

Agenda Item 14

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of the City of Sheffield held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH, on Wednesday 1 November 2023, at 2.00 pm, pursuant to notice duly given and Summonses duly served.

PRESENT

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

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

2. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

4.1 Lord Mayor's Announcements

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

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

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

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

4.2 Petitions and Public Questions

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

4.3 Public Questions (On Various Topics)

4.3.1 Question from Josh Cheeseman

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

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

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

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

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

4.3.2 Question from Clara Cheung

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

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

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

4.3.3 Question from Simon Jenkins

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

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

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

4.3.4 Question from Calvin Payne

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.3.5 Questions from Isabel O' Leary

1. *"Cross-departmental working*

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

2. *Partnership with communities*

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

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

3. *Accountability*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.5.1 Questions from Abdullah Okud

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

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

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

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

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

4.5.2 Question from Derek Martin

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

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

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

4.5.3 Question from Jasmine Murphy

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

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

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

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

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

4.5.4 Question from Sahar Awadallah

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

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

4.5.5 Question from Mohammad Maroof

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.5.6 Question from Famila Hussain

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

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

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

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

4.5.7 Question from Hend Rashed

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

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

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

4.5.8 Question from Peter Jones

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

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

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

4.5.9 Question from Leni Solinger

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) notes:-

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

(b) believes:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.4 It was then moved by Councillor Penny Baker, and seconded by Councillor Andrew Sangar, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words "That this Council", and the addition of new paragraphs (a) to (i) as follows:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For Part 6 of the
Amendment (36)

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

Against Part 6 of the
Amendment (40)

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

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

- None.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

(a) notes:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

6.1 Urgent Business

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

6.2 South Yorkshire Joint and Combined Authorities

6.2.1 The Lord Mayor (Councillor Colin Ross) reported that Councillor Douglas Johnson had given advance notice of three questions relating to the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and Councillor Ian Horner had given advance notice of two questions relating to the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. Their questions concerned moorland burning and bus services, respectively. The advance notice of the questions had enabled Councillor Tony Damms, the Council's Spokesperson on the Fire and Rescue Authority, and Councillor Tom Hunt, the Council's representative on the Mayoral Combined Authority, to provide written answers, and copies of the questions and responses had been circulated at the meeting and published on the Council's website.

6.2.2 Councillor Damms stated that although the document circulated at the meeting indicated that a written answer will be provided, he had now provided an answer to Councillor Johnson and would ensure that the answer would be published on the Council's website. He added that the Chief Fire Officer had confirmed that there was no legal requirement for the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority to be consulted in relation to any planned moorland burning. Councillor Johnson thanked Councillor Damms for the answers which he had provided to him and for his years of service on the Fire and Rescue Authority, including in the role as the Council's Spokesperson. He added that the answer from the Chief Fire Officer had confirmed that the Service had not been consulted about moorland burning and he stated that the relevance of this was the extent to which land managers were complying with the code of good practice when burning areas of moorland.

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

6.2.4 There were no further questions relating to the discharge of the functions of the South Yorkshire Joint Authorities for Fire and Rescue and Pensions and of the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6(i).

6.3 Written Questions

A schedule of questions to Chairs of Policy Committees, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16, and which contained written answers, was circulated. Supplementary questions, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.4, were asked and were answered by the appropriate Policy Committee Chairs.

7. REVIEW OF THE ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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

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

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

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

Current Order:

November – Green / Labour / LibDem / Labour

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

February 2024 – Labour / LibDem / Green / Labour

Revised Order:

November – Green / Labour / LibDem / Labour

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finance Committee 9 seats Split 3 : 3 : 2 : 1 : 0	Cllr Mary Lea Cllr Zahira Naz (Chair) Cllr Ibbby Ullah	Cllr Glynis Chapman Cllr Mike Levery (Deputy Chair)	Cllr Marieanne Elliot Cllr Toby Mallinson (Spokesperson)	Cllr Bryan Lodge	
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		Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed			
Named Substitutes	Cllr Laura McClean Cllr Minesh Parekh Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards	Cllr Joe Otten Cllr Andrew Sangar Cllr Martin Smith	Cllr Douglas Johnson Cllr Martin Phipps Vacancy x 1	Cllr Paul Wood Vacancy x2	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Named Substitutes	Cllr Craig Gamble Pugh Cllr Talib Hussain Cllr Laura Moynahan	Cllr Ian Horner Cllr Barbara Masters Cllr Cliff Woodcraft	Cllr Ruth Mersereau Cllr Henry Nottage Cllr Maroof Raouf	Cllr Garry Weatherall Vacancy x 2	
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STATUTORY/REGULATORY COMMITTEES					
Title/Post	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Green	Sheffield Community Councillors	Other
Planning and Highways Committee 13 seats Split 5 : 5 : 1 : 1 : 1	Cllr Mike Chaplin Cllr Tony Downing Cllr Laura Moynahan Cllr Peter Price Cllr Ibbly Ullah	Cllr Glynis Chapman (Joint Chair) Cllr Roger Davison Cllr Barbara Masters Cllr Alan Woodcock (Joint Chair) Cllr Cliff Woodcraft	Cllr Bernard Little	Cllr Garry Weatherall	Cllr Sophie Wilson
Planning and Highways Committee Substitute Members	Cllr Mike Drabble Cllr Jayne Dunn Cllr Alison Norris	Cllr Ian Auckland Cllr Tim Huggan Cllr Joe Otten Cllr Andrew Sangar Cllr Richard Williams	Cllr Christine Gilligan Kubo Cllr Douglas Johnson Cllr Henry Nottage	Cllr Tony Damms Cllr Dianne Hurst Vacancy x 1	

Licensing Committee 15 seats Split 6 : 6 : 2 : 1 : 0	Cllr David Barker (Joint Chair) Cllr Talib Hussain Cllr Abdul Khayum (Joint Chair) Cllr Karen McGowan Cllr Nabeela Mowlana	Cllr Kurtis Crossland Cllr Roger Davison Cllr Ian Horner Cllr Joe Otten Cllr Cliff Woodcraft Cllr Ann Woolhouse	Cllr Henry Nottage Cllr Maroof Raouf	Vacancy x 1	
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	Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards				
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Governance Committee 9 seats Split 4 : 3 : 1 : 1 : 0	Cllr Fran Belbin (Chair) Cllr Laura Moynahan Cllr Minesh Parekh Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards	Cllr Sue Alston (Deputy Chair) Cllr Simon Clement-Jones Cllr Mike Levery	Cllr Paul Turpin	Cllr Garry Weatherall	
Governance Committee Substitute Members	Cllr Dawn Dale Cllr Craig Gamble Pugh Cllr Ruth Milsom Cllr Alison Norris	Cllr Andrew Sangar Cllr Joe Otten	Cllr Douglas Johnson Vacancy x 1	Cllr Dianne Hurst Vacancy x 1	

Audit and Standards Committee 7 seats Split 2 : 2 : 1 : 1 : 1	Cllr Fran Belbin (Deputy Chair) Cllr Laura McClean	Cllr Simon Clement-Jones Cllr Mohammed Mahroof (Chair)	Cllr Henry Nottage	Cllr Bryan Lodge	Cllr Lewis Chinchen
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Admissions Committee 7 seats Split 3 : 2 : 1 : 1 : 0 (Substitute Members to be appointed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair or Spokesperson of the relevant Policy Committee, as appropriate)	Cllr Talib Hussain Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards Cllr Safiya Saeed (Deputy Chair)	Cllr Ann Whitaker Cllr Ann Woolhouse	Cllr Maleiki Haybe (Chair)	Cllr Denise Fox	
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<p>Senior Officer Employment Committee 15 seats Split 6 : 5 : 2 : 1 : 1</p>	<p>Cllr Fran Belbin Cllr Dawn Dale Cllr Tom Hunt (Deputy Chair) Cllr Ben Miskell (Chair) Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards Cllr Zahira Naz</p>	<p>Cllr Penny Baker Cllr Mike Levery Cllr Mohammed Mahroof Cllr Shaffaq Mohammed Cllr Andrew Sangar</p>	<p>Cllr Douglas Johnson Vacancy x 1</p>	<p>Cllr Paul Wood</p>	<p>Cllr Sophie Wilson</p>
<p>Appeals and Collective Disputes Committee 15 seats Split 6 : 5 : 2 : 1 : 1</p>	<p>Cllr David Barker Cllr Mazher Iqbal Cllr Karen McGowan Cllr Laura Moynahan Cllr Zahira Naz (Chair) Cllr Peter Price</p>	<p>Cllr Alan Hooper Cllr Ian Horner Cllr Tim Huggan Cllr Gail Smith Cllr Ann Woolhouse</p>	<p>Cllr Marieanne Elliot Cllr Maroof Raouf</p>	<p>Cllr Denise Fox</p>	<p>Cllr Lewis Chinchin</p>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That this Council:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) notes that:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

(a) notes that:-

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

(b) believes that:-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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