

Agenda Item 11

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 November 2022, at 2.00 pm, pursuant to notice duly given and Summonses duly served.

PRESENT

THE LORD MAYOR (Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards)

THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR (Councillor Colin Ross)

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | <i>Beauchief & Greenhill Ward</i>
Simon Clement-Jones
Richard Shaw
Sophie Thornton | 10 | <i>East Ecclesfield Ward</i>
Vic Bowden
Craig Gamble Pugh
Alan Woodcock | 19 | <i>Nether Edge & Sharrow Ward</i>
Nighat Basharat
Maroof Raouf |
| 2 | <i>Beighton Ward</i>
Kurtis Crossland | 11 | <i>Ecclesall Ward</i>
Roger Davison
Barbara Masters
Shaffaq Mohammed | 20 | <i>Park & Arbourthorne</i>
Ben Miskell
Nabeela Mowlana
Sophie Wilson |
| 3 | <i>Birley Ward</i>
Denise Fox
Bryan Lodge
Karen McGowan | 12 | <i>Firth Park Ward</i>
Fran Belbin
Abdul Khayum
Abtisam Mohamed | 21 | <i>Richmond Ward</i>
David Barker
Mike Drabble
Dianne Hurst |
| 4 | <i>Broomhill & Sharrow Vale Ward</i>
Angela Argenzio
Maleiki Haybe
Brian Holmshaw | 13 | <i>Fulwood Ward</i>
Sue Alston
Andrew Sangar
Cliff Woodcraft | 22 | <i>Shiregreen & Brightside Ward</i>
Dawn Dale
Garry Weatherall |
| 5 | <i>Burngreave Ward</i>
Talib Hussain
Mark Jones | 14 | <i>Gleadless Valley Ward</i>
Alexi Dimond
Marieanne Elliot
Paul Turpin | 23 | <i>Southey Ward</i>
Mike Chaplin
Tony Damms
Jayne Dunn |
| 6 | <i>City Ward</i>
Douglas Johnson
Ruth Mersereau
Martin Phipps | 15 | <i>Graves Park Ward</i>
Ian Auckland
Sue Auckland
Steve Ayriss | 24 | <i>Stannington Ward</i>
Penny Baker
Vickie Priestley
Richard Williams |
| 7 | <i>Crookes & Crosspool Ward</i>
Tim Huggan
Ruth Milsom
Minesh Parekh | 16 | <i>Hillsborough Ward</i>
Christine Gilligan Kubo
George Lindars-Hammond
Henry Nottage | 25 | <i>Stocksbridge & Upper Don Ward</i>
Lewis Chinchin
Julie Grocutt
Janet Ridler |
| 8 | <i>Darnall Ward</i>
Mary Lea
Zahira Naz | 17 | <i>Manor Castle Ward</i>
Terry Fox
Anne Murphy
Sioned-Mair Richards | 26 | <i>Walkley Ward</i>
Ben Curran
Tom Hunt
Bernard Little |
| 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
Mike Levery
Ann Whitaker |
| | | | | 28 | <i>Woodhouse Ward</i>
Mick Rooney
Jackie Satur |

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Garbutt, Mazher Iqbal, Bob McCann, Peter Price, Safiya Saeed, Paul Wood and Ann Woolhouse.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 Personal interests in agenda item 6 (Notice of Motion Regarding "A Renewable Energy Strategy For Sheffield") (item 5 of these minutes), were declared by (a) Councillor Christine Gilligan Kubo on the grounds that she was a Director of Sheffield Renewables, (b) Councillor Alexi Dimond on the grounds that he was a member of Sheffield Renewables and (c) Councillor Paul Turpin on the grounds that he was a Director of a business involved with retro-fitting of buildings.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 Mayoral Engagements/Events

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards) and the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross) briefly reported on engagements and events they had recently attended regarding (a) the hosting in the city of the France, Scotland, USA and Wales Wheelchair Rugby League teams who were competing in the (delayed) 2021 Rugby League World Cup finals tournament being held in England from 15th October to 19th November, 2022, (b) the opening of a new school education building in Whirlow where young people who were struggling to learn in mainstream school settings can go to learn whilst receiving support to assist them to return to mainstream school and (c) the presentation to Pitsmoor Adventure Playground, by the Lord Lieutenant, of the prestigious The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the awarding of which had been announced prior to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

3.2 Petitions and Public Questions

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards) reported that two petitions and questions from six members of the public had been received prior to the published deadline for submission of petitions and questions for this meeting. Representations were to be made on behalf of the petitioners on one of the petitions and the other petition would be received in the absence of a speaker. One further petition was to be debated at the end of the item, and this was referred to at item 4(b) on the agenda for the meeting.

3.3 Petitions

3.3.1 Petition Requesting the Council to Cancel the City Centre Clean Air Zone

The Council received an electronic petition containing 275 signatures, requesting the Council to cancel the City Centre Clean Air Zone.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Ibrar Hussain, who stated that, whilst appreciating the work undertaken, and progress made, in regard to the Clean Air Zone (CAZ), he considered that, given the current economic climate, such proposals would have a serious, adverse effect on the taxi trade. He referred to the fact that there was currently only one manufacturer producing electric Hackney Carriage vehicles, and that they were at a cost of approximately £60,000. Mr Hussain was requesting that implementation of the CAZ be delayed to enable all parties to work together, to ensure that we have a clean, green city centre for all residents of Sheffield to enjoy.

The Council referred the petition to the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee. Councillor Julie Grocutt (Co-Chair of that Committee) thanked Mr Hussain for presenting the petition, and referred to the extensive discussions held with himself, and the taxi trade, on the planned implementation of the CAZ. She stated that she understood the concerns raised by the taxi trade and, for this reason, the Council was constantly lobbying the Government for additional support for those people adversely affected by the proposals. The Council recognised that it needed to do whatever was required in order to improve air quality in the city, and was committed to delivering the CAZ. The Council, however, also recognised that the proposed scheme needed to be fair for all Sheffield residents, therefore would continue to lobby the Government for additional funding to enable this to be achieved. The Council wanted to work with all organisations and individuals to make sure the scheme was fair and equitable for all. Councillor Grocutt stated that the scheme would be rolled out in spring 2023, and further details would be released shortly, providing information on how people could apply for grants and loans. The Council would work hard to mobilise the financial support measures, and provide assistance for people to make the required upgrades in terms of their vehicles as soon as possible. Councillor Grocutt concluded by stating that the Council would continue liaising with the taxi trade and van drivers, and promised to do everything it could to support them.

3.3.2 Petition Requesting the Council to Ensure that Rose Garden Café, Graves Park, is Funded, Repaired and Remains Open

The Council received an electronic petition containing 20 signatures, requesting the Council to ensure that Rose Garden Café, Graves Park, is funded, repaired and remains open. There was no speaker for this petition.

The Council referred the petition to the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee.

3.4 Public Questions

3.4.1 Question From Matthew Killeya

Matthew Killeya asked the following question:-

As we are all aware, people across our city are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. In my own area, there is an old lady that is a vulnerable pensioner with a pre-paid meter and has seen her electricity bills more than double over the last year. Doorstep lenders have been targeting people in the area.

In dealing with the crisis, I want to commend the response made by Councillor Terry Fox in classifying this as a major incident and declaring this as a city-wide emergency and offering a package of support, acknowledging that this was a difficult thing to do given the Council's current financial state and particularly under the austerity the city has lived in over the last 12 years.

As our communities face such difficult circumstances - and given the financial pressures on main council budgets from years of government funding cuts - it has been suggested that Local Area Committees (LACs) budgets could be used to support people facing crisis. There are supposed to be a valuable forum of local voices.

I did write to Councillor Andrew Sangar, Chair of the South West LAC, on this matter over a month ago and thank him for his response, which I received late last night.

The South West LAC is not being proactive or timely enough in responding to this crisis. It's not enough to simply commit to reprioritise budgets when the opportunity occurs, how and when will decisions be taken, what is the mechanism? Could a special meeting be arranged as a matter of urgency, waiting until the next quarterly meeting to be held in January is just too slow. Ploughing on with the budget does not recognise the huge changes in communities since setting its budgets.

Do you agree that all political parties should use all available budgets to prioritise support for those that are struggling ahead of items such as planting of wildflowers and tackling dog fouling, whilst we see our people through a very challenging period? And if so, what proactive measures are being taken to adjust the south west and other budgets and to engage the public on these decisions as a matter of urgency?

In response, Councillor Terry Fox (the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee) stated that he had attended a meeting of the South West Local Area Committee (LAC) last month and listened to the debate. He said that all local decisions should be flexible to adjust to the specific needs of communities and neighbourhoods in light of the cost of living crisis. Councillor Fox said that all LACs had community plans which had been developed before the cost of living crisis really took hold. He said that he was helping to lead on the city response and was looking at how the most vulnerable

residents of the city could be helped, and this included the role of Local Area Committees in coordinating responses in their areas. He said that Councillor Sangar had shared with him the letter referred to and thanked him for that. Councillor Fox expressed the sheer enormity of the crisis which had hit the city and said that money lenders were operating everywhere. He said that the Council had set up neighbourhood hubs and welcoming places and a number of cross-party committees had been established, working alongside Voluntary Action Sheffield and other organisations, to deliver pre-paid digital cards to help towards the pressures of the rising energy costs, the setting up of a helpline, the distribution of free school meal vouchers, the distribution of Council tax support monies to pension age households and many other schemes to offer help and support to the most vulnerable people across our city.

Councillor Fox said that with regard to the LACs, it was for them to decide how they roll out their budgets, to work with their local communities to offer support and help people to understand what we as Councillors do, and he welcomed members of the public to come and challenge us and hold us to account.

3.4.2 Questions From Isobel O'Leary

Isobel O'Leary asked the following questions:-

Question 1 *The most high-profile issue currently is the closure and fate of the Rose Garden café. Can we trust that the Council understands the public's desire to stabilise, restore and then maintain the current iconic Rose Garden café building rather than any options involving demolishing the café? Can we have faith that the Council will do their utmost to re-open the café as soon as possible for the benefit of the many park users and to restore the employment of the café staff who have provided a valuable service for years?*

Question 2 *The proposed sale of the Freehold for Bole Hill Farm, which is part of the designated charitable parkland, goes against the will and wish of JG Graves. The Council appear to believe that not only are they allowed to but are obliged to sell the Freehold to the current Leaseholder, despite the Charity Commission stating that the farm should not have been sold as it is designated land, and the Trustee has no power of sale.*

- (a) *Has the Council as Sole Trustee of this charitable parkland consulted the Charity Commission on this proposed sale?*
- (b) *Does the Council understand that the Leasehold Reform Act excludes charitable land?*
- (c) *Can we trust that the Council is not seeking to mislead the public in suggesting that the current Leaseholders have the automatic right to buy the Freehold?*

Question 3 *Can we trust that the Council will fulfil their commitment to restoring the Nurseries area of Graves Park to parkland? This would be at no cost the Council as the Friends of Graves Park have a design and will provide labour*

and materials.

The Lord Mayor thanked Ms. O'Leary for her questions and invited Councillor Bryan Lodge (Chair of the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee) to answer the first and second sets of questions and Councillor Richard Williams (Chair of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee) to answer the final question.

In response to the questions on the Rose Garden Café building, Councillor Bryan Lodge stated that this matter was to be debated later at this meeting, but he wished to emphasise that no decision had yet been taken in relation to the future of the building. He added that consideration was being given to the possibility of applying for listed status for the building in recognition of its importance, and more detail on this would be provided during the later debate.

In relation to the sale of the Freehold for Bole Hill Farm, Councillor Lodge stated that the Council was the corporate Trustees of Graves Park and the role of the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee was to deliver the Council's corporate responsibility. The issue of the Freehold had been raised via a question asked at the Sub-Committee's meeting on 25th October and the advice provided at the Sub-Committee's meeting was that this formed part of the reversal of the Freehold. Since that meeting, further information had been supplied to the Council by the Friends of Graves Park, and the Charity Commission had also submitted questions to the Council on that matter. As a result, the Council was to undertake further investigations on this matter and the outcome would be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee and made available to the public at the same time.

Councillor Richard Williams responded to the question regarding the nurseries area of Graves Park by stating that the Council's position on the Norton Nursery area has not changed at the moment. The City Council was undertaking a review of all its depots and was looking for alternative operating bases for its Parks and Countryside Teams and the wider Council staff. Until then, the Council will have to continue to use the Nursery to service primarily Graves Park, but also some of the surrounding areas. Councillor Williams said that he would ask for an update to be provided to the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee at the earliest opportunity to find out the status of that review.

3.4.3 Questions From Russell Johnson

Russell Johnson asked the following questions:-

1. I understand Sheffield City Council (SCC) commissioned Bevan Brittan LLP to investigate and report upon the improper (misuse) use of the exemption of Legal & Professional Privilege, by both officers and Elected Members to deliberately suppress legitimate requests for information (particularly with reference to the street tree dispute, now subject to a separate Independent Inquiry by Sir Mark Lowcock) as provided for in legislation.

(a) On what date was this report commissioned?

- (b) Has this report been submitted to SCC and if so on what date?*
- (c) When can the citizens of Sheffield finally expect publication of this report?*
- (d) What has been the full cost of this exercise?*

2. At Full Council on 7 July last year, I asked that the Council commit to the removal of Clause 6.38 from the Amey Streets Ahead PFI. This is the contractual requirement (not a 'modelling number' or 'target' as Mr. Mothersole referred to the figure in his Inquiry evidence last week) that requires the removal of 17,500 street trees during the PFI Contract.

I was pleased and somewhat surprised that Councillor Wood answered in the affirmative. He appeared to see my request as unproblematic. Though some consternation seemed to be expressed by the then Director of Legal & Governance!

However, as far as I am aware, this has not happened.

(a) Why not?

(b) In the context of Amey LG and Amey plc being under new owners who may no longer wish to mitigate reputational damage as Ferrovial needed to in preparing for selling, does SCC foresee additional difficulty in fulfilling their stated commitment to remove the clause or in reduced flexibility more widely?

(c) Given the history of incompetence and naivety of Sheffield Legal and Governance Department, - evidenced in recent Inquiry testimonies - can taxpayers be confident that the City's interests will not be further disadvantaged in any negotiations with the new owners that may be required?

3. Despite previous assurances, there are still delays and excessive redactions in the Council's FOIR responses.

(a) Does the Leader agree that it is in no one's interests to return to the situation described by Councillor Lodge and former Chief Executive John Mothersole in their Inquiry evidence where the Council was bombarded with and overwhelmed by FOIRs and SARs?

(b) Would the Leader give a commitment to offer such transparency and honest communications in future such that the Citizens need to resort to these routes less frequently?

The Lord Mayor thanked Mr. Johnson for his questions and invited Councillor Terry Fox (the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee) to answer the first and third sets of questions and Councillor Joe Otten (Chair of the Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee) to answer the second set of questions.

Councillor Terry Fox stated that he had just returned from leave and not had time to provide as much detail as he would have liked. However, the Bevan report was commissioned to respond to the specific complaints made and it was

intended to make the findings public and would do so in the very near future. He said the report would also be made available to the Street Trees Inquiry, but it was only right that the first person to see the report should be the complainant. It had taken longer to conclude for a number of reasons but should be resolved soon and then made public. With regard to the specific questions, the report was commissioned in April last year and the final report received in August 2022. The cost of this had been £35,900 including VAT. Councillor Fox stated that, as a Council, there was always information that could and could not be made public, therefore some things that simply could not be published. However, he felt that citizens should not have to use FOIs and SARs to gain information, and this was something he would look into. Councillor Fox said that he would be attending the Street Trees Inquiry within the next few weeks.

Councillor Joe Otten said that some of the questions asked had been raised by himself previously. On the question of Clause 6.38 within the Amey Streets Ahead PFI contract, he had been advised that that clause had been removed and the contract change notice had been issued and the legal process was underway. Furthermore, a target for removal of street trees was certainly not being applied in the operation of the contract. He said that the Street Tree Partnership was where consultation and decisions on the outstanding tree issues were made, although he was a little frustrated at the slow progress being made in relation to some of the outstanding streets. However, work was progressing and there were street trees being saved on some streets as a result of changes being made to the earlier plans. On the question regarding the sale of Amey to the new parent company, this would not affect the Council's rights in the contract and he was not concerned that there would be a material change in relation to the operation of the contract. However, he was concerned that there were performance issues associated with the contract and these would be considered at the next meeting of the Policy Committee in December.

3.4.4 Questions From Rizwana Lala

Rizwana Lala referred to a number of distressing incidences that had occurred in and around the city regarding what she perceived to be a hostile environment towards asylum seekers and migrant people living in Sheffield, and she asked the following questions:-

Can the Council assure us that they are using all their levers to end the hostile environment for migrants in Sheffield Hospitals?

Can the Council tell us what steps are being taken to assure the welfare needs of asylum seekers are being met in the accommodation asylum seekers are housed in Sheffield?

The Lord Mayor thanked Ms. Lala for her questions and invited Councillor Angela Argenzio (Co-Chair of the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee) to answer the first question and Councillor Douglas Johnson (Chair of the Housing Policy Committee) to answer the second question.

In response to the first question, Councillor Angela Argenzio stated that the

Council had awareness of what was going on in the city but that it was important to be informed of matters of concern. She said there was a need for the Council to do all it could to use its leverage and put pressure on what was effectively a directive from national government. She said the Council had a good relationship with local NHS bodies, it was very strong and getting stronger, but the Council was always prepared to ask difficult questions of its NHS partners. Also, members of the public could ask questions at all Policy Committees and Councillor Argenzio invited Ms. Lala to attend the next meeting of the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee on 16th November and the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting, due to be held on 8th December, where representatives from the NHS would be in attendance and she could ask questions directly to them. Councillor Argenzio added that, as a local authority, the Council cannot do very much in this matter but can put pressure on the NHS by asking those challenging questions.

In response to the second question, Councillor Douglas Johnson stated that the whole of Sheffield was proud to be the first City of Sanctuary, and that currently about 1,300 men, women and children currently living in the city were seeking asylum. He said that when people come to this country, they were in need of housing, social services, education and other services, but they were not treated the same as other people, and the Council was not permitted to treat asylum seekers in the same way as it can treat local citizens who were homeless. He said the whole issue of migration was politically toxic, which was why migrants were sent down a different track. Councillor Johnson said that Sheffield had a system in place of doing what it could, but the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) funnelled migrants and sometimes completely bypassed local authorities from getting involved. The Council had no legal jurisdiction regarding the welfare of asylum seekers, but did its best to offer support where it could. For example, Council officers within the private rented housing standards service were able to inspect and enforce accommodation standards in relation to houses in multiple occupation. With regard to education, the Council has the ability to provide education places for those of school age, but unfortunately not for those of pre-school age. Adult & Children's social care services had a role to play, as did the Environmental Protection service. However, Councillor Johnson alluded to the challenges faced by the Council in providing support to asylum seekers bearing in mind the financial pressures across the Council due to ever increasing demand and reductions in resources and the constraints caused by the Home Office's outsourcing arrangements.

3.4.5 (NOTES: 1. The questions which had been submitted by Abid Hussain and Matt Turner, but which had not been asked at the meeting due to their absence, would receive a written response from the Chairs of the relevant Policy Committees and be published on the website; and

2. Questions from another member of the public had been received immediately prior to the meeting, but the Lord Mayor decided not to permit the questions to be asked on this occasion due to their late receipt and some of the content pertaining to an individual's personal circumstances, and instead asked that written answers from the relevant Policy Committee Chair/s be provided to the questioner.)

3.5 Petition Requiring Debate: Requesting The Council To Repair, Not Demolish, Rose Garden Café, Graves Park

3.5.1 The Council received a joint electronic and paper petition containing 11,127 signatures requesting the Council to repair, not demolish, Rose Garden Café, Graves Park.

3.5.2 The Council's Petitions Scheme required any petition containing over 5,000 signatures (from individuals who either live, work or study in Sheffield) to be the subject of debate at the Council meeting.

3.5.3 Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Liz Hnat. She stated that Rose Garden Cafe building was constructed in 1927 as a refreshment pavilion, at the instruction of JG Graves. This petition, which is now at over 11,000 signatures, shows the support that there is for repairing that building which the Council has deemed as being "At its End of Life". The Café had been closed down, with the current operators, Brewkitchen Ltd., being given 15 minutes notice to vacate the building. Ms Hnat stated that she, along with many other people, feel very strongly that this iconic building should be saved, and she had started the petition on the same day that the building had been closed. Very quickly, and with little effort, people were signing the petition at an incredible rate, showing just how much anger there was and how much support there is for repairing the building. She added that, whilst the Council's Petitions Scheme requires that signatories needed to be from very specific Sheffield postcodes, the petition gained signatures from people from all over the country who were visiting for the day. There are people in Rotherham, Dronfield, Barnsley and beyond who are regular users of Graves Park, and whose very valid signatures should be counted. Ms Hnat stated that J G Graves gifted Graves Park to the people of Sheffield in 1925, but in 1927, he was also gifted a gold key to the Rose Garden Pavilion when it was completed, as a sign of admiration for the work which he, the then Lord Mayor and Alderman, was doing for the city. This building is a last thread to his legacy. It represents memory, community and generosity. She commented that the campaign group have heard many stories from so many different generations about what that building means to them. Part of that is that it's a meeting place and a cafe, but its architecture, and how it looks in the Park, is woven into those memories, and is a physical link to history that we are losing from so many parks and places at this moment in time. Ms. Hnat stated that a building that isn't even 100 years old should not be at risk of demolition, and that the situation we are now in is because of years of neglect by this Council's current and previous Administrations. Nobody has maintained the building, with only reactive repairs, at best, having been undertaken. She added that, in 2018, the Council was made aware that the building was in a serious state of disrepair and yet nothing was done. It is disgraceful that its history is now at risk because of the Council's inaction. The people of Sheffield, to date, have still not received an apology for that neglect. Ms. Hnat commented that the petitioners do not agree that the building is at the end of its life. Demolition is not an option we even consider viable. The petitioners will fully support fundraising activities to

repair the Cafe building once they know the target they need to work towards, but do not want an additional lengthy consultation process, which will damage the building to a further extent as its left to crumble during that period. Ms Hnat concluded by stating the 11,000 signatures already show the level of support there is for the repair of the building, and that all signatories want the Café to be repaired, improved and reinvigorated. They want its history to remain, and want new generations to make memories there. They want this building to shine in all its glory as a link to our past and future, so that JG Graves' legacy and his generosity will be remembered.

- 3.5.4 Councillor Bryan Lodge (Chair of the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee), in responding to the petition, thanked Ms Hnat for presenting the petition, and stated that it was clear that there was a considerable level of feeling and support for the café building, not only from Sheffield residents, but people from surrounding areas and across the country. The Council was looking at submitting a listing application for the building, which, if successful, would help the Council to find additional funding for the provision of a building fit for the location. Councillor Lodge stated that the issue had been discussed at a recent meeting of the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee, at which there had been reference made, in the structural report, to the building reaching its "end of life". He stressed that there were no current plans to demolish the building as the Council needed to undertake a full appraisal of its condition, and a full structural survey would be commissioned. Councillor Lodge apologised for the decision to close the building at such short notice, particularly regarding the effect on the staff who worked in the cafe, but indicated that this decision had been necessary for health and safety reasons. He referred to the possible options open to the Council. The Council had written to the Chair of the Charity Commission, seeking its advice on the options and, when such advice was received, and the results of the full structural survey were known, a full options appraisal would be undertaken. The Council would work with the Friends Group, the Campaign Group and other interested parties, and when the building was safe to access, Brewkitchen Ltd would be invited to offer a service from the building. There would be a consultation process, where the views of all stakeholders and interested parties would be sought, and it was hoped that such consultation would not last too long.
- 3.5.5 Councillor Richard Williams (Deputy Chair of the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee and also Chair of the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee) thanked Ms Hnat for presenting the petition, and stated that it was a great achievement to get over 11,000 signatures, and was a testament to both the hard work of the organisers and the depth of feeling people had for the building. Whilst appreciating the concerns of the petitioners, Councillor Williams stated that, unfortunately, the Council did not currently have the resources to commit to a way forward. He stated that whilst there was a chance that the building could be beyond repair, he sincerely hoped that the results of the structural survey indicated otherwise. He reiterated the fact that the Council was willing to work with all stakeholders to find a solution to the problem. Councillor Williams referred to the commitment made by members of the Graves Park and Beauchief and Greenhill Wards, to allocate £10,000 each towards a Rose Garden Cafe Restoration Fund. Councillor Williams concluded by stating that

the Council needed to take a serious look at how it managed its buildings and bring the management of the buildings closer to their local communities. The Council also had to review income generation in its parks, and look at how this could be done more effectively going forward.

- 3.5.6 Councillor Marieanne Elliot (Group Spokesperson on the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee) stated that there had been issues in the past arising from outsourcing, and that a cafe in Graves Park should be part of the Park's facilities. She believed that the outsourcing of the building to various organisations in the past had resulted in successive leases, which had not addressed the need for the upkeep of the cafe building. Councillor Elliott believed that, in future, there needed to be a clear agreement between the organisations operating the Council's parks and the Council in terms of the liability for repairs and maintenance, and suggested that the Parks and Countryside Service should deal with the operational aspects in this case. She referred to the poor communication between the Council and the Friends Group in the past, which had resulted in a lack of trust, stating that it was hoped that this lack of trust could be rebuilt, and that the Ward Councillors could take an active role by working closely with the Friends Group. It was hoped that all interested parties could work towards the shared aim of getting a cafe back in the Park.
- 3.5.7 Councillor Janet Ridler (Council's Heritage Spokesperson) welcomed the receipt of the petition, and recognised the importance of Rose Garden Cafe building to the local community and the residents of Sheffield, particularly in terms of its history and heritage, as well as a cafe facility for users of Graves Park. Councillor Ridler stated that the Cafe was an iconic heritage building, and that the petition had highlighted the passion and determination of the local community to restore and protect the building. She supported the proposal to apply to Historic England for listed building status, which would not only validate the building's importance as a heritage asset, but also support the Council in protecting the building by opening up new opportunities for external funding. She stated that she would like to work with Ms Hnat and the Campaign Group on the listing application. Councillor Ridler concluded by stating that the Council would do everything possible to restore the building for the enjoyment of future generations.
- 3.5.8 Councillor Ian Auckland highlighted the clear object of the campaign, which was to save, and not demolish, the cafe building. He believed that, in the past, the Council had often failed to make the distinction between buildings with charitable status and the Council's general policy regarding such buildings. He explained the charitable status of the building, and referred to the wording of the Charity deeds, which stated that the first call on the Charity's assets was to maintain the building. Councillor Auckland concluded by stating that if local Ward Councillors had been nominated as Trustees of the Charity, there would have been positive action taken in 2018, when the structural problems regarding the roof had first been identified.
- 3.5.9 Councillor Douglas Johnson congratulated the petition organisers for the huge numbers of signatures obtained, and stated that, whilst the building was not

going to collapse, there was a need for restoration works, which it was hoped could be undertaken as soon as possible to allow for the building to be used as a cafe again. Councillor Johnson referred to the funding provided by the Council towards the upkeep of Graves Park, as well as other parks in the city, indicating that there was a need for better investment in all the city's parks.

3.5.10 Councillor Richard Shaw thanked the petitioners for their hard work, and stated that, in his opinion, the way the cafe staff had been asked to leave the building, with 15 minutes notice, had been disgraceful. Councillor Shaw referred to the report submitted to the Council in 2018, setting out the structural condition of the building, indicating that it was likely that it would now cost substantially more to repair given the delays in taking action at that time. He also suggested that local Ward Councillors should be appointed Trustees of the Charity in order to safeguard the Park's heritage, and referred to the donation of £10,000 by Members of the Graves Park and Beauchief and Greenhill Wards towards the restoration works. Councillor Shaw concluded by asking that any additional city-wide funding should be used towards the restoration works.

3.5.11 Liz Hnat and Andy Kershaw shared the petitioners' right of reply. Ms. Hnat stated that whilst she welcomed and appreciated the efforts being taken to repair the café building, specifically the application for listing status, she had concerns that if such an application was successful, it could potentially result in the restoration and repair works becoming exponentially more expensive. She referred to the comments made about the building not being in a state of collapse, questioning why, if this was the case, the cafe staff had been asked to leave with 15 minutes notice. Andy Kershaw thanked Members of the Council for their supportive comments, as well as the Campaign Group for the excellent work they had undertaken to date. He stated that Brewkitchen Ltd. had been running the cafe for 14 years, and that the Company's 12 members of staff had been out of work for a considerable time, and would continue to be out of work over Christmas. He emphasised that it was the Council's responsibility to repair the building, and not Brewkitchen, and referred to the use of the term "end of life", which he did not accept on the basis that he believed that any building could be repaired. Mr Kershaw concluded by expressing his thanks for the £20,000 donation from the Members of the Graves Park and Beauchief and Greenhill Wards towards the restoration of the café.

3.5.12 Councillor Bryan Lodge responded to issues raised during the debate, stating that whilst it was acknowledged that things could have been done better in the past, the Charity Trustee Sub- Committee was now looking at the issue, and the Council had commissioned the work with regard to the structural assessment of the cafe building.

3.5.13 The outcome of the debate on the petition was as follows:-

Proposal 1

It was moved by Councillor Bryan Lodge and seconded by Councillor Richard Williams, that:-

“The petition be referred to the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee for consideration.”

Proposal 2

It was moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson and seconded by Councillor Marieanne Elliot, that:-

“The petition be referred to the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee for consideration.”

On being put to the vote, conducted by a show of hands, Proposal 1 was carried.

(NB: Members of the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups, plus Councillors Lewis Chinchon and Sophie Wilson, voted for Proposal 1. Members of the Green Group abstained from voting on Proposal 1 in view of their support for Proposal 2.)

3.5.14 Accordingly, the resolution passed by the Council was as follows:-

RESOLVED: That this Council refers the petition to the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee for consideration, in recognition that the Sub-Committee is to meet to consider the future of the Café Building upon receipt of the reports of the detailed survey work being undertaken and of guidance from the Charity Commission on options in relation to the future of the Building, and acknowledging that, subsequently, either or both of the Finance Sub-Committee and the Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee may also have a decision-making role in relation to the future of the Building.

4. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

4.1 Prior to the commencement of this item of business, a motion moved by Councillor Dianne Hurst and seconded by Councillor Talib Hussain, that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1, the order of business as published on the Council Summons be altered by moving agenda item 5 (Members' Questions) to be taken after item 9, was put to the vote and was lost.

4.2 Urgent Business

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

4.3 South Yorkshire Joint and Combined Authorities

There were no questions relating to the discharge of the functions of the South Yorkshire Joint Authorities for Fire and Rescue and Pensions and of the South

Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6(i).

4.4 Written Questions

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

5. **NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "A RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY FOR SHEFFIELD" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE GILLIGAN KUBO AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR DOUGLAS JOHNSON**

5.1 It was moved by Councillor Christine Gilligan Kubo, and seconded by Councillor Douglas Johnson, that:-

This Council believes:-

- (a) that, if Sheffield is to play its part in achieving the Paris Climate targets, meet its net zero target by 2030 and address the cost of living crisis, we need to reduce energy demand through energy efficiency measures such as retrofitting homes and other buildings; and to significantly raise the amount of energy we produce from renewable sources;
- (b) having more of our energy produced from renewable sources helps us control costs by having secure forms of energy generated locally; energy security means that the UK is less at the mercy of dubious and undemocratic regimes with poor human rights records that are often the suppliers of fossil fuels;

This Council resolves:-

- (c) to ask the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee to consider:-
 - (i) **conducting an audit of the potential for renewable energy installations** and energy efficiency measures on all Council land and property, draw up a priority list for installations based on the most potential to save energy and generate clean energy, and present it to the Committee within 6 months;
 - (ii) **installing solar photovoltaics on all new build Council-owned buildings** where technically feasible, recognising that integrated roof systems are cheaper to install than retrofitting solar systems after construction;

- (iii) **creating a Local Area Energy Plan for Sheffield** that has the buy-in of the wider community and lead a local area energy planning process that involves both the network operators and other key stakeholders, including developers, energy experts and community energy groups;
- (iv) **investigating establishing strategic partnerships with renewable and energy efficiency installers** to help ensure certainty on cost and delivery of measures and report back to the Committee within 6 months;
- (v) **encouraging the establishment of partnerships with local Community Renewables organisations** to enable low cost/no cost installations funded through citizens' investments;
- (vi) **maximising external funding to finance installations** using Government, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and any ethical sources;
- (vii) **using funding available for solar installations from Cooperatives** on Council buildings and encouraging take up of this funding by large commercial organisations;
- (viii) **encouraging wider community investment in local renewable energy projects** through a range of measures including, but not limited to, Community Share Offers and Municipal Bonds;
- (ix) **developing a compelling offer for private householders and landlords** to support the installation of solar photovoltaics and high cost energy efficiency measures;
- (x) **encouraging best practice in Planning** to support renewable energy installations by developers and to create a low carbon energy supply;
- (xi) **encouraging renewable and energy efficiency skills** by establishing links and relationships between our partners in the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency sectors with appropriate local training and education providers;
- (xii) **ensuring training opportunities and new skills are included in all projects** and that contracts related to energy efficiency and renewables should include commitments from contractors on providing training opportunities and new skills for local people; and
- (xiii) requiring new energy generation projects of 5MW or above to have at least 5% **local ownership**.

5.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Minesh Parekh, and seconded by Councillor Ruth Milsom, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be

amended by:-

1. the addition of new paragraphs (c) to (i) as follows:-

That this Council:-

- (c) believes that the Co-operative Party's plan for community-owned energy, which sets out how the Government can scale up community-owned energy - including through establishing a new National Community Energy fund and developing a National Community Energy Strategy - would give local people control over renewable production and deliver energy sovereignty for our communities;
- (d) believes that, as part of the on-going development of the Ethical Procurement Policy and Community Wealth Building Charter, the Council must work to remove procurement barriers to producers selling their energy locally, and believes allowing councils to prioritise community-owned projects in procurement and planning would level the playing-field between community-owned energy and privately-owned giants;
- (e) believes that the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority's Energy Strategy is right to set ambitions to double the number of community energy organisations in South Yorkshire by 2040, and produce 100kW of community energy per year by 2030;
- (f) believes that the Council must continue working alongside Sheffield MPs to put pressure on the Government to deliver the Local Electricity Bill, in order to deliver more clean, local energy that benefits local communities;
- (g) supports the £3.5m of capital investment put forward through the Labour Group's budget amendment approved in March 2022 - to decarbonise community buildings, install renewable energy infrastructure, and enact energy efficiency measures – and believes this shows the Council's ambition to deliver Clean Growth and to help Sheffield through the cost-of-living crisis;
- (h) notes that Sheffield generates more renewable energy than other comparable cities, but has relatively low levels of solar, wind and hydroelectricity; and believes, therefore, this investment is key to creating jobs and reducing emissions from the Council's 38,000 homes and 4,000 land and property assets including community buildings;
- (i) notes that the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee recently approved £13.24 million to improve insulation on 117 'Airey' properties and £10.42 million to install external wall and roof insulation to 255 Council homes;

2. the re-lettering of original paragraph (c) as a new paragraph (j);
3. the insertion, in the sub-paragraph (i) of new paragraph (j), of the words “ensuring that this is considered as part of the on-going Community Asset Plan” immediately prior to the words “and present it to the Committee within 6 months”;
4. the insertion, at the end of the sub-paragraph (iii) of new paragraph (j), of the words “- with each Local Area Committee (LAC) involved and maximising the ‘tool kit for engagement’ in the development of Local Area Energy Plans”;
5. the replacement, at the beginning of the sub-paragraph (ix) of new paragraph (j), of the word “developing” by the words “working alongside the Housing Policy Committee to develop”;
6. the replacement, at the beginning of the sub-paragraph (xii) of new paragraph (j), of the word “ensuring” by the words “working alongside the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee to ensure”;
7. the replacement of “5%” by “20%”, in the sub-paragraph (xiii) of new paragraph (j); and
8. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (j)(viii) as follows, and the re-lettering of sub-paragraphs (j)(viii) to (xiii) as new sub-paragraphs (j)(ix) to (xiv):-

(j)(viii) **working with the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to address procurement barriers** to support community energy installations on Council buildings through the development of Sheffield’s Ethical Procurement Policies and Community Wealth Building Charter;

5.3 It was then formally moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, and formally seconded by Councillor Barbara Masters, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraph (c) and the addition of a new paragraph (c) as follows:-

- (c) to ask the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee to consider creating a Local Area Energy Plan for Sheffield and leading a local energy planning process to identify the most effective route for Sheffield to meet its net zero target, examining the following proposals:-
 - (i) working to reduce energy demand by investing in insulation and alternative heating systems which use non-carbon energy sources, including exploring how to deliver the long delayed insulation works to council stock;
 - (ii) encouraging the creation of Local Energy Grids where new renewable energy infrastructure is installed, insulating local

businesses and residents from large swings in the wider market, and working with the Parish and Town Councils to achieve this;

- (iii) investigate expanding the district heating system to a greater number of homes and businesses, and examining the use of mine water to provide geothermal heat, capitalising on the recently announced exemption of heat networks from business rates;
- (iv) conducting an audit of the potential for renewable energy installations and energy efficiency measures on all Council land and property, draw up a priority list for installations based on the most potential to save energy and generate clean energy, and presenting it to the Committee within 6 months;
- (v) investigate incorporating sources of renewable energy generation into all Council-owned buildings where technically and financially feasible;
- (vi) maximising external funding to finance installations using Government, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, and other funding sources, particularly to address retrofitting insulation and use of carbon-based heating;
- (vii) examine the feasibility through this planning process of introducing a 'Greener Sheffield Fund', managed by Local Area Committees to allow local communities to dictate how they would like to invest in their environment;
- (viii) examining how best to support businesses in the city to shrink their carbon footprint, for example through installing solar panels and decarbonising their supply chain; and
- (ix) drawing on the steps made towards net zero of Liberal Democrat-led councils, such as South Somerset's investment in a 25MW battery energy storage facility supporting development of renewable energy, Bedford's installation of a hydropower facility on the River Great Ouse, and Colchester's planning policy mandating EV charging points on all new homes.

5.4 After contributions from two other Members, and following the decline of the right of reply by Councillor Christine Gilligan Kubo, the amendment moved by Councillor Minesh Parekh was put to the vote and was carried.

5.4.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 47 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 28 Members. In voting to abstain, the Liberal Democrat Group Members abstained on paragraphs (e), (g) and (h) in Part 1, plus Part 8 of the amendment; but voted for paragraphs (f) and (i) in Part 1 and Parts 4, 5 and 6 of the amendment; and voted against paragraphs (c) and (d) in Part 1 and Parts 2, 3 and 7 of the amendment. The Green Group Members voted for, but against paragraphs (e) and (h) in Part 1 of the amendment.)

5.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar was then put to the vote and was lost.

5.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 28 Members; AGAINST - 45 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members.)

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

RESOLVED:

That this Council believes:-

- (a) that, if Sheffield is to play its part in achieving the Paris Climate targets, meet its net zero target by 2030 and address the cost of living crisis, we need to reduce energy demand through energy efficiency measures such as retrofitting homes and other buildings; and to significantly raise the amount of energy we produce from renewable sources;
- (b) having more of our energy produced from renewable sources helps us control costs by having secure forms of energy generated locally; energy security means that the UK is less at the mercy of dubious and undemocratic regimes with poor human rights records that are often the suppliers of fossil fuels;

That this Council:-

- (c) believes that the Co-operative Party's plan for community-owned energy, which sets out how the Government can scale up community-owned energy - including through establishing a new National Community Energy fund and developing a National Community Energy Strategy - would give local people control over renewable production and deliver energy sovereignty for our communities;
- (d) believes that, as part of the on-going development of the Ethical Procurement Policy and Community Wealth Building Charter, the Council must work to remove procurement barriers to producers selling their energy locally, and believes allowing councils to prioritise community-owned projects in procurement and planning would level the playing-field between community-owned energy and privately-owned giants;
- (e) believes that the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority's Energy Strategy is right to set ambitions to double the number of community energy organisations in South Yorkshire by 2040, and produce 100kW of community energy per year by 2030;
- (f) believes that the Council must continue working alongside Sheffield MPs to put pressure on the Government to deliver the Local Electricity Bill, in

order to deliver more clean, local energy that benefits local communities;

- (g) supports the £3.5m of capital investment put forward through the Labour Group's budget amendment approved in March 2022 - to decarbonise community buildings, install renewable energy infrastructure, and enact energy efficiency measures – and believes this shows the Council's ambition to deliver Clean Growth and to help Sheffield through the cost-of-living crisis;
- (h) notes that Sheffield generates more renewable energy than other comparable cities, but has relatively low levels of solar, wind and hydroelectricity; and believes, therefore, this investment is key to creating jobs and reducing emissions from the Council's 38,000 homes and 4,000 land and property assets including community buildings;
- (i) notes that the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee recently approved £13.24 million to improve insulation on 117 'Airey' properties and £10.42 million to install external wall and roof insulation to 255 Council homes; and

That this Council resolves:-

- (j) to ask the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee to consider:-
 - (i) **conducting an audit of the potential for renewable energy installations** and energy efficiency measures on all Council land and property, draw up a priority list for installations based on the most potential to save energy and generate clean energy, ensuring that this is considered as part of the on-going Community Asset Plan, and present it to the Committee within 6 months;
 - (ii) **installing solar photovoltaics on all new build Council-owned buildings** where technically feasible, recognising that integrated roof systems are cheaper to install than retrofitting solar systems after construction;
 - (iii) **creating a Local Area Energy Plan for Sheffield** that has the buy-in of the wider community and lead a local area energy planning process that involves both the network operators and other key stakeholders, including developers, energy experts and community energy groups - with each Local Area Committee (LAC) involved and maximising the 'tool kit for engagement' in the development of Local Area Energy Plans;
 - (iv) **investigating establishing strategic partnerships with renewable and energy efficiency installers** to help ensure certainty on cost and delivery of measures and report back to the Committee within 6 months;

- (v) **encouraging the establishment of partnerships with local Community Renewables organisations** to enable low cost/no cost installations funded through citizens' investments;
- (vi) **maximising external funding to finance installations** using Government, South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority and any ethical sources;
- (vii) **using funding available for solar installations from Cooperatives** on Council buildings and encouraging take up of this funding by large commercial organisations;
- (viii) **working with the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee to address procurement barriers** to support community energy installations on Council buildings through the development of Sheffield's Ethical Procurement Policies and Community Wealth Building Charter;
- (ix) **encouraging wider community investment in local renewable energy projects** through a range of measures including, but not limited to, Community Share Offers and Municipal Bonds;
- (x) working alongside the Housing Policy Committee to develop a **compelling offer for private householders and landlords** to support the installation of solar photovoltaics and high cost energy efficiency measures;
- (xi) **encouraging best practice in Planning** to support renewable energy installations by developers and to create a low carbon energy supply;
- (xii) **encouraging renewable and energy efficiency skills** by establishing links and relationships between our partners in the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency sectors with appropriate local training and education providers;
- (xiii) working alongside the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee to ensure **training opportunities and new skills are included in all projects** and that contracts related to energy efficiency and renewables should include commitments from contractors on providing training opportunities and new skills for local people; and
- (xiv) requiring new energy generation projects of 5MW or above to have at least 20% **local ownership**

5.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 75 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. The Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, but against paragraphs (c) and (d) and abstained on paragraphs (e), (g), (h) and

(j) of the Substantive Motion. The Green Group Members voted for, but against paragraphs (e) and (h) of the Substantive Motion. Councillor Lewis Chinchon voted for, but abstained on sub-paragraph (j)(xiv) of the Substantive Motion.)

6. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "COMMITTING THE COUNCIL TO TACKLING THE STIGMA OF MENOPAUSE AND PERIOD POVERTY" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JAYNE DUNN AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR JULIE GROCU TT

6.1 It was moved by Councillor Jayne Dunn, and seconded by Councillor Julie Grocutt, that this Council:-

- (a) notes there are more than 13 million women currently experiencing menopause or perimenopause in the UK; and that menopause campaigners argue that medical sexism and a lack of training means many women are left to suffer the symptoms of menopause;
- (b) recognises that menopause is a society and family issue, not just a women's issue;
- (c) notes that women over the age of 50 are the fastest growing segment of the workforce, and most will go through the menopause transition during their working lives, and many won't be able to meet their full potential at work unless they get the right support from their employer;
- (d) believes the UK could be losing 14 million workdays a year related to the menopause, according to recent research by Censuswide, with one in four women who experience menopausal symptoms, many at the top of their career, considering leaving their job;
- (e) reaffirms the Council has a legal duty to ensure that employees do not face discrimination;
- (f) believes employers who support women through the menopause will reap the benefits in terms of increased engagement and loyalty, as well as lower sickness absence and employee turnover;
- (g) believes fostering age and gender inclusive workplaces can help the Council to tap into the valuable skills and talent this fast-growing segment of the workforce has to offer;
- (h) believes this is an important issue that the Council has a role in addressing and that its currently getting worse due to the cost-of-living crisis;
- (i) recognises that women are a significant element in the City's economy and are vital to helping families through the cost-of-living crisis, but cannot if they are too ill to work;

- (j) notes removing barriers to progression for women could help the Council close its gender pay gap, and believes supporting women through menopause will help mitigate ageism in the workplace;
- (k) recognises the valuable contribution of Carolyn Harris MP (co-chair of the Menopause Task Force), the GMB, Unite, USDAW, Community Union and others who lead the way on this issue;
- (l) believes the Government is failing to ensure the country is period poverty free by 2025;
- (m) notes with alarm that amidst the worst cost of living crisis in 40 years, a poll of 1,000 UK girls aged 14-21 reveals over 1 in 4 are struggling to afford period products and nearly 1 in 5 report being unable to afford them;
- (n) believes, as a result, period poverty is a serious issue for women in the city which disproportionately affects groups who already face barriers accessing support, including ethnic minority groups, refugees and asylum seekers, people with disability, young carers and young people in care, creating indignity and a significant mental health burden through stigma;
- (o) recognises that period poverty goes hand in hand with food poverty and cuts across different policy areas, requiring a holistic, cross cutting commitment and intervention;
- (p) notes that the Labour Party's work on religious and sex education in schools has moved us further along in terms of awareness, but proposes more needs to be done; and
- (q) calls on the Chief Executive to report to the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee, within the next three months, on plans to incorporate the GMB Menopause Smash the Stigma Workplace Policy, including the following:-
 - (i) preventing women being disadvantaged at work because of their symptoms and because of the stigma of discussing menopause at work;
 - (ii) adopting a supportive workplace model which includes manager and staff training on issues around menopause, including through the GMB, to all members of staff in work time over a 12-month period;
 - (iii) adopting a more progressive and inclusive approach to supporting those who experience menopause;
 - (iv) to make Sheffield a period aware city, looking at how period poverty, shame and inequality can be addressed across the Council's areas of work and developing a "Period Equality Charter"

outlining what this means for different policy areas;

- (v) looking at period poverty as part of the cost-of-living crisis, exploring ways to supply free period products, calling on schools to join the Government's free period products scheme and promote the scheme to pupils;
- (vi) exploring what efforts the Council may be able to undertake to support and coordinate existing efforts and donations of period products to increase their impact and integrating efforts into the cost of living response;
- (vii) calling on the Government to fund provision of free period products in all public buildings;
- (viii) consider adopting a relevant HR policy as a council, e.g. menstrual leave policy, and to encourage other local businesses and organisations to make the same commitments; and
- (ix) ensuring that at future corporate-level collective bargaining negotiations, provisions are made to accept and integrate the recommendations of the GMB Smash the Stigma Workplace Policy into Council policy and procedures.

6.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Marieanne Elliot, and seconded by Councillor Maroof Raouf, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of new paragraphs (q) to (u) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraph (q) as a new paragraph (v):-
 - (q) notes that period poverty is a particular problem in the asylum system, for those who receive under £40 a week in state support (Bloody Good Period/Women for Refugee Women, 2019);
 - (r) notes that under the Period Products (Free Provision) Scotland Bill, the Scottish Government has set up a Scotland-wide scheme to allow anyone who needs period products to get them free of charge, and gives the Scottish Government the power to make public bodies including schools, colleges and universities, provide period products for free (Scottish Parliament, 2021);
 - (s) notes that as part of the Welsh Government's Period Dignity Strategic Action Plan, funding has been provided to local authorities and Further Education institutions to ensure that period products can be accessed free of charge by learners in schools, Further Education institutions and to those in need in communities (Welsh Government, 2021);
 - (t) believes that everyone who requires period products should be

able to access them for free;

- (u) believes that a person's period should not prevent them from succeeding in life;

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

- (w) also calls on the Chief Executive to report to the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee, within the next three months, to:-
 - (i) examine the feasibility of providing free period products in public toilets and other public buildings, including the Town Hall and community centres, including exploring whether any free disposable or reusable period products provided by the Council can be sustainably sourced;
 - (ii) publicise the provision of free period products and reusable period products, such as moon cups, through Council communication channels; and
 - (iii) write to the Minister for Women and Equalities, calling on the UK government to make period products free and available to all who need them across England, as has been done in Scotland and Wales.

6.3 After contributions from four other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Jayne Dunn, the amendment moved by Councillor Marieanne Elliot was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

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

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That this Council:-

- (a) notes there are more than 13 million women currently experiencing menopause or perimenopause in the UK; and that menopause campaigners argue that medical sexism and a lack of training means many women are left to suffer the symptoms of menopause;
- (b) recognises that menopause is a society and family issue, not just a women's issue;
- (c) notes that women over the age of 50 are the fastest growing segment of the workforce, and most will go through the menopause transition during their working lives, and many won't be able to meet their full potential at work unless they get the right support from their employer;
- (d) believes the UK could be losing 14 million workdays a year related to the menopause, according to recent research by Censuswide, with one in

- four women who experience menopausal symptoms, many at the top of their career, considering leaving their job;
- (e) reaffirms the Council has a legal duty to ensure that employees do not face discrimination;
 - (f) believes employers who support women through the menopause will reap the benefits in terms of increased engagement and loyalty, as well as lower sickness absence and employee turnover;
 - (g) believes fostering age and gender inclusive workplaces can help the Council to tap into the valuable skills and talent this fast-growing segment of the workforce has to offer;
 - (h) believes this is an important issue that the Council has a role in addressing and that its currently getting worse due to the cost-of-living crisis;
 - (i) recognises that women are a significant element in the City's economy and are vital to helping families through the cost-of-living crisis, but cannot if they are too ill to work;
 - (j) notes removing barriers to progression for women could help the Council close its gender pay gap, and believes supporting women through menopause will help mitigate ageism in the workplace;
 - (k) recognises the valuable contribution of Carolyn Harris MP (co-chair of the Menopause Task Force), the GMB, Unite, USDAW, Community Union and others who lead the way on this issue;
 - (l) believes the Government is failing to ensure the country is period poverty free by 2025;
 - (m) notes with alarm that amidst the worst cost of living crisis in 40 years, a poll of 1,000 UK girls aged 14-21 reveals over 1 in 4 are struggling to afford period products and nearly 1 in 5 report being unable to afford them;
 - (n) believes, as a result, period poverty is a serious issue for women in the city which disproportionately affects groups who already face barriers accessing support, including ethnic minority groups, refugees and asylum seekers, people with disability, young carers and young people in care, creating indignity and a significant mental health burden through stigma;
 - (o) recognises that period poverty goes hand in hand with food poverty and cuts across different policy areas, requiring a holistic, cross cutting commitment and intervention;
 - (p) notes that the Labour Party's work on religious and sex education in schools has moved us further along in terms of awareness, but proposes

more needs to be done;

- (q) notes that period poverty is a particular problem in the asylum system, for those who receive under £40 a week in state support (Bloody Good Period/Women for Refugee Women, 2019);
- (r) notes that under the Period Products (Free Provision) Scotland Bill, the Scottish Government has set up a Scotland-wide scheme to allow anyone who needs period products to get them free of charge, and gives the Scottish Government the power to make public bodies including schools, colleges and universities, provide period products for free (Scottish Parliament, 2021);
- (s) notes that as part of the Welsh Government's Period Dignity Strategic Action Plan, funding has been provided to local authorities and Further Education institutions to ensure that period products can be accessed free of charge by learners in schools, Further Education institutions and to those in need in communities (Welsh Government, 2021);
- (t) believes that everyone who requires period products should be able to access them for free;
- (u) believes that a person's period should not prevent them from succeeding in life;
- (v) calls on the Chief Executive to report to the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee, within the next three months, on plans to incorporate the GMB Menopause Smash the Stigma Workplace Policy, including the following:-
 - (i) preventing women being disadvantaged at work because of their symptoms and because of the stigma of discussing menopause at work;
 - (ii) adopting a supportive workplace model which includes manager and staff training on issues around menopause, including through the GMB, to all members of staff in work time over a 12-month period;
 - (iii) adopting a more progressive and inclusive approach to supporting those who experience menopause;
 - (iv) to make Sheffield a period aware city, looking at how period poverty, shame and inequality can be addressed across the Council's areas of work and developing a "Period Equality Charter" outlining what this means for different policy areas;
 - (v) looking at period poverty as part of the cost-of-living crisis, exploring ways to supply free period products, calling on schools to join the Government's free period products scheme and promote the

- scheme to pupils;
- (vi) exploring what efforts the Council may be able to undertake to support and coordinate existing efforts and donations of period products to increase their impact and integrating efforts into the cost of living response;
 - (vii) calling on the Government to fund provision of free period products in all public buildings;
 - (viii) consider adopting a relevant HR policy as a council, e.g. menstrual leave policy, and to encourage other local businesses and organisations to make the same commitments; and
 - (ix) ensuring that at future corporate-level collective bargaining negotiations, provisions are made to accept and integrate the recommendations of the GMB Smash the Stigma Workplace Policy into Council policy and procedures; and
- (w) also calls on the Chief Executive to report to the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee, within the next three months, to:-
- (i) examine the feasibility of providing free period products in public toilets and other public buildings, including the Town Hall and community centres, including exploring whether any free disposable or reusable period products provided by the Council can be sustainably sourced;
 - (ii) publicise the provision of free period products and reusable period products, such as moon cups, through Council communication channels; and
 - (iii) write to the Minister for Women and Equalities, calling on the UK government to make period products free and available to all who need them across England, as has been done in Scotland and Wales.

7. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "BEST VALUE SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE OF SHEFFIELD" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MIKE LEVERY AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR JOE OTTEN

7.1 It was formally moved by Councillor Mike Levery, and formally seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, that this Council:-

- (a) believes that it is this Council's duty to seek best value for the people of Sheffield, especially given the current financial challenges faced by the Council;

- (b) believes the people of Sheffield want to see services delivered efficiently and effectively both in performance and price;
- (c) notes that a Labour Government introduced Best Value in the Local Government Act of 1999 stating it was to “make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way an authority exercises its functions, having regard to a combination of factors, including economy, efficiency and effectiveness”;
- (d) believes that the principles set out in the Local Government Act of 1999 could have been better fulfilled by this Council in a number of circumstances, for example:-
 - (i) the Housing Repairs Service, where there have been dramatic increases in the waiting list for repairs over the last few years, increasing to over 5,000 currently, with an average waiting time of over 21 days;
 - (ii) the average amount of time houses are left empty for, after residents move out, in recent years has increased to 12 weeks, far above the target of six weeks; and
 - (iii) youth services which has failed to deliver as the people of Sheffield would want and need, despite additional funding of £2m in both 2020/21 and 2021/22, none of which was spent on youth service delivery;
- (e) notes that despite the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee twice recommending the decision on youth services to be revisited in 2020, the second time unanimously, Cabinet, on further consideration, progressed the decision;
- (f) believes that for decisions to progress with service changes that involve staff transfers, much more consideration needs to be given to the impact for the workforce and employer arising from the transfer of employment;
- (g) believes that Policy Committees are best placed to determine which of their areas should be prioritised to demand continuous improvement in both delivery and financial performance; and
- (h) therefore believes that this Council should look to implement the following:-
 - (i) examine where other councils have adopted different models for service provision and look at comparative performance;
 - (ii) establishment of internal service providers with the relevant council function being the budget holders;
 - (iii) benchmarking of services with other providers, no matter which

area they operate in; and

- (iv) clear, unambiguous performance measures which demonstrate ongoing improvement in service delivery.

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

1. the deletion of paragraphs (d) to (f);
2. the addition of new paragraphs (d) and (e) as follows:-
 - (d) notes that to achieve best value, in common with many other local authorities, Sheffield City Council (SCC) has considered in-sourcing services where external providers were not delivering effectively in recent years and has in-sourced housing repairs and youth services;
 - (e) believes that while in-sourcing requires a process of continuous improvement and is not an end in itself, the Council is better able to manage and monitor performance and deliver improvement in the services that have been in-sourced, and, by way of example:-
 - (i) notes the housing repairs service, while affected by difficulties including Covid-19, rising costs and skill shortages, is making headway in reducing the repairs backlog and the management of vacant properties, and new in-house, online reporting systems will accelerate this improvement;
 - (ii) further integration of the housing repairs service with SCC's Housing function should result in an improved customer experience for Council tenants;
 - (iii) in-sourced Youth Services are reducing management costs and redesigning the service to focus on frontline delivery of universal youth and play services in communities across the city, involving the training and development of new youth and play workers, professions that have been devastated by years of austerity that began in 2010 with the coalition government;
 - (iv) notes that since the youth services contract was not renewed in October 2020, and the service came back to the Council, there have been significant improvements to youth services; however, this must be put in the context that the service was brought back in the middle of the Covid Pandemic and, therefore, was unable to spend all of the £2 million on youth service provision (noting that the National

Youth Agency only gave Green COVID guidance in July 2021, meaning activities could only return to normal following over a year of closure), and notes that the money was therefore spent on laptops for school children who required them to access education, and believes this was essential for those most at risk of safeguarding concerns / isolation;

- (v) notes the expanded youth service sessions, ensuring that at least one session of youth work, either in a club or detached, is being delivered in every ward - achieved against a backdrop of Sheffield not having an active Youth Workforce due to a decade of financial cuts nationally to youth services;
- (vi) notes that the Council is now ready to give grants to VCF partners across the city to deliver in partnership with the Council, ensuring that by the end of the financial year there will be a minimum of 3 sessions in every ward across the city;
- (vii) notes that capturing what young people and local communities are telling us they want and need is at the heart of the changes; and
- (viii) notes that staff brought in-house to the Council generally enjoy favourable terms and conditions, employee support schemes, and with investment in resources, training and youth buildings, staff will have an improved working environment from which to deliver modern, contemporary youth services that are inclusive and meet the needs and aspirations of young people;

- 3. the re-lettering of original paragraphs (g) and (h) as new paragraphs (f) and (g).

7.2.1 (NOTE: With the agreement of the Council and at the request of the mover of the amendment (Councillor Fran Belbin), the amendment as circulated at the meeting and published with the agenda was altered by the insertion of the word “generally”, between the words “Council” and “enjoy”, in the first line of sub-paragraph (e)(viii) within Part 2 of the amendment.)

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

- 1. the deletion of paragraph (b) and the addition of a new paragraph (b) as follows:-
 - (b) believes the people of Sheffield want to see services delivered

efficiently, effectively, responsibly, equitably and ethically;

2. the addition of the following words at the end of paragraph (c) -

“; further notes that the world has moved on since 1999, and whilst it is still important to have “regard to a combination of factors, including economy, efficiency and effectiveness”, believes that equity, the environment and social implications must also be factored into every local government decision”

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

(d)(iii) Council transport policy, which is believed has consistently prioritised the perceived needs of motorists, to the detriment of the Council's budget pressures, road safety, air pollution, transport investment, equality and the climate emergency;

4. the addition of a new sub-paragraph (h)(v) as follows:-

(h)(v) examine where other councils have improved outcomes in terms of reliability and affordability of public transport, reduced emissions, improved road safety and increased participation in active travel through better enforcement of motor vehicle offences, increased coverage and fees for permit parking, Workplace Parking Levies and Clean Air/Ultra Low Emission Zones.

- 7.4 The amendment moved by Councillor Fran Belbin was put to the vote and was carried in part. Parts 1 and 3 of the amendment were lost and Part 2 of the amendment was carried.

- 7.4.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 46 Members; AGAINST - 28 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. The Green Group Members voted for, but against Part 1 of the amendment.)

- 7.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson was then put to the vote and was carried in part. Parts 1 and 2 of the amendment were carried and Parts 3 and 4 of the amendment were lost.

- 7.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 45 Members; AGAINST - 28 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. The Labour Group Members voted for, but against Parts 3 and 4 of the amendment. Councillor Sophie Wilson voted for, but against Part 4 of the amendment.)

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) believes that it is this Council's duty to seek best value for the people of Sheffield, especially given the current financial challenges faced by the Council;
- (b) believes the people of Sheffield want to see services delivered efficiently, effectively, responsibly, equitably and ethically;
- (c) notes that a Labour Government introduced Best Value in the Local Government Act of 1999 stating it was to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way an authority exercises its functions, having regard to a combination of factors, including economy, efficiency and effectiveness"; further notes that the world has moved on since 1999, and whilst it is still important to have "regard to a combination of factors, including economy, efficiency and effectiveness", believes that equity, the environment and social implications must also be factored into every local government decision;
- (d) believes that the principles set out in the Local Government Act of 1999 could have been better fulfilled by this Council in a number of circumstances, for example:-
 - (i) the Housing Repairs Service, where there have been dramatic increases in the waiting list for repairs over the last few years, increasing to over 5,000 currently, with an average waiting time of over 21 days;
 - (ii) the average amount of time houses are left empty for, after residents move out, in recent years has increased to 12 weeks, far above the target of six weeks; and
 - (iii) youth services which has failed to deliver as the people of Sheffield would want and need, despite additional funding of £2m in both 2020/21 and 2021/22, none of which was spent on youth service delivery;
- (e) notes that despite the Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee twice recommending the decision on youth services to be revisited in 2020, the second time unanimously, Cabinet, on further consideration, progressed the decision;
- (f) notes that to achieve best value, in common with many other local authorities, Sheffield City Council (SCC) has considered in-sourcing services where external providers were not delivering effectively in recent years and has in-sourced housing repairs and youth services;
- (g) believes that while in-sourcing requires a process of continuous improvement and is not an end in itself, the Council is better able to manage and monitor performance and deliver improvement in the services that have been in-sourced, and, by way of example:-

- (i) notes the housing repairs service, while affected by difficulties including Covid-19, rising costs and skill shortages, is making headway in reducing the repairs backlog and the management of vacant properties, and new in-house, online reporting systems will accelerate this improvement;
- (ii) further integration of the housing repairs service with SCC's Housing function should result in an improved customer experience for Council tenants;
- (iii) in-sourced Youth Services are reducing management costs and redesigning the service to focus on frontline delivery of universal youth and play services in communities across the city, involving the training and development of new youth and play workers, professions that have been devastated by years of austerity that began in 2010 with the coalition government;
- (iv) notes that since the youth services contract was not renewed in October 2020, and the service came back to the Council, there have been significant improvements to youth services; however, this must be put in the context that the service was brought back in the middle of the Covid Pandemic and, therefore, was unable to spend all of the £2 million on youth service provision (noting that the National Youth Agency only gave Green COVID guidance in July 2021, meaning activities could only return to normal following over a year of closure), and notes that the money was therefore spent on laptops for school children who required them to access education, and believes this was essential for those most at risk of safeguarding concerns / isolation;
- (v) notes the expanded youth service sessions, ensuring that at least one session of youth work, either in a club or detached, is being delivered in every ward - achieved against a backdrop of Sheffield not having an active Youth Workforce due to a decade of financial cuts nationally to youth services;
- (vi) notes that the Council is now ready to give grants to VCF partners across the city to deliver in partnership with the Council, ensuring that by the end of the financial year there will be a minimum of 3 sessions in every ward across the city;
- (vii) notes that capturing what young people and local communities are telling us they want and need is at the heart of the changes; and
- (viii) notes that staff brought in-house to the Council generally enjoy favourable terms and conditions, employee support schemes, and with investment in resources, training and youth buildings, staff will have an improved working environment from which to deliver modern, contemporary youth services that are inclusive and meet the needs and aspirations of young people;

- (h) believes that for decisions to progress with service changes that involve staff transfers, much more consideration needs to be given to the impact for the workforce and employer arising from the transfer of employment;
- (i) believes that Policy Committees are best placed to determine which of their areas should be prioritised to demand continuous improvement in both delivery and financial performance; and
- (j) therefore believes that this Council should look to implement the following:-
 - (i) examine where other councils have adopted different models for service provision and look at comparative performance;
 - (ii) establishment of internal service providers with the relevant council function being the budget holders;
 - (iii) benchmarking of services with other providers, no matter which area they operate in; and
 - (iv) clear, unambiguous performance measures which demonstrate ongoing improvement in service delivery.

7.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 73 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. The Labour Group Members voted for, but against paragraphs (d), (e), (h) and (j)(ii) of the Substantive Motion. The Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, but against paragraphs (f) and (g) of the Substantive Motion. Councillor Lewis Chinchon voted for, but abstained on paragraphs (f) and (g) of the Substantive Motion. Councillor Sophie Wilson voted for, but against sub-paragraphs (j)(i) and (ii) of the Substantive Motion.)

8. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "COST OF LIVING CRISIS - NATIONAL FAILINGS AND OUR LOCAL RESPONSE" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR NABEELA MOWLANA AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ABTISAM MOHAMED

8.1 It was formally moved by Councillor Nabeela Mowlana, and formally seconded by Councillor Zahira Naz, that this Council:-

- (a) notes that inflation is at over 10%, with Britain the only G7 economy where inflation has hit double digits;
- (b) believes that the Government's reckless mini-budget has crashed the economy, and though the Prime Minister and Chancellor may have again changed, the damage has already been dealt;
- (c) notes that the unfunded tax cuts caused financial disaster – with spiralling

interest on government bonds, and crashing the pound to its weakest ever position against the dollar;

- (d) notes that the effect of this has been soaring mortgage repayment costs, higher inflation and widespread economic turmoil, further compounding the current cost-of-living crisis;
- (e) notes that in response to the crisis of their own making, the Government have now reneged on plans to provide a two-year cap on the cost of energy units, and have slashed this guaranteed support to 6 months instead;
- (f) believes that as this Government attempt to balance the country's finances following their complete and utter mismanagement of the economy, the burden for this must not fall on Sheffield residents or cash-strapped public services;
- (g) notes that the Council is already facing its worse ever budget position – caused by inflation, unprecedented energy costs and twelve preceding years of government cuts, meaning that there is now very little flexibility for the Council to make additional savings;
- (h) notes that Sheffield Council will have lost around £300 million from its budget, in real terms, since 2010 – around a third of the Council's entire budget – making it even harder for the organisation to support the city's residents during the cost-of-living crisis;
- (i) notes, however, that despite the financial difficulties, this Council is doing everything it can to support residents through this crisis, with the Council creating a package of support to provide all available guidance (financial, fuel, food) for anyone facing hardship;
- (j) notes that alongside partners in Voluntary Action Sheffield and numerous VCFS organisations, the Council has created a network of 'Welcome Places' which will provide convenient spaces for people to access help or just call in to get warm, have a cup of tea and a chat, in their local communities;
- (k) believes that Sheffield's warm and welcoming places should harness everything great about the support that exists in the city, providing places for people to socialise, undertake activities, share advice, learn and support each other;
- (l) notes that the Council has formed a cost-of-living steering group, chaired by the Council Leader, and believes that as an organisation we must work on the crisis with the same resolve and collective spirit as was needed throughout the pandemic;
- (m) supports the Labour Party's plan to take real action now to tackle the Government's cost of living crisis:-

- (i) cut VAT on home energy bills;
 - (ii) save on energy bills now and in the longer term by insulating millions of homes;
 - (iii) cut small business rates and support businesses through the cost of living storm;
 - (iv) buy, make and sell more in Britain to create well-paid, secure jobs in every community; and
 - (v) establish a state-owned energy company – Great British Energy – charged with investing in and running green energy projects across the country, leading to clean growth and lower energy bills;
- (n) calls on the Government to finally provide sufficient financial support for households, businesses and local authorities to ensure that people in Sheffield get the support they need through this ongoing crisis that this Council believes is of their making; and
- (o) believes that whilst the Government is not providing any funding to do what is really needed to support people fully, or to provide the public services we should expect, it is important that the Council helps to lead the co-ordinated efforts across the city to support residents through this ongoing crisis.

8.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Joe Otten, and formally seconded by Councillor Simon Clement-Jones, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of new paragraphs (j) and (k) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraphs (j) to (l) as new paragraphs (l) to (n):-
 - (j) regrets the inclusion of £12m worth of Budget Implementation Plans that are now predicted to be undeliverable by 2023/24 within the current budget, and believes that it is of the utmost importance to improve this Council's financial situation in order to safeguard the public services that Sheffield residents rely upon;
 - (k) notes with concern the delays to this Council's insulation work programme on its own housing stock, which may cause our own tenants to suffer increased energy bills this year, and requests that the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee work to ensure this crucial insulation work is completed as quickly as possible;
2. the deletion of original paragraph (m) and the addition of new paragraphs (o) and (p), as follows:-
 - (o) calls on central government to tackle the cost of living crisis, which

this Council believes is of their making, through:-

- (i) cutting the standard rate of VAT to 17.5%;
 - (ii) restoring the Universal Credit supplement of £20;
 - (iii) introducing Free School Meals for all families receiving Universal Credit, and providing food vouchers for these families over every school holiday, providing stability to stretched household budgets;
 - (iv) introducing a home insulation fund to decrease heating bills and carbon emissions; and
 - (v) funding these measures through a windfall tax on energy companies making record profits;
- (p) requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to express this Council's demands to restore the Universal Credit supplement of £20; and to the Chancellor to express this Council's demands to cut the standard rate of VAT to 17.5%;
3. the re-lettering of original paragraphs (n) and (o) as new paragraphs (q) and (r).

8.3 It was then formally moved by Councillor Paul Turpin, and formally seconded by Councillor Martin Phipps, 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 the original paragraphs (e) to (g) as new paragraphs (f) to (h):-
 - (e) rejects any return to discredited austerity policies by the Government under the guise of "tough choices", believing that it is a self-defeating policy which does nothing to help the UK's finances and serves only to redistribute wealth from the poor to the rich;
2. the addition of a new paragraph (i) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original paragraph (h) as a new paragraph (j):-
 - (i) notes the failure of successive governments over the last 30 years to tackle the climate emergency and believes that the society we would have built; with warmer, better insulated low energy homes, locally generated clean, green energy and more food produced in the UK, would have had a significant impact on reducing the cost of living crisis;
3. the addition of a new paragraph (k) as follows, and the re-lettering of the

original paragraphs (i) to (m) as new paragraphs (l) to (p):-

(k) notes that the "exponential growth" model of what makes a successful economy ignores its impact on climate change and nature and will make social and economic problems more severe, both now and into the future, therefore believes we need to make the necessary changes now and strongly, to promote Sheffield as a resilient city.

4. the insertion, in the new paragraph (o) [the original paragraph (l)], of the words "as successfully proposed in the Green Group motion on 1st June 2022," after the words "steering group";

5. the addition of a new paragraph (q) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original paragraphs (n) and (o) as new paragraphs (r) and (s):-

(q) supports policies that:-

(i) increase minimum wage to £15/hour, ensure public sector wages keep pace with inflation and start restoring real wage losses from years of austerity;

(ii) restore the £20 uplift to Universal Credit and double it to £40 per week;

(iii) increase tax on the wealthiest 1% to tackle rising inequality and support those on lowest incomes;

(iv) restore the cap on bankers' bonuses;

(v) restore the Energy Price Cap to the October 2021 level, saving many households more than £2,000/year, financed by a windfall tax on energy producers;

(vi) back an Employers Workplace Parking Levy to fund sustainable transport improvements, ensuring more council funding can be allocated to stretched services; and

(vii) re-nationalise the UK's energy providers.

8.4 The amendment moved by Councillor Joe Otten was put to the vote and was lost.

8.4.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 28 Members; AGAINST - 45 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member.)

8.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Paul Turpin was then put to the vote and was carried in part. Part 1 and sub-paragraphs (q)(iv), (v) and (vii) of Part 5 of the amendment were carried, and Parts 2, 3, 4 and sub-paragraphs (q)(i), (ii), (iii) and (vi) of Part 5 of the amendment were lost.

8.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 46 Members; AGAINST - 27 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. The Labour Group Members voted for, but against Parts 2, 3, 4 and sub-paragraph (q)(vi) of Part 5 of the amendment, and abstained on sub-paragraphs (q)(i) to (iii) of the amendment. Councillor Sophie Wilson voted for, but against sub-paragraph (q)(vi) of Part 5 of the amendment.)

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes that inflation is at over 10%, with Britain the only G7 economy where inflation has hit double digits;
- (b) believes that the Government's reckless mini-budget has crashed the economy, and though the Prime Minister and Chancellor may have again changed, the damage has already been dealt;
- (c) notes that the unfunded tax cuts caused financial disaster – with spiralling interest on government bonds, and crashing the pound to its weakest ever position against the dollar;
- (d) notes that the effect of this has been soaring mortgage repayment costs, higher inflation and widespread economic turmoil, further compounding the current cost-of-living crisis;
- (e) rejects any return to discredited austerity policies by the Government under the guise of "tough choices", believing that it is a self-defeating policy which does nothing to help the UK's finances and serves only to redistribute wealth from the poor to the rich;
- (f) notes that in response to the crisis of their own making, the Government have now reneged on plans to provide a two-year cap on the cost of energy units, and have slashed this guaranteed support to 6 months instead;
- (g) believes that as this Government attempt to balance the country's finances following their complete and utter mismanagement of the economy, the burden for this must not fall on Sheffield residents or cash-strapped public services;
- (h) notes that the Council is already facing its worse ever budget position – caused by inflation, unprecedented energy costs and twelve preceding years of government cuts, meaning that there is now very little flexibility for the Council to make additional savings;
- (i) notes that Sheffield Council will have lost around £300 million from its budget, in real terms, since 2010 – around a third of the Council's entire

- budget – making it even harder for the organisation to support the city’s residents during the cost-of-living crisis;
- (j) notes, however, that despite the financial difficulties, this Council is doing everything it can to support residents through this crisis, with the Council creating a package of support to provide all available guidance (financial, fuel, food) for anyone facing hardship;
 - (k) notes that alongside partners in Voluntary Action Sheffield and numerous VCFS organisations, the Council has created a network of ‘Welcome Places’ which will provide convenient spaces for people to access help or just call in to get warm, have a cup of tea and a chat, in their local communities;
 - (l) believes that Sheffield’s warm and welcoming places should harness everything great about the support that exists in the city, providing places for people to socialise, undertake activities, share advice, learn and support each other;
 - (m) notes that the Council has formed a cost-of-living steering group, chaired by the Council Leader, and believes that as an organisation we must work on the crisis with the same resolve and collective spirit as was needed throughout the pandemic;
 - (n) supports the Labour Party’s plan to take real action now to tackle the Government’s cost of living crisis:-
 - (i) cut VAT on home energy bills;
 - (ii) save on energy bills now and in the longer term by insulating millions of homes;
 - (iii) cut small business rates and support businesses through the cost of living storm;
 - (iv) buy, make and sell more in Britain to create well-paid, secure jobs in every community; and
 - (v) establish a state-owned energy company – Great British Energy – charged with investing in and running green energy projects across the country, leading to clean growth and lower energy bills;
 - (o) supports policies that:-
 - (i) restore the cap on bankers’ bonuses;
 - (ii) restore the Energy Price Cap to the October 2021 level, saving many households more than £2,000/year, financed by a windfall tax on energy producers; and

- (iii) re-nationalise the UK's energy providers;
- (p) calls on the Government to finally provide sufficient financial support for households, businesses and local authorities to ensure that people in Sheffield get the support they need through this ongoing crisis that this Council believes is of their making; and
- (q) believes that whilst the Government is not providing any funding to do what is really needed to support people fully, or to provide the public services we should expect, it is important that the Council helps to lead the co-ordinated efforts across the city to support residents through this ongoing crisis.

8.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 73 Members; AGAINST - 1 Member; ABSTENTIONS – 0 Members. The Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, but against paragraphs (e), (n) and (o) of the Substantive Motion. Councillor Lewis Chinchen voted against, but voted for paragraphs (k) to (m) of the Substantive Motion.)

9. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

9.1 RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: On the motion formally moved by Councillor Dianne Hurst and formally seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, that this Council:-

- (a) approves the boundary changes to polling districts and proposed polling places outlined in the report of the Chief Executive; and
- (b) delegates authority to the Returning Officer to make amendments to polling places and stations where a change must be made during an election period.

10. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

10.1 RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: On the motion formally moved by Councillor George Lindars-Hammond and formally seconded by Councillor Angela Argenzio, that this Council approves the changes to the various Parts of the Constitution, as outlined in sections 3.1 to 3.4 of the report of the Director of Legal and Governance and as set out in appendices B to G.

11. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

11.1 RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: On the motion formally moved by Councillor Dianne Hurst and formally seconded by Councillor Talib Hussain, that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14th September 2022, be approved as a true and accurate record.

12. MEMBERSHIPS OF COUNCIL BODIES AND REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON OTHER BODIES

12.1 RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: On the motion formally moved by Councillor Dianne Hurst and formally seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, that:-

(a) it be noted that, in accordance with the authority given by the City Council at its annual meeting held on 18th May 2022, the Monitoring Officer had authorised the following appointments, with effect from the dates shown:-

Governance Committee - Councillors Peter Garbutt, Sioned-Mair Richards, Andrew Sangar and Richard Williams appointed, with effect from 5th October 2022, as substitute members of the Committee, with each political group able to appoint up to two substitute members.

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

Planning and Highways Committee - Councillor Safiya Saeed to fill a vacancy as a substitute member.

Licensing Committee - Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards to fill a vacancy.

Governance Committee - Councillors Dawn Dale and Douglas Johnson to fill vacancies as substitute members.

Corporate Joint Committee with Trade Unions - Councillor Mike Levery to replace Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed.