

Agenda Item 9

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 October 2019, at 2.00 pm, pursuant to notice duly given and Summonses duly served.

PRESENT

THE LORD MAYOR (Councillor Tony Downing)
THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR (Councillor Gail Smith)

1	<i>Beauchief & Greenhill Ward</i> Simon Clement-Jones Bob Pullin Richard Shaw	10	<i>East Ecclesfield Ward</i> Vic Bowden Moya O'Rourke	19	<i>Nether Edge & Sharrow Ward</i> Peter Garbutt Jim Steinke Alison Teal
2	<i>Beighton Ward</i> Bob McCann Sophie Wilson	11	<i>Ecclesall Ward</i> Roger Davison Barbara Masters	20	<i>Park & Arbourthorne</i> Julie Dore Ben Miskell Jack Scott
3	<i>Birley Ward</i> Denise Fox Bryan Lodge Karen McGowan	12	<i>Firth Park Ward</i> Abdul Khayum Abtisam Mohamed	21	<i>Richmond Ward</i> Mike Drabble Dianne Hurst Peter Rippon
4	<i>Broomhill & Sharrow Vale Ward</i> Angela Argenzio Michelle Cook Kaltum Rivers	13	<i>Fulwood Ward</i> Sue Alston Andrew Sangar Cliff Woodcraft	22	<i>Shiregreen & Brightside Ward</i> Dawn Dale Peter Price Garry Weatherall
5	<i>Burngreave Ward</i> Jackie Drayton Talib Hussain Mark Jones	14	<i>Gleadless Valley Ward</i> Lewis Dagnall Cate McDonald Paul Turpin	23	<i>Southey Ward</i> Mike Chaplin Tony Damms Jayne Dunn
6	<i>City Ward</i> Douglas Johnson Ruth Mersereau Martin Phipps	15	<i>Graves Park Ward</i> Ian Auckland Sue Auckland Steve Ayriss	24	<i>Stannington Ward</i> David Baker Penny Baker Vickie Priestley
7	<i>Crookes & Crosspool Ward</i> Tim Huggan Mohammed Mahroof Anne Murphy	16	<i>Hillsborough Ward</i> Bob Johnson George Lindars-Hammond Josie Paszek	25	<i>Stocksbridge & Upper Don Ward</i> Jack Clarkson Francyne Johnson
8	<i>Darnall Ward</i> Mazher Iqbal Mary Lea	17	<i>Manor Castle Ward</i> Terry Fox Pat Midgley Sioned-Mair Richards	26	<i>Walkley Ward</i> Olivia Blake Ben Curran Neale Gibson
9	<i>Dore & Totley Ward</i> Joe Otten Colin Ross Martin Smith	18	<i>Mosborough Ward</i> Tony Downing Kevin Oxley Gail Smith	27	<i>West Ecclesfield Ward</i> Alan Hooper Adam Hurst Mike Levery
				28	<i>Woodhouse Ward</i> Mick Rooney Jackie Satur Paul Wood

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andy Bainbridge, Julie Grocutt, Alan Law, Shaffaq Mohammed, Zahira Naz and Chris Rosling-Josephs.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 Councillor Angela Argenzio declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 – Notice of Motion regarding Adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Definition of Antisemitism – on the grounds of being a Trustee of Sheffield City of Sanctuary.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 Public Questions

3.1.1 Public Question Concerning Sheffield Eagles

Andrew Tiers, Chief Executive of Sheffield Eagles Rugby League Club, thanked the Council for the recent civic reception to celebrate the Club's success in winning the 1895 Cup final.

He remarked on the Club's Director of Rugby, Mark Aston's 35 years' service to sport in Sheffield and asked, in recognition of services to Rugby League and to Sheffield sport, that Mark Aston be recognised for those achievements through the granting of a Sheffield Legend.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, congratulated Sheffield Eagles on their achievements and said that she was very pleased that the Club played at the Olympic Legacy Park. With regards to the nomination for a Sheffield Legend, Councillor Dore said that nominations were considered by an independent panel, chaired by the Lord Mayor.

3.2 Petitions

3.2.1 Petition Requesting a Pedestrian Crossing at 900 Abbeydale Road

The Council received a petition containing 62 signatures, requesting a pedestrian crossing at 900 Abbeydale Road.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Mary Reddican who said that she was presenting the petition on behalf of the occupants of Windsor House retirement apartments. The petition requested that measures be put in place to allow a safe route for

pedestrians to cross a busy road so they could use the bus service and local shopping facilities.

She said there had been a number of near misses and the road was wide with three lanes and an entrance and exit to a Tesco petrol station. It presented a risk to both pedestrians and drivers and the Council was asked to consider whether changes could be made to reduce the risk and improve road safety.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Bob Johnson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Development. Councillor Johnson said that it was always concerning to hear of people, particularly older people, having problems crossing busy roads and he said that he would arrange to meet with the petitioner, and with officers to see what measures could be put in place. He also made reference to the process for prioritising large highways schemes.

3.2.2 Petition Requesting Road Safety Measures at the Junction of Fossdale Road and Carter Knowle Road

The Council received a petition containing 123 signatures, requesting road safety measures at the junction of Fossdale Road and Carter Knowle Road.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Annie O’Gara who referred to serious concerns for the safety of drivers and pedestrians at the junction of Fossdale Road with Carter Knowle Road and to a recent incident of a near miss involving a small child and a car, which was not an isolated event.

She said that visibility for drivers was affected whereby they emerged blind into Carter Knowle Road because of cars parked up to the junction. The petition also asked the Council to review the procedure for determining the outcome of concerns relating to measures to prevent dangerous parking and with regard to people having access to assessments and information concerning the status of particular requests among the many requests received by the Council.

Annie O’Gara said a survey had been carried out with the help of local councillors and people had been given access to an assessment, which she said did not recognise some issues such as the effect of the nearby schools on parking, pedestrian safety and the Highway Code.

She said there was the potential for an accident at the junction and the petition requested double yellow lines to be installed as a priority.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Bob Johnson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Development. He said that he had

recently visited the site and had met with the school. He assured the petitioners that issues of this nature were taken seriously and also said that the Council had to prioritise highways safety schemes.

He said that he would like to arrange to meet with the petitioners and the school regarding this matter.

3.2.3 Petition requesting Action Regarding Anti-Social Behaviour Around Ellesmere Green

The Council received a petition containing 132 signatures, requesting action regarding anti-social behaviour around Ellesmere Green.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Gamal Abdulla who stated that the petition was presented on behalf of people in Spital Hill and Ellesmere Green and in relation to continuing issues relating to crime and anti-social behaviour relating to drugs and alcohol and people urinating in public and its effect on the community and its safety and wellbeing, and on businesses.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Paul Wood, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety. Councillor Wood referred to a public meeting held recently and which he had attended at the invitation of local councillors and in relation to the matters raised by the petition and he acknowledged that people should not have to live with the types of problems being experienced in that community.

Councillor Wood said that the problems needed multi agency solutions to deal with them because they related to a range of social issues and others concerned matters related to crime. He had met with relevant Council Directors and an intervention team was being established and meetings were scheduled with the Chief Constable and the District Commander to look at the policing in that area and dealing with problems such as issues related to drugs, knife crime and gun crime. He said that all necessary measures would need to be taken to address the problems and acknowledged that it was also important to consider how things would be maintained in the long term.

3.3 Public Questions

3.3.1 Public Question Concerning 31b Bus Service

Bernard Little stated that the loss of the 31b bus service had left many elderly people isolated in their homes, with people unable to collect their pensions from the Post Office or visit the doctor and disruption to children's after school homework support.

He asked whether the Council would therefore closely monitor the impact of the withdrawal of the 31b bus service and what measures were going to be put in place to support elderly and disabled people in Lower Walkley.

Councillor Bob Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Development, stated that issues relating to bus services would be addressed to the Mayor of the Sheffield City Region as it was not an issue over which the Council had control.

3.3.2 Public Question Concerning Events

Bernard Little asked whether the Council would look at its policy of staging large events in predominantly residential areas like Ponderosa in Upperthorpe. He asked what assurances would be given to local people in that the events on the park would not in future be subject to extensive damage to its green space.

Councillor Mary Lea, the Cabinet Member for Culture, Parks and Leisure, stated that local councillors had contacted her about the event in relation to the effect of the weather at that time. On the Friday, the site was inspected and was perfectly suitable and there was not a problem with allowing the event to go ahead. However, on Saturday, heavy rain caused damage to the greenery and the grass.

Councillor Lea said that there was an agreement with the promoter that they would repair any damage caused and officers were assessing with the promoter what the damage was and what would be done about it. There would be reparation work to address damage to the park and put the green space back to how it should be. Events throughout the city were very highly successful and they brought people together. They were reviewed and lessons were learned and she reassured people of that.

3.3.3 Public Question Concerning Committal Proceedings

Justin Buxton referred to Court proceedings in June 2018 and the application to Court and agreement as whether those proceedings should be brought. He asked questions concerning the agreement of the Leader of the Council to that process; whether a telephone call had taken place with Mr Justice Males on 5 June 2018 regarding this matter and whether the Leader would be willing to sign a sworn affidavit so confirming; and if the Leader had been aware of an investigation by the Forestry Commission at the time when she was briefed by the Assistant Director of Legal Services on 4 June 2018.

Calvin Payne referred to High Court injunctions and to the related legal costs and effect on people involved of an application for committal to prison. He said that he would give the Council opportunity to announce that it would not be seeking a renewal of the

High Court injunction in the new year and to acknowledge that this had been a ruinous, expensive and embarrassing stain on the Council.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, responded that the Council would take a decision regarding the renewal of injunctions in the new year.

Councillor Dore stated that with regards to the questions from Mr Buxton, she had responded to the questions, including at the Cabinet Meeting on 18 September.

3.3.4 Public Question Concerning Damage to Carpet

Valerie Wilson stated that in April, a radiator in her home had been moved and, in the process, marks had been left on her carpet because sheets had not been put down to cover the floor by the person doing the work. She had not heard about what would be done since the beginning of August.

Councillor Paul Wood, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety, thanked Valerie Wilson for bringing this to his attention and said that he would ensure that the carpet was replaced and that this was done quickly. He apologised for the inconvenience caused to her.

3.3.5 Public Question Concerning Bus Services

Valerie Wilson raised concerns about the 95 bus service from the hospital to Firth Park.

Councillor Bob Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Development, said that he agreed that bus services were not satisfactory, not only in Firth Park but in places throughout the City. He said that he would be taking up the issues relating to buses with the Mayor of the City Region later in the month.

3.3.6 Public Question Concerning Chapel Walk

Carl Dunne explained that he had submitted a petition to Council in June concerning scaffolding on Chapel Walk and the wish to have no further extensions to the license for the scaffolding. He said that the scaffolding was still in place and he understood this would be the case for a further year.

Mr Dunne explained the detrimental effect of the scaffolding on businesses on Chapel Walk. He said that he had expected that businesses would obtain a significant reduction in Business Rates, to mitigate the effects of the situation on trade. However, this had not been forthcoming, although he understood it was within the Council's

power to reduce Business Rates in certain circumstances.

He said that he believed he was being ignored and was concerned that the scaffolding would be in place for a third consecutive Christmas. There was anti-social behaviour and drug related problems and he had recently been assaulted twice. He said this situation was also affecting his personal health.

Councillor Mazher Iqbal, the Cabinet Member for Business and Investment, responded that the development on Chapel Walk was a private development and the Council had been approached with regard to the permission for scaffolding. He said that the first developer did not have the funds to complete the work. He said that he had met with Mr Dunne a number of times with regards to this issue, as had Council officers.

He said that with regards Business Rates, the Valuation Office had confirmed that in the circumstances, a further fifteen percent reduction could be applied to affected businesses and it was agreed that Business Rates be put on hold. He explained that the Council did not set Business Rates. Discussion had also been held about compensation and he understood that an amount had been agreed with the developer. He said that a process needed to be followed for each business with regards Business Rates and this would then allow the Council to look at the support and any exemptions the Business Rates service could give.

Councillor Iqbal said that in relation to the scaffolding, the Council wished for there to be as little disruption as possible and did not want to have the scaffolding taken down for it to be erected again in order for the developer to complete the works. He said that he understood that the developer had met with businesses and there had also been a recent update. The Council had surveyed inside of the building to see what would need to happen to make the building safe if the scaffolding had to be removed. The developer was to come back to the Council with a proposal in the next week. He understood that a letter had been sent to inform people that work would commence on 21 October.

The developer was also to improve the lighting. The Police were aware of the situation as regards anti-social behaviour and had responded quickly to recent incidents. City Centre Ambassadors patrolled on a regular basis as well. However, if there was a serious issue, he said that people should call the police.

He summarised by saying that a proposal should be submitted to the Council next week and, if it met the relevant conditions, the work would continue in conjunction with the traders. If plans were not forthcoming, the Council would take the necessary actions to take the scaffolding down and make the building safe.

3.3.7 Public Question Concerning Planning Department Restructure

James Martin asked whether it could be confirmed that it was an unintended consequence that job roles facilitating good relations with the disabled community to progress an accessible built environment might be lost completely from the Council.

Andrew Crooks said that disabled people were concerned that positions of Access Officers in the local authority may be lost and asked whether the Cabinet Member agreed that well-built buildings and landscape at the design stage facilitated better use by all people, irrespective of age and disability; and that the expertise of knowledgeable officers was invaluable.

Caroline Irving drew attention to the importance that disabled people placed upon Access Officers who were seen as something vital to the continued independence of disabled people in the community. The Cabinet Member was asked to look very closely at the issue and the range of disabled people affected. She said that it was a matter which the Council could address in the reorganisation of the Planning Department and with a view to the future development of the city as a place fit for everybody.

Councillor Bob Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Development, stated that there was a collective dispute in relation to the Planning Service and the restructure and it would not be appropriate for him to comment publicly until such time as that dispute was resolved. He said that he would wish to meet with those asking questions regarding the matters raised once the dispute was resolved.

3.3.8 Public Question Concerning Governance Referendum

Woll Newall made reference to proposals for the operation of a committee system form of governance which was the constitutional change proposed in the governance petition and would be subject to a referendum.

He asked: whether the Council could confirm that a separate project had been created to complete the legally required proposals before March 2020; where was the publicly available plan for this project; and whether the Council could confirm that it had already contacted the Local Government Association and the Centre for Public Scrutiny to access resources and expertise so that the Council could meet the deadline; and whether it could be confirmed that the Council had started the detailed discussions required with all the political parties, It's Our City and other stakeholders.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, responded that the

Council was fully aware of the requirement to meet legal obligations and would be doing so. Plans were being produced at this time and the Council had contacted the Local Government Association and the Centre for Public Scrutiny. It's Our City would be one of the stakeholders involved in the wider conversations and also the specific conversations around what a committee system might look like. She reassured people that the Council took this matter seriously and was getting on with what needed to be done and contacting the right people, and that It's Our City would be involved.

3.3.9 Public Questions Concerning International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Definition of Antisemitism

Haytham Bayasi asked the Council to consider the impact of adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism on freedom of speech and the limit on people of debating issues in the City.

Alan Deadman referred to the Motion on the Council Summons concerning the IHRA definition of antisemitism and asked whether Members would consider the consequences, including that:-

- it had been argued by legal counsel that the definition was not legally binding and which would make it very difficult to use and if it was applied to an allegation of antisemitism, the Council might be subject to a legal challenge.
- according to US attorney Kenneth Stern, the original drafter of the definition, it was never intended to be used as a legal or regulatory device to curb academic or political free speech, yet that was how it had come to be used.
- under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Council was under an obligation to take steps to ensure that everyone was permitted to participate in public debates even if their opinions and ideas were offensive or irritating to the public or a section of it.
- Palestinian trade unions and other networks argued that this non-legally binding definition attempted to erase Palestinian history, demonise solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality and suppress freedom of expression.

Mr Deadman said that by adopting this definition, the City Council would be seen as creating a hierarchy of racism at the expense of other ethnic minorities in the city, leading to more division at a time when people should be working against divisiveness.

Richard Pitt stated that the Council had an obligation to oppose all racism and with regard to the IHRA definition. He also made

reference to issues relating to application of the IHRA definition and its clauses in Tower Hamlets with regard to the Ride for Palestine Charity and expressed concern that adoption of the definition prohibited legitimate criticisms of Israel and that it prohibited organisations like the Big Ride for Palestine from raising funds.

Annie O’Gara asked whether the Leader of the Council agreed that that the adoption of the IHRA definition was unwise unless it was satisfied and could evidence that it had considered fully the range of informed legal opinion and authorities on the matter of antisemitism.

She made reference to the views of the American Attorney Kenneth Stern, who wrote the IHRA definition, that it had never been intended to be a legal or regulatory device to curb academic or political free speech and to an open letter in the Independent newspaper this year by Jewish groups who had voiced disquiet.

Annie O’Gara asked whether the Leader of the Council agreed that when she published evidence that the full spectrum of legal and informed opinion had been considered, she must also add a Council policy statement on how Sheffield would uphold its obligation in line with Article 10 of the Convention on Human Rights, which protected free speech.

Julie Pearn made reference to the Borough of Tower Hamlets refusal of Big Ride for Palestine permission to hold its 2019 finale in a park because council officers had raised the fear that, according to the IHRA guidelines, the event could be branded anti-Semitic because of a post on the charity’s website. She said that the decision was being challenged in the courts on the grounds that it contravened rights of freedom of speech and freedom of assembly according to the European Convention on Human Rights. She also stated that Sheffield City Council had won national and international acclaim for championing the rights of Palestinians to sovereign statehood.

She asked if the Leader of the Council would promise that Sheffield City Council would ensure that, in its policies on anti-Semitism and racism, due care would be taken to ensure that it also met its obligations with respect to free speech under the European Convention on Human Rights and neither councillors nor Council officers will self-censor the Council’s own decisions or prevent others from meeting to speak out against human rights abuse or violations of international law.

Kaltun Elmi congratulated the Council in relation to the Motion to recognise Palestine at the September 2019 meeting of Council. She asked whether the Leader of the Council agreed that it was unfortunate that at the time the issues relating to Palestinian people were considered, there were accusations of antisemitism.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, responded to the questions. She explained that the motion concerning antisemitism was being considered at the Council meeting. She said it had been the subject matter of an amendment to the motion at September Council on the recognition of a state of Palestine. There was a wish not to conflate the issue of the recognition of Palestine with the IHRA and the definition of antisemitism in itself. Therefore, these were separated and the matter was brought to the October meeting.

The Council had equalities policies, which included how the Council would address issues of racism. These policies would be revisited to make sure that, if the IHRA definition was adopted, it fitted in with that suite of equalities policies.

Councillor Dore made reference to the specific examples of another local authority or universities in the questions on this subject. Whilst she could not speak on behalf of those organisations, the outcomes in those examples may be due to how the definition of antisemitism was applied. She said it was right for people to raise serious and valid concerns about the particular IHRA definition and how it could be applied and which could potentially lead to limiting, suppressing or constraining freedom of speech.

The motion at this meeting of Council was for the Council to adopt the IHRA definition in its entirety, including the 11 examples. She said that many organisations and countries, including the UK, used the definition. The Council would carefully consider the use of the definition as a guide in decision making and give guidance as to its application.

The Council could not lawfully act in a manner which was inconsistent with the rights under the European Convention on Human Rights. This would mean that it could not interfere with freedom of expression, unless this is justified under Article 10 of the convention. The Council also needed to be sure that the way the definition was applied did not undermine the European Convention on Human Rights and it would not act unlawfully.

It was recognised that the examples accompanying the definition should be understood in the light of the definition and understood that the conduct listed was only anti-semitic if it manifested hatred towards Jews. The Council also recognised that, as an authority, if it did adopt the definition, then it must be interpreted in a way which was consistent with its statutory obligations, particularly the right to freedom of expression.

The Council had a positive obligation to protect freedom of speech. Article 10 required public authorities to take steps to ensure that everyone was permitted to participate in public debate, even if their opinions and ideas were offensive or irritating to the public or a

section of it.

Councillor Dore said that properly understood, in its own terms, the IHRA definition did not mean that activities such as describing Israel as a state enacting policies of apartheid, as practising secular colonisation or calling for policies or boycott, divestment or sanctions against Israel could properly be characterised as anti-Semitic.

Councillor Dore said that a public authority which sought to apply that definition to prohibit or sanction such activities would be acting unlawfully and the Council did not intend to do that. The European Convention was most important and she gave reassurances that guidance which would be given to officers in particular and the application of the definition would be treated very seriously. Further, if the Council needed to consult with any particular organisations she would also give that commitment.

3.3.10 Public Question Concerning Accommodation for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

John Grayson asked if responses could be provided to questions asked by the South Yorkshire Migration and Asylum Action Group (SYMAAG) at the meeting of Council in September 2019 and concerning the number of families with children the Council had placed in the Earl Marshall and for how long, between 1 May and 1 September 2019. A second question was also asked at that meeting in relation to the outcome of a review of security at the Earl Marshall.

He referred to a visit he made on 26 September to the Earl Marshall bed and breakfast and outlined that there was no security or staff on reception there. He said that he saw three families with 11 children and two pregnant mothers. Mr Grayson asked why the Council had put vulnerable women and children in a bed-and-breakfast with no security until it was locked at 10.30pm and whether all the Earl Marshall staff dealing with children had DBS checks.

Mr Grayson asked why the Council had made the most vulnerable refugee children, and pregnant mothers with leave to remain, live in the Earl Marshall bed and breakfast, with two families having been there for a month and why the Council had made a family of four children, a pregnant mother and a father share one room for a month.

He also asked when these families would be offered alternative temporary accommodation by the Council which was safe and suitable. He said that SYMAAG had been approached by NHS staff that work with people in the Earl Marshall regarding conditions for people there and asked on behalf of those families to get decent temporary accommodation for them and to put them in a safe situation.

Councillor Paul Wood, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety, responded that he had recently been informed about two families in the Earl Marshall and he understood those two cases had been addressed and both would be rehoused by Friday of this week and he would check that had happened.

He said that the Council was using the Earl Marshall at present because other temporary accommodation was full across the city. There were proposals to look at some buildings that could be converted quickly into much better facilities which would be secure. However, that would take a matter of months to complete.

The number of properties available was very limited and essentially, there were not enough houses. There were also not enough facilities for temporary accommodation.

The Council would be commissioning some units for temporary accommodation, which was new build and these would not be ready for 18 months to two years, so the only relatively quick solution at the moment was to look at places that could be converted and this was being done.

Councillor Wood said that he would be pleased to have further conversations with Mr Grayson as to the details and would welcome ideas in relation to this issue. He acknowledged that this situation was not acceptable but said that, unfortunately, it was the position at present.

3.3.11 Public Questions Concerning Climate Emergency and Ecology

Geoffrey Cox asked for confirmation that the City Council's target was to become zero carbon by 2030; how it planned to measure the reduction in carbon emissions each year; and how this would be reported to the public?

Nathan asked the following:-

What progress had been made since the Council announced the Climate Emergency in February, to reduce carbon emissions?

What financial resources had been allocated to reduce the carbon budget by the 14% required by the Tyndall Report this financial year; and, given the likely target reduction shortfall this year, what additional financial resources would be made available to catch up next financial year.

When will the first Citizen's Assembly take place to advise the Council on how to reduce emissions?

Why had the Council produced no publicly visible information on the climate emergency, or communicated the danger to life facing people around the world and in Sheffield and what plans did it have to do so?

Graham Wroe asked the following questions:-

Why did the workers spraying streets with dangerous Glyphosate not wear protective gear?

He asked what preparations the Council and Amey had made to be able to pay out damages to workers who developed cancer as a result of their use of Glyphosate.

He said that last year, Sheffield Council/Amey used 1750 litres of Glyphosate. He referred to its effects as regards mortality and decline of species and the harmful effect on plants. He said that despite this, it was sprayed around trees in Sheffield and asked when the Council/Amey was going to stop using Glyphosate?

Rachel said that the Council had advised in an article in Now Then magazine that it had been trialling alternatives to Glyphosate. She asked whether trials had been successful and why residents were not warned when Glyphosate was used.

She asked why roadsides and verges in the city were not being left alone wherever possible to allow wildflowers to grow. She referred to a decline in the numbers of winged insects and pollinators and made reference to Amsterdam, where she said an effort to leave verges untouched resulted in a 43% increase in bees and asked why Sheffield was not taking this action to preserve life.

Councillor Mark Jones, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change, responded to the questions and acknowledged the amount of detailed information within the questions.

He said that the Council was determined to become carbon neutral by 2030 and was working hard to deliver that.

Glyphosate was a complex subject and he would not be able to give a detailed response at this meeting. However, the Council had trialled not using spray herbicides of this nature in the parks and, unfortunately, it not been successful in the controlling of weed species. However, that did not mean to say that it shouldn't be continued or explored further because what was defined as being a weed species or desirable and undesirable plants was something to be looked at. He said that he hoped to look at that issue further.

He said that with regards to the verges and roadside environment,

there had been places where verges were allowed to grow. The Council was also mindful of safety, such as where there was impact on sight lines for road-users. However, the Council would try and allow verges to grow wherever possible. There were multiple benefits in that it provided a diverse environment for wildlife and it provided corridors for wildlife and also trapped pollutants from vehicles.

People using Glyphosate should always adhere to COSHH Regulations and, if they were not, he asked that such information was captured and the Council informed, as it was most important that workers were protected.

Councillor Jones said that with regards to the longevity of herbicides in the natural environmental system, there were conflicting opinions as to what that longevity was and he said that he would provide detail in a written answer.

As regards to what steps were being taken to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council, it had already sourced power from purely renewable sources and was looking to see how all bin lorries could be made electric and there were many other steps that the Council was taking. The Council was actively looking to see what more it could do; how rapidly the city might reduce the carbon footprint and how people could be better informed and educated.

He said this was an issue that the Council was taking seriously and it would work with groups and other partner organisations. He said that he would write to the questioners with a more detailed response. He also looked forward to having regular meetings with people on these matters.

3.3.12 Public Question Concerning the Green Belt

Mark James said that the Leader of the Council had recently said that the green belt would only be developed as a last resort and he sought clarification as to the circumstances and criteria on which the green belt would be developed as a last resort.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, said that the simple answer was that the Council would only build on the green belt where it needed to remain lawful and meet its legal obligations.

Councillor Bob Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Development, added that this also related to the work in the emerging Local Plan, in relation to which the Council was looking at a centre-out approach and a more sustainable city. All brownfield sites and any non-designated green belt sites would be looked at first. He said that 'last resort' meant just that – namely when everything else had been exhausted. It was hoped that the Plan would be brought in several months' time for further debate.

3.3.13 Public Questions Concerning Street Trees

Russell Johnson referred to a recent newspaper article indicating that the Leader of the Council had become aware of the high level of environmental concern amongst citizens. He commented that this was commended but belated. He asked whether the Council did not realise that there was already environmental concern three years ago when the Council sought to take action, including seeking to imprison and financially penalise people who understood and valued the range of environmental services provided by mature street trees.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, said that her concerns for the environment and air pollution were not belated, as suggested in the question, and she made reference to her son's respiratory problems causing him to need intensive hospital care when he was younger. She said that she had in the past also been involved in the development of green homes in Rotherham and subsequently in Norfolk Park.

3.3.14 Public Question Concerning Non Disclosure Agreements

Russell Johnson asked for it to be put on record that the Council had not, did not and would not use public monies to pay departing officers for non-disclosure agreements, otherwise known as gagging orders, even where those officers were likely to be subject to malfeasance or misconduct allegations.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, responded that non-disclosure agreements were made where there was a particular requirement in order to do so, which may be for commercial sensitivity or for legal reasons and she said that she was sure that the Council would endeavour not to use non-disclosure agreements.

3.3.15 Public Question Concerning Forestry Commission Investigation

Russell Johnson stated that the Forestry Commission investigation into the legality of the felling of approximately 5000 street trees was highly critical of the actions of the Council and Amey, which he said undermined the case made to the High Court for obtaining an injunction. He asked whether such misjudgements had given the Leader of the Council cause to reflect on her position.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, responded that the original investigation was into the legality of the tree felling and the outcome of the Forestry Commission investigation report found that the felling was not illegal. She said that the Council would be taking on board the constructive criticism within that report and would be providing a full response to it.

3.3.16 Public Question Concerning Greenest City

Dave Dillner referred to a claim in the press that Sheffield was the greenest city in Europe. He commented that it was not the greenest city in Europe and said that, if evidence could be provided to support that claim, he would apologise accordingly.

Councilor Julie Dore asked for Members in the Chamber to indicate whether Sheffield was the greenest city in Europe.

3.3.17 Public Question Concerning Climate Change and Planning

Nigel Slack commented on recent experience of extreme weather affecting the city, the impact of climate change and planning for the continuing changes to weather patterns in the future. He said that he had previously commented on whether there was planning guidance in place that would mitigate these issues. He made a comment concerning the ability of drainage to cope with heavy rainfall, such as in Millennium Square.

He said that planning applications were accepted for high density and very tall buildings in the centre of the city that were susceptible to high winds and there seemed to be little consideration of how the grouping of buildings would affect the wind flow patterns on the macro scale. He also commented on acceptance of planning applications that he said were under ambitious as regards to reducing carbon footprint and green energy performance.

Mr Slack asked if the Council could say whether the conditions required of new developments would be reviewed in the context of deteriorating climate change and the mitigations necessary for the long term future of the city.

Councilor Bob Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Development, responded that the Council was most aware of the impacts of climate change and was taking account of that in reaching decisions on individual planning applications. This was particularly the case in respect to drainage and flooding.

As regards the impact of tall buildings and wind flows, there were currently at least two applications subject to microclimate assessments. He said that the emerging Local Plan would provide a new policy basis for tackling climate change to be incorporated in all strands of that Plan.

4. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

4.1 Urgent Business

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

4.2 Written Questions

A schedule of questions to Cabinet Members, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16, and which contained written answers, was circulated. Supplementary questions, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.4, were asked and were answered by the appropriate Cabinet Members until the expiry of the 30 minute time limit for Members' Questions (in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.7).

4.3 South Yorkshire Joint Authorities

Questions relating to the discharge of the functions of the South Yorkshire Joint Authorities for Fire and Rescue and Pensions, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6(i), were not able to be asked before the expiry of the 30 minute time limit for Members' Questions (in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.7).

5. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "FOR A FAIR AND JUST DEMOCRACY" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ROGER DAVISON AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR STEVE AYRIS

5.1 It was moved by Councillor Roger Davison, and seconded by Councillor Steve Ayris, that this Council:-

- (a) recognises that the most successful societies, both economically and in the protection of human rights, are those governed by liberal/social democratic style administrations;
- (b) agrees that scrutiny and the opportunity for every citizen to debate issues, contributes to a healthy democracy, both locally and nationally;
- (c) notes that Britain has a parliamentary democracy and notes with concern the recent unlawful events in Westminster;
- (d) acknowledges the petition submitted by 'It's Our City' which has triggered a referendum on changing to a committee system; and
- (e) calls for the timely planning and delivery of a committee system that is open and transparent and gives greater power to local

people.

5.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Terry Fox, seconded by Councillor Dawn Dale, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words "That this Council" and the addition of the following words:-

- (a) recognises the importance of decision making being as close to people as possible and that every effort should be made to ensure good governance and robust democratic links;
- (b) believes that it is important to continuously review the operation and governance of the Council, and notes that 5% of the electorate have signed the *It's Our City* petition, which, we believe, is a fantastic achievement and the organisers of the petition should be commended for their hard work in securing this;
- (c) believes that this is a positive opportunity to improve how the Council works and gain a wide range of views from different people, groups and partners across the city, but that it is of great importance that as many people as possible engage in this debate, and that we reach as many as possible of the remaining 95% of the people in this city;
- (d) welcomes looking at different governance systems, but believes that, crucially, this should also be about listening to people on how the Council engages and serves the people of Sheffield regardless of which governance system is in place; and
- (e) wants a big city-wide conversation, in all our communities, about how decisions are made that affect and improve people's lives and that we should always look to improve, and know that we can do more, and wants to listen to people's views about how we can best approach this.

5.3 It was then moved by Councillor Peter Garbutt, seconded by Councillor Alison Teal, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the addition of a new paragraph (e) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraph (e) as a new paragraph (f):-
- (e) notes that no action appears to have been taken by the Administration on the proposed committee system, and that the report requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to be brought to its September meeting, was not produced;

2. the addition of new paragraphs (g) to (j) as follows:-
 - (g) resolves that all parties and stakeholders are to be involved in the design of a new modern committee system;
 - (h) believes the First Past The Post electoral system of winner takes it all can no longer provide a stable government; that the adversarial old party system is no longer fit for purpose, and that a multiparty governance arrangement would better reflect the diversity of opinion amongst voters and create a more balanced and collaborative approach;
 - (i) believes that hereditary peers are inconsistent with principles of fairness and equity, and that the House of Lords is anachronistic and in need of complete reform to become an elected assembly; and
 - (j) believes that the climate emergency presents both dangers and opportunities for democracy and therefore directs officers to organise, as a matter of urgency, the Citizens Assembly as promised last February.

5.4 It was then moved by Councillor Joe Otten, seconded by Councillor Simon Clement-Jones, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (d) to (g) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraphs (d) and (e) as new paragraphs (h) and (i):-

- (d) notes with concern the rise in abuse, threats and violence coming from political extremists and the use of rhetoric likely to incite violence by senior politicians, and believes that elected politicians should show a lead in debating on the issues, showing at least a basic level of respect to those with differing views;
- (e) believes that notions of class struggle and retribution are, like notions of national exceptionalism and purity, destructive to social cohesion and do not advance the cause of social justice, but can generate anger that undermines sober and constructive political debate and civic institutions;
- (f) regrets the resurgence in political discourse of ideas, previously adverse to all major parties, of Marxism and of economic nationalism, which this Council believes are hostile to individual liberty and, if followed through, would be a grave threat to the economic strength of the UK and would therefore lower our standards of living and the quality of our public services;
- (g) believes that the common good is best served by a political

culture that respects evidence, rational debate, and the intrinsic dignity and value of all people;

- 5.5 After contributions from two other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Roger Davison, the amendment moved by Councillor Terry Fox was put to the vote and was carried.
- 5.6 The amendment moved by Councillor Peter Garbutt was then put to the vote and was negated, except for paragraphs (i) and (j) of part 2 of the amendment, which were carried on the basis that they were to be additional paragraphs to the Substantive Motion.
- 5.7 The amendment moved by Councillor Joe Otten was then put to the vote and was negated.
- 5.7.1 The votes on the amendment moved by Councillor Joe Otten were ordered to be recorded and were as follows:-

For paragraphs (d) and (g) of the amendment (34) - The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Gail Smith) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Bob Pullin, Richard Shaw, Bob McCann, Angela Argenzio, Kaltum Rivers, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Tim Huggan, Mohammed Mahroof, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Vic Bowden, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Paul Turpin, Ian Auckland, Sue Auckland, Steve Ayris, Kevin Oxley, Peter Garbutt, Alison Teal David Baker, Penny Baker, Vickie Priestley, Jack Clarkson, Alan Hooper and Mike Levery.

Against paragraphs (d) and (g) of the amendment (43) - Councillors Sophie Wilson, Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Karen McGowan, Michelle Cook, Jackie Drayton, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Anne Murphy, Mazher Iqbal, Mary Lea, Moya O'Rourke, Abdul Khayum, Abtisam Mohamed, Lewis Dagnall, Cate McDonald, Bob Johnson, George Lindars-Hammond, Josie Paszek, Terry Fox, Pat Midgley, Sioned-Mair Richards, Jim Steinke, Julie Dore, Ben Miskell, Jack Scott, Mike Drabble, Dianne Hurst, Peter Rippon,

Dawn Dale, Peter Price, Garry Weatherall, Mike Chaplin, Tony Damms, Jayne Dunn, Francyne Johnson, Olivia Blake, Ben Curran, Neale Gibson, Adam Hurst, Mick Rooney, Jackie Satur and Paul Wood.

Abstained from voting on paragraphs (d) and (g) of the amendment (1) - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Tony Downing).

For paragraphs (e) and (f) of the amendment (26) - The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Gail Smith) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Bob Pullin, Richard Shaw, Bob McCann, Tim Huggan, Mohammed Mahroof, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Vic Bowden, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Sue Auckland, Steve Ayris, Kevin Oxley, David Baker, Penny Baker, Vickie Priestley, Jack Clarkson, Alan Hooper and Mike Levery.

Against paragraphs (e) and (f) of the amendment (51) - Councillors Sophie Wilson, Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Karen McGowan, Angela Argenzio, Michelle Cook, Kaltum Rivers, Jackie Drayton, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Anne Murphy, Mazher Iqbal, Mary Lea, Moya O'Rourke, Abdul Khayum, Abtisam Mohamed, Lewis Dagnall, Cate McDonald, Paul Turpin, Bob Johnson, George Lindars-Hammond, Josie Paszek, Terry Fox, Pat Midgley, Sioned-Mair Richards, Peter Garbutt, Jim Steinke, Alison Teal, Julie Dore, Ben Miskell, Jack Scott, Mike Drabble, Dianne Hurst, Peter Rippon, Dawn Dale, Peter Price, Garry Weatherall, Mike Chaplin, Tony Damms, Jayne Dunn, Francyne Johnson, Olivia Blake, Ben Curran, Neale Gibson, Adam Hurst, Mick Rooney, Jackie Satur and Paul Wood.

Abstained from voting on - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Tony paragraphs (e) and (f) of Downing).
the amendment (1)

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) recognises the importance of decision making being as close to people as possible and that every effort should be made to ensure good governance and robust democratic links;
- (b) believes that it is important to continuously review the operation and governance of the Council, and notes that 5% of the electorate have signed the *It's Our City* petition, which, we believe, is a fantastic achievement and the organisers of the petition should be commended for their hard work in securing this;
- (c) believes that this is a positive opportunity to improve how the Council works and gain a wide range of views from different people, groups and partners across the city, but that it is of great importance that as many people as possible engage in this debate, and that we reach as many as possible of the remaining 95% of the people in this city;
- (d) welcomes looking at different governance systems, but believes that, crucially, this should also be about listening to people on how the Council engages and serves the people of Sheffield regardless of which governance system is in place;
- (e) wants a big city-wide conversation, in all our communities, about how decisions are made that affect and improve people's lives and that we should always look to improve, and know that we can do more, and wants to listen to people's views about how we can best approach this;
- (f) believes that hereditary peers are inconsistent with principles of fairness and equity, and that the House of Lords is anachronistic and in need of complete reform to become an elected assembly; and
- (g) believes that the climate emergency presents both dangers and opportunities for democracy and therefore directs officers to organise, as a matter of urgency, the Citizens Assembly as promised last February.

6. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "ADOPTING THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE (IHRA) DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM " - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ADAM HURST AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR PAUL WOOD

6.1 It was moved by Councillor Adam Hurst, and seconded by Councillor Paul Wood, that this Council:-

- (a) recognises the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism as: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."
- (b) notes that the working definition has become the standard definition used around the world;
- (c) notes that this definition has been adopted by the UK Government, European Parliament, the UK College of Policing, the US Department of State, the US Senate and the 31 countries comprising the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance; and
- (d) formally adopts the official and international recognised working definition of antisemitism for this city.

6.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor David Baker, seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the addition of a new paragraph (c) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraphs (c) and (d) as new paragraphs (d) and (e):-
 - (c) recognises all 11 examples as part of the IHRA definition, in particular:-
 - (i) accusing Jewish people of being more loyal to Israel than their home country;
 - (ii) claiming that Israel's existence as a state is a racist endeavour;
 - (iii) requiring higher standards of behaviour from Israel than other nations; and

- (iv) comparing contemporary Israeli policies to those of the Nazis;
2. the addition of a new paragraph (f) as follows:-
- (f) notes that Sheffield condemns persecution in any form, especially with its proud history of religious tolerance and recognition as a leading City of Sanctuary.
- 6.2.1 (NOTE: With the agreement of the Council and at the request of the mover of the amendment (Councillor David Baker), the amendment as circulated at the meeting and published with the agenda was altered by the deletion of the words “recognises that the following are examples of antisemitism” from the proposed new paragraph (c).)
- 6.3 After a contribution from one other Member, and following a right of reply from Councillor Adam Hurst, the amendment moved by Councillor David Baker, as altered at the meeting, was put to the vote and was carried.
- 6.3.1 The votes on the amendment were ordered to be recorded and were as follows:-
- For the amendment (66)
- The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Gail Smith) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Bob Pullin, Richard Shaw, Bob McCann, Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Karen McGowan, Michelle Cook, Jackie Drayton, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Tim Huggan, Mohammed Mahroof, Anne Murphy, Mazher Iqbal, Mary Lea, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Vic Bowden, Moya O'Rourke, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Abdul Khayum, Abtisam Mohamed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Lewis Dagnall, Cate McDonald, Ian Auckland, Sue Auckland, Steve Ayriss, Bob Johnson, George Lindars-Hammond, Josie Paszek, Terry Fox, Pat Midgley, Sioned-Mair Richards, Kevin Oxley, Jim Steinke, Julie Dore, Jack Scott, Mike Drabble, Dianne Hurst, Peter Rippon, Dawn Dale, Peter Price, Garry Weatherall, Mike Chaplin, Tony Damms, Jayne Dunn, David Baker, Penny Baker, Vickie

Priestley, Francyne Johnson, Olivia Blake, Ben Curran, Neale Gibson, Alan Hooper, Adam Hurst, Mike Levery, Mick Rooney, Jackie Satur and Paul Wood.

Against the amendment (0) - NIL

Abstained from voting on the amendment (10) - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Tony Downing) and Councillors Angela Argenzio, Kaltum Rivers, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Paul Turpin, Peter Garbutt, Alison Teal and Jack Clarkson.

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) recognises the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism as: "Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.";
- (b) notes that the working definition has become the standard definition used around the world;
- (c) recognises all 11 examples as part of the IHRA definition, in particular:-
 - (i) accusing Jewish people of being more loyal to Israel than their home country;
 - (ii) claiming that Israel's existence as a state is a racist endeavour;
 - (iii) requiring higher standards of behaviour from Israel than other nations; and
 - (iv) comparing contemporary Israeli policies to those of the Nazis;
- (d) notes that this definition has been adopted by the UK Government, European Parliament, the UK College of Policing, the US Department of State, the US Senate and the 31 countries comprising the International Holocaust

Remembrance Alliance;

- (e) formally adopts the official and international recognised working definition of antisemitism for this city; and
- (f) notes that Sheffield condemns persecution in any form, especially with its proud history of religious tolerance and recognition as a leading City of Sanctuary.

6.4.1 The votes on the Substantive Motion were ordered to be recorded and were as follows:-

For the Substantive Motion - The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Gail Smith) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Bob Pullin, Richard Shaw, Bob McCann, Denise Fox, Bryan Lodge, Karen McGowan, Angela Argenzio, Michelle Cook, Jackie Drayton, Talib Hussain, Mark Jones, Martin Phipps, Tim Huggan, Mohammed Mahroof, Anne Murphy, Mazher Iqbal, Mary Lea, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Vic Bowden, Moya O'Rourke, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Abdul Khayum, Abtisam Mohamed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Lewis Dagnall, Cate McDonald, Paul Turpin, Ian Auckland, Sue Auckland, Steve Ayriss, Bob Johnson, George Lindars-Hammond, Josie Paszek, Terry Fox, Pat Midgley, Sioned-Mair Richards, Kevin Oxley, Jim Steinke, Julie Dore, Jack Scott, Mike Drabble, Dianne Hurst, Peter Rippon, Dawn Dale, Peter Price, Garry Weatherall, Mike Chaplin, Tony Damms, Jayne Dunn, David Baker, Penny Baker, Vickie Priestley, Jack Clarkson, Francyne Johnson, Olivia Blake, Ben Curran, Neale Gibson, Alan Hooper, Adam Hurst, Mike Levery, Mick Rooney, Jackie Satur and Paul Wood.

Against the Substantive Motion (0) - NIL

Abstained from voting on the - The Lord Mayor (Councillor Tony Substantive Motion (6) Downing) and Councillors Kaltum Rivers, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Peter Garbutt and Alison Teal.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "TACKLING SOCIAL ISOLATION : OPPOSING THE ENDING OF FREE TV LICENSES FOR THE OVER 75S" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR CATE MCDONALD AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR JAYNE DUNN

7.1 It was formally moved by Councillor Cate McDonald, and formally seconded by Councillor Jayne Dunn, that this Council:-

- (a) believes this Government have broken their promise to protect older people and notes that not only has funding for adult social care been slashed, plunging countless older people into loneliness, but from June 2020 the over 75s will be stripped of their free TV licence;
- (b) notes the hardship that this will cause to many nationally and here in Sheffield:-
 - (i) there are an estimated 43,000 people in Sheffield over 75, and over three quarters will lose their free licence;
 - (ii) half of all over 75s are living with a disability, and many rely on their TV for companionship and entertainment;
 - (iii) for those who don't have the internet, TV lets them stay up to date with what's happening in the world; and
 - (iv) nearly a third of over 75s are living in poverty or just above the poverty line;
- (c) believes that forcing pensioners to fork out £154.50 per year is an act of cruelty, and that it is not the BBC who are to blame for this, but a government who have failed to do enough and have broken their 2017 Conservative Party Election Manifesto to maintain free TV licenses;
- (d) notes that under the new plans, only older people who receive a benefit called Pension Credit will receive a free TV licence, but two fifths of people who are entitled to this benefit – about 1.2 million pensioners – are not getting it, with some not knowing they can claim and many struggling to apply, and that often these people are some of the poorest in our society;
- (e) notes the widespread opposition to the plans, and that over

634,000 people signed Age UK's petition against the plans;

- (f) notes that the 2011 Pensions Act, enacted under the Conservative-Liberal Coalition Government, changed the age of retirement for women, forcing many born in the 1950s to work much longer before retirement and, crucially, that this was implemented at such short notice that many women were not able to plan accordingly for this; and, in addition, notes the hard work of Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) movement and the commitment to them shown by Labour;
- (g) believes that older people deserve fairer treatment than this, and notes that Labour will oppose any cuts to universal pensioner benefits, and have pledged to keep the Winter Fuel Allowance and bus passes for pensioners;
- (h) notes the hard work being undertaken within the Council to tackle social isolation, including the creation of the Sheffield Directory website to help people to get the right information and support to help them stay independent and live well in their local area, and further notes that this Administration works closely with organisations like Age UK, MIND, Mencap, Disability Sheffield, Alzheimer's Society and the Carers Centre to run support groups and activities, including dementia cafes; and
- (i) welcomes that partners in Sheffield are working together to develop the Age Friendly Sheffield project and, as noted in the recently published strategy, "Age Friendly Sheffield strives to create well connected community environments that promote opportunities for older citizens to feel less isolated, more socially included and to remain physically and mentally active as they age".

7.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Sue Auckland, and formally seconded by Councillor Colin Ross, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of the words "and the commitment to them shown by Labour" at the end of paragraph (f):-
 2. the substitution, in paragraph (g), of the words "this Administration", for the word "Labour"; and
 3. the addition of new paragraphs (j) to (m) as follows:-
- (j) requests officers to explore the possible reworking, in conjunction with the Passenger Transport Executive, of the discretionary travel scheme to include some women affected by the changes to pension age, including examining the costs

of any scheme and the impact on equalities legislation;

- (k) notes the recent report by Age UK warning that following the means testing of TV licenses, older people may be targeted by criminal fraudsters sending targeted emails requesting payment of the TV license fee;
- (l) requests officers to facilitate and encourage pensioners who are eligible to take up pensioner credit, by providing assistance in navigating the application and to run a Council campaign to increase awareness of the benefit and eligibility; and
- (m) instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to convey this Council's view that better transitional arrangements are needed for women affected by the changes to pensions.

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

1. the deletion, in paragraph (g), of all the words after the words "believes that older people deserve fairer treatment than this"; and
2. the addition of new paragraphs (j) to (m) as follows:-
 - (j) is fundamentally opposed to the structure of the TV licence, which operates as a kind of poll tax; the poorest citizens in our society paying the same charge as billionaires;
 - (k) believes in publicly-funded public service broadcasting, but that it should be funded from a ring fenced portion of progressive taxation;
 - (l) regrets that Labour failed to provide funding to prevent the closure of Hurlfield View, which offered vital respite care to families, often elderly people caring for elderly loved ones at home; and
 - (m) asks the Chief Executive to report back within three months on the steps that this Council will take to address the issues raised about TV licences for over-75s, including how the Council will promote wider uptake of pensioner credit.

7.4 The amendment moved by Councillor Sue Auckland was put to the vote and was negatived, except for paragraphs (k) to (m) of part 3 of the amendment, which were carried.

7.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Paul Turpin was then put to the

vote and was negatived.

7.5.1 (NOTE: The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Gail Smith) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, Bob Pullin, Richard Shaw, Bob McCann, Tim Huggan, Mohammed Mahroof, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Vic Bowden, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Sue Auckland, Steve Ayris, Kevin Oxley, David Baker, Penny Baker, Vickie Priestley, Alan Hooper and Mike Levery voted for part 1 and paragraphs (l) and (m) of part 2 of the amendment, and voted against paragraphs (j) and (k) of part 2 of the amendment, and asked for this to be recorded.)

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) believes this Government have broken their promise to protect older people and notes that not only has funding for adult social care been slashed, plunging countless older people into loneliness, but from June 2020 the over 75s will be stripped of their free TV licence;
- (b) notes the hardship that this will cause to many nationally and here in Sheffield:-
 - (i) there are an estimated 43,000 people in Sheffield over 75, and over three quarters will lose their free licence;
 - (ii) half of all over 75s are living with a disability, and many rely on their TV for companionship and entertainment;
 - (iii) for those who don't have the internet, TV lets them stay up to date with what's happening in the world; and
 - (iv) nearly a third of over 75s are living in poverty or just above the poverty line;
- (c) believes that forcing pensioners to fork out £154.50 per year is an act of cruelty, and that it is not the BBC who are to blame for this, but a government who have failed to do enough and have broken their 2017 Conservative Party Election Manifesto to maintain free TV licenses;
- (d) notes that under the new plans, only older people who receive a benefit called Pension Credit will receive a free TV licence, but two fifths of people who are entitled to this benefit – about 1.2 million pensioners – are not getting it, with some not knowing they can claim and many struggling to apply, and that often these people are some of the poorest in our society;

- (e) notes the widespread opposition to the plans, and that over 634,000 people signed Age UK's petition against the plans;
- (f) notes that the 2011 Pensions Act, enacted under the Conservative-Liberal Coalition Government, changed the age of retirement for women, forcing many born in the 1950s to work much longer before retirement and, crucially, that this was implemented at such short notice that many women were not able to plan accordingly for this; and, in addition, notes the hard work of Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) movement and the commitment to them shown by Labour;
- (g) believes that older people deserve fairer treatment than this, and notes that Labour will oppose any cuts to universal pensioner benefits, and have pledged to keep the Winter Fuel Allowance and bus passes for pensioners;
- (h) notes the hard work being undertaken within the Council to tackle social isolation, including the creation of the Sheffield Directory website to help people to get the right information and support to help them stay independent and live well in their local area, and further notes that this Administration works closely with organisations like Age UK, MIND, Mencap, Disability Sheffield, Alzheimer's Society and the Carers Centre to run support groups and activities, including dementia cafes;
- (i) welcomes that partners in Sheffield are working together to develop the Age Friendly Sheffield project and, as noted in the recently published strategy, "Age Friendly Sheffield strives to create well connected community environments that promote opportunities for older citizens to feel less isolated, more socially included and to remain physically and mentally active as they age";
- (j) notes the recent report by Age UK warning that following the means testing of TV licenses, older people may be targeted by criminal fraudsters sending targeted emails requesting payment of the TV license fee;
- (k) requests officers to facilitate and encourage pensioners who are eligible to take up pensioner credit, by providing assistance in navigating the application and to run a Council campaign to increase awareness of the benefit and eligibility; and
- (l) instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to convey this Council's view that better transitional arrangements are needed for women affected by the changes to pensions.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

- 8.1 RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Peter Rippon, seconded by Councillor Dianne Hurst, that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4th September 2019, be approved as a true and accurate record.

9. REPRESENTATION, DELEGATED AUTHORITY AND RELATED ISSUES

- 9.1 RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Peter Rippon, seconded by Councillor Dianne Hurst, that:-

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

Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee - Councillor Jim Steinke to fill a vacancy

Appeals and Collective Disputes Committee - Councillor Adam Hurst to replace Councillor Talib Hussain

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

Doncaster Sheffield Airport Consultative Committee - Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs to fill a vacancy

Southey/Owlerton Area Regeneration Board - Councillor Moya O'Rourke to fill a vacancy

- (c) Mr. Peter Naldrett be appointed to continue to serve as a Parent Governor Representative on the Children, Young People and Family Support Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee, for a further period of two years, to 13/9/2021.

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