlier than planned in April 2014;
- (d) notes that workers on the minimum wage will see their income tax bill halved as a result of this policy and recognises the importance of removing high marginal rates of tax that act as a disincentive to work;
- (e) acknowledges the Chancellor's statement, which sets out that, as a result of the Coalition's Budget, the wealthiest in the country will pay five times more than they do currently;
- (f) believes this represents a welcome boost for thousands of families across Sheffield and applauds this Liberal Democrat action in Government.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Julie Dore, seconded by Councillor Jack Scott, 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) believes that in the current climate the country needed a budget for jobs and growth and to focus on helping hard-pressed families on middle and low incomes and deplores the Government's complete failure to do so;
- (b) notes comments by Citizens Advice Chief Executive Gillian Guy "The poorest working families will feel the Government has turned its back on them - they needed this Budget to ease the pressure on their purse strings and make life easier. Instead they see high earners getting tax cuts. Raising the personal tax allowance is an empty gesture to struggling families on low wages who get housing and council tax

benefits. For these families, the weekly gain is less than the price of a loaf of bread; a measly 63p per week. Not only has this Budget shunned the needs of the poorest working families - some face further hardship at the Government's hands with a cut of up to £3,870 in their annual income thanks to changes in working tax credit, due in the next couple of weeks. The Treasury's own figures show that the lowest income households lose more of their income from this Government's combined tax and benefit changes than nearly all of those higher up the income scale.”;

- (c) regrets that since entering Government with the Conservative Party in May 2010, the Liberal Democrats have hit working families hard through many ill thought through measures including, cutting the Education Maintenance Allowance, increasing VAT, cutting Working Tax Credits, cutting funding for Sure Start and now hitting pensioners with a £3 billion tax;
- (d) regrets that at the current time more than one million young people are unemployed and the economy has stalled with the Office for Budget Responsibility predicting just 0.8% growth in 2012;
- (e) further regrets that because of the Government's mismanagement of the economy, with slower growth and higher unemployment, spending reductions are now set to continue beyond the current Parliament;
- (f) further regrets that a family with children earning £20,000 loses £253 a year from this April, on top of the VAT rise which is costing families an average of £450 per year;
- (g) is therefore astounded that in this climate the Government have prioritised an income tax cut for the wealthiest people in the country and failed to take action to generate jobs and growth in the economy;
- (h) believes that this budget is fundamentally unfair and opposes:
 - (i) cutting the 50p top rate of income tax which will see 14,000 people earning £1 million or more getting a tax cut of over £40,000 each year;
 - (ii) hitting pensioners with a £3 billion tax as a result of freezing age related allowances and restricting them to existing recipients meaning nearly four and a half million pensioners will lose an average of £83 a year and people turning 65 next year stand to lose up to £323 with very little warning; and
 - (iii) plans to pay lower salaries to public sector workers in poorer parts of the country;
- (i) notes that the increase in the personal income tax allowance is outweighed by the VAT rise, cuts to tax credits and higher petrol duty;

- (j) believes any money raised from tax avoidance should be used to ease the squeeze on families on middle and low incomes and is shocked that the Government are giving a tax cut for the richest people in society;
- (k) further believes that more action needs to be taken to strengthen the recovery and supports Labour's five-point plan for jobs and growth which includes:
 - (i) repealing the bank bonus tax and using the money to build 25,000 affordable homes and guarantee a job for 100,000 young people;
 - (ii) bringing forward long term investment projects, such as schools, roads and transport, to create jobs;
 - (iii) reversing the Government's VAT rise now for a temporary period;
 - (iv) an immediate one-year cut in VAT to 5% on home improvements, repairs and maintenance; and
 - (v) a one-year national insurance tax break for every small firm which takes on extra workers; and
- (l) calls on the Government to immediately reverse their decision to cut the 50p tax rate and instead support middle and low income families and pensioners who have been targeted to fund a tax cut for the rich.

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) believes that in the current climate the country needed a budget for jobs and growth and to focus on helping hard-pressed families on middle and low incomes and deplores the Government's complete failure to do so;
- (b) notes comments by Citizens Advice Chief Executive Gillian Guy "The poorest working families will feel the Government has turned its back on them - they needed this Budget to ease the pressure on their purse strings and make life easier. Instead they see high earners getting tax cuts. Raising the personal tax allowance is an empty gesture to struggling families on low wages who get housing and council tax benefits. For these families, the weekly gain is less than the price of a loaf of bread; a measly 63p per week. Not only has this Budget shunned the needs of the poorest working families - some face further hardship at the Government's hands with a cut of up to £3,870 in their

annual income thanks to changes in working tax credit, due in the next couple of weeks. The Treasury's own figures show that the lowest income households lose more of their income from this Government's combined tax and benefit changes than nearly all of those higher up the income scale.”;

- (c) regrets that since entering Government with the Conservative Party in May 2010, the Liberal Democrats have hit working families hard through many ill thought through measures including, cutting the Education Maintenance Allowance, increasing VAT, cutting Working Tax Credits, cutting funding for Sure Start and now hitting pensioners with a £3 billion tax;
- (d) regrets that at the current time more than one million young people are unemployed and the economy has stalled with the Office for Budget Responsibility predicting just 0.8% growth in 2012;
- (e) further regrets that because of the Government's mismanagement of the economy, with slower growth and higher unemployment, spending reductions are now set to continue beyond the current Parliament;
- (f) further regrets that a family with children earning £20,000 loses £253 a year from this April, on top of the VAT rise which is costing families an average of £450 per year;
- (g) is therefore astounded that in this climate the Government have prioritised an income tax cut for the wealthiest people in the country and failed to take action to generate jobs and growth in the economy;
- (h) believes that this budget is fundamentally unfair and opposes:
 - (i) cutting the 50p top rate of income tax which will see 14,000 people earning £1 million or more getting a tax cut of over £40,000 each year;
 - (ii) hitting pensioners with a £3 billion tax as a result of freezing age related allowances and restricting them to existing recipients meaning nearly four and a half million pensioners will lose an average of £83 a year and people turning 65 next year stand to lose up to £323 with very little warning; and
 - (iii) plans to pay lower salaries to public sector workers in poorer parts of the country;
- (i) notes that the increase in the personal income tax allowance is outweighed by the VAT rise, cuts to tax credits and higher petrol duty;
- (j) believes any money raised from tax avoidance should be used to ease the squeeze on families on middle and low incomes and is shocked that the Government are giving a tax cut for the richest people in society;

- (k) further believes that more action needs to be taken to strengthen the recovery and supports Labour's five-point plan for jobs and growth which includes:
 - (i) repeating the bank bonus tax and using the money to build 25,000 affordable homes and guarantee a job for 100,000 young people;
 - (ii) bringing forward long term investment projects, such as schools, roads and transport, to create jobs;
 - (iii) reversing the Government's VAT rise now for a temporary period;
 - (iv) an immediate one-year cut in VAT to 5% on home improvements, repairs and maintenance; and
- (l) calls on the Government to immediately reverse their decision to cut the 50p tax rate and instead support middle and low income families and pensioners who have been targeted to fund a tax cut for the rich.

(Note: Councillors Jillian Creasy and Robert Murphy voted for paragraphs (a) to (j) and (l) and abstained on paragraph (k) of the above Motion and asked for this to be recorded.)

17. **NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL**

RESOLVED; On the Motion of Councillor Steve Wilson, seconded by Councillor Clive Skelton, that this Council:-

- (a) notes the debt of gratitude Britain owes to the armed forces in fighting for the security of our country and the wider world in conflicts past and present, particularly recognising that many soldiers have given their lives to keep our country safe;
- (b) believes this was recently brought home through the death of five soldiers from the 3rd Battalion the Yorkshire Regiment and one soldier from the 1st battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment killed in Afghanistan last month and offers heartfelt sympathies to the friends and families of the soldiers;
- (c) remembers that April 2012 marks the 30th anniversary of the Falklands conflict, a conflict in which 255 British men and women lost their lives and remembers that 4th May 2012 is the 30th anniversary of the day HMS Sheffield was hit by an Exocet missile leading to the death of 20 people; and
- (d) welcomes the Sheffield Community Covenant which provides financial

support to projects that strengthen the ties between members of the Armed Forces Community and the community in which they live giving local people and service providers an opportunity to support Service personnel returning to their communities and enabling the Armed Forces Community to contribute their skills and experience to the local community.

18. NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING THE COPENHAGEN DECLARATION

It was moved by Councillor Peter Moore, seconded by Councillor Jillian Creasy, that this Council:-

- (a) supports the Declaration made in Copenhagen on March 23rd 2012 by the Committee of the Regions, the EU body that represents local and regional authorities throughout the European Union, which was unanimously agreed by all elected representatives from every member state of the EU and from all the political parties and commits the cities and regions of Europe to making cities greener, more socially inclusive and more economically competitive;
- (b) agrees to support the Declaration's statements confirming the commitment to:
 - (i) climate-neutral cities that are economical in their consumption and efficient in production;
 - (ii) spatial planning that ensures symbiosis between urban and natural areas while preserving and enhancing natural and cultural heritage, including architectural heritage;
 - (iii) creating more inclusive cities, where inclusiveness must be an on-going goal, which means making public services accessible to all, refusing to allow ghettoisation, responding to situations of poverty and promoting a social mix in communities, including through policies encouraging active ageing, social innovation and mutual support between generations and cultures;
 - (iv) the need for cities to invest as a priority in human capital, education and health, physical infrastructure and new technologies, with a view to developing innovation, research and creativity leading to the creation of high-quality jobs and helping to improve the standard of living;
- (c) recognises that as in Copenhagen there is a need for all political parties to support both the Declaration and on-going work to achieve these goals and to be actively engaged in the on-going work both to achieve and monitor progress;
- (d) further recognises that to achieve these goals it is necessary to engage

with and involve wider civil society both within the City of Sheffield and the wider City Region and therefore requests the Chief Executive to consult with the leaders of the political parties represented on the Council and the Chair and Vice Chair of Environmental & Economic Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and after to bring forward a report to the Cabinet detailing a proposed structure and a suggested time table to achieve the stated goals of the Copenhagen Declaration; and

- (e) directs that a copy of this motion to be sent to the Committee of Regions, the Local Government Association, Eurocities, all Yorkshire and the Humber MEPs, all Sheffield MPs, all leaders and Chief Executives of local authorities within the Sheffield Local Enterprise Partnership and the Chief Executive of the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Garry Weatherall, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraphs (b) to (e) and the addition of a new paragraph (b) as follows:-

- (b) requests that officers bring forward a report to the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, in order to make an assessment of the measures that would need to be implemented to move towards achieving the goals of the Copenhagen Declaration, noting that it is necessary to take into account the city, regional, national and international factors which impact upon the achievement of these goals.

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) supports the Declaration made in Copenhagen on March 23rd 2012 by the Committee of the Regions, the EU body that represents local and regional authorities throughout the European Union, which was unanimously agreed by all elected representatives from every member state of the EU and from all the political parties and commits the cities and regions of Europe to making cities greener, more socially inclusive and more economically competitive; and
- (b) requests that officers bring forward a report to the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, in order to make an assessment of the measures that would need to be implemented to move towards achieving the goals of the Copenhagen Declaration, noting that it is necessary to take into account the city, regional, national and international factors which impact upon the achievement of these goals.

19. **NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING THE KASHMIR EARTHQUAKE RELIEF PROJECTS**

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Mohammad Maroof, seconded by Councillor Jackie Drayton, that this Council:-

- (a) notes that the Sheffield Girls College in Bagh, Azad Kashmir is completed and is due to be opened by the president of Azad Kashmir and members of the Kashmir Earthquake Relief Fund Sheffield's management committee in April 2012;
- (b) acknowledges the impressive work of the Sheffield based charity called KERF (Kashmir Earthquake Relief Fund) and thanks them for the helping hands they have provided to the people of Kashmir whose homes, businesses, livestock, educational institutions were destroyed and thousands of lives were taken by the deadly earthquake in 2005;
- (c) further acknowledges the effort of two of our former Lord Mayors, Councillor Jackie Drayton and Councillor Alan Law who had chosen the charity for one of the Lord Mayors charity appeals during terms of office and raised thousands of pounds;
- (d) is pleased that its former Lord Mayor visited the earthquake area and laid the foundation stone by herself;
- (e) expresses thanks for the contribution made by Councillors, MPs, MEPs, Members of House of Lords, businesses, political parties, trade unions, Council officers, schools, Sheffield Mosques, Pakistan Muslim Centre, Churches, Gurdwaras and Mandars, citizens of Sheffield and all the contributions coming from around the globe;
- (f) recognizes that this project was set up as a symbol of our lasting friendship and solidarity with the people of Azad Kashmir following the enormous earthquake;
- (g) expresses thanks to all other UK based charities who have raised funds for all other projects in the earthquake areas of Kashmir and Pakistan;
- (h) pays a tribute to the international community who have pulled together and gave millions of pounds towards emergency shelters, food and medicine; and
- (i) acknowledges the need for continued support in the area in the coming months and years and sympathizes with the people of the earthquake area who have lost their loved ones.

20. **NOTICE OF MOTION CONCERNING THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR CONFLICT**

RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Mohammad Maroof, seconded by Councillor Julie Dore, that this Council:-

- (a) is conscious that many Sheffielders are deeply worried for the welfare of their friends and relatives in Jammu and Kashmir, and that they are concerned about the growing grave situation;
- (b) is deeply concerned by the continuing situation in which there has been considerable suffering for all the people of the region, noting that more than 100,000 people have been killed in the conflict and many more have been displaced, abused and persecuted;
- (c) believes a permanent resolution to this dispute would bring considerable benefits to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, India and also Pakistan and would enhance the overall peace and security of the region, as well as bringing comfort to many Sheffield people with family connections there;
- (d) requests the Chief Executive to:
 - (i) write to the Foreign Secretary asking him to exert influence on the Indian & Pakistani Governments in order to:
 - (A) ensure that the Kashmiri people have full representation in any negotiations/talks that seeks to determine the future of Kashmir;
 - (B) ensure that the people of Kashmir should be given the right to exercise their democratic right to self-determination; and
 - (C) address the human rights violations such as arbitrary detentions, torture and extrajudicial executions;
 - (ii) write to the City's six MPs requesting that they write to the Government, Indian and Pakistan High Commissions to raise the points mentioned above; and
 - (iii) write to all of the Yorkshire and Humber MEPs to request their support in highlighting the human rights abuses suffered by the people of Kashmir to the European Committee on Foreign Affairs.

21. **RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Sylvia Dunkley) referred to the retirement of Councillors Joan Barton (Firth Park Ward), Jane Bird (Shiregreen and Brightside Ward), Kathleen Chadwick (West Ecclesfield Ward), Arthur

Dunworth (Stannington Ward), Brian Holmes (Crookes Ward), John Knight (Fulwood Ward), Louise McCann (Beauchief and Greenhill Ward), Peter Moore (Graves Park Ward), Ali Qadar (Nether Edge Ward), Frank Taylor (Gleadless Valley Ward), and Joe Taylor (Hillsborough Ward).

Other Members of the Council also paid tribute to retiring Members of the Council, which also included the Lord Mayor (Councillor Sylvia Dunkley (Ecclesall Ward)).