

Corporate Resources

Gillian Duckworth,
Director of Legal and Governance
Town Hall SHEFFIELD S1 2HH

Tel: 0114 273 4029

Email: paul.robinson@sheffield.gov.uk

Our Ref: PR

Date: 5th April, 2016



Dear Councillor,

Meeting of the City Council – 6th April, 2016: Urgent Item of Business

I attach two Notices of Motion, both relating to the UK steel industry, which will be considered by the City Council at its meeting tomorrow as an urgent item of business under Council Procedure Rule 26 of the Council's Constitution, on the recommendation of the Chair.

I would suggest that, at the meeting, the notice of motion given by Councillor Colin Ross be dealt with as a proposed amendment to the notice of motion given by Councillor Julie Dore.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Robinson,
Head of Democratic Services

Meeting of the City Council – 6th April, 2016

Urgent Item of Business (pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 26)

NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JULIE DORE

That this Council:-

- (a) is deeply concerned at the prospect of major job losses at Stocksbridge, Rotherham and other locations, following Tata Steel's decision to pull out of its UK steel operations;
- (b) reiterates the sentiments passed in previous Council motions, and once again urges the Government to:-
 - (i) provide support for a business rate cut for the steel industry;
 - (ii) give the steel industry a break from green taxes and high energy bills;
 - (iii) take urgent action to stop the dumping of cheap Chinese steel;
 - (iv) make a commitment to use British steel for all major infrastructure and construction projects; and
 - (v) look to use British-made steel in all government backed contracts;
- (c) deplores the Government's efforts to overhaul anti-dumping rules that would have helped the EU to raise retaliatory tariffs against Chinese steel similar to the level of those adopted by the US;
- (d) believes the Government's inaction shows they lack an industrial strategy and have no interest in supporting strategic national industries like steel;
- (e) believes the Government's unwillingness to save the steel industry adds weight to former Work and Pensions Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Iain Duncan-Smith MP's comments that the Conservative Party do not care for people who do not vote for them;
- (f) recalls the decision made by the Coalition Government to cancel an £80m loan to Sheffield Forgemasters which would have allowed the Company to be one of only two in the world able to make forgings large enough for the nuclear industry;
- (g) also believes that the Coalition Government did nothing to promote an

industrial strategy;

- (h) believes that steel is an industry of huge strategic importance, and demands that the Government acts now to do whatever it takes to protect the steel industry, including considering nationalisation; and
- (i) recalls the successful temporary nationalisations that took place under the last Labour Government, including when it stepped in to save organisations of vital importance, including British Energy.

Meeting of the City Council – 6th April, 2016

Urgent Item of Business (pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 26)

NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR COLIN ROSS

That this Council:-

- (a) notes with regret the decision of TATA steel to sell their UK operations including their Steelworks in Stocksbridge and Rotherham;
- (b) notes that steel is an important national industry with particular relevance to Sheffield and the wider Sheffield City Region;
- (c) believes it is vitally important for the UK's long term prospects and our long term industrial strategy that the UK retains its capacity to produce steel;
- (d) calls on the Government, in the event that a buyer can't be found to take over TATA steel immediately, to step in and take over until a buyer can be found so the plants can remain open in the short term and to take on pensions liabilities to encourage a buyer to take over TATA;
- (e) also calls on the Government to mandate that the new infrastructure commission led by Lord Adonis ensures that British produced steel should be given every opportunity and where appropriate, priority, in procurement for new infrastructure that Lord Adonis and the Government will be signing off;
- (f) believes that the Government is being half hearted about its intentions;
- (g) therefore calls on Sheffield City Region and Sheffield City Council to set up a task force with other local councils, trade unions, community and individuals to work on an urgent action plan on mitigating the issues that will arise if TATA were to close, including skills, enterprise opportunities, debt, Job Match and community building; and
- (h) calls on the Administration to bring a report to the Cabinet as a matter of urgency on this issue and to include consideration of appropriate funding from itself and partners.