

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021

### RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE MEETING

#### **1. DEBATE ON A PETITION ASKING THE COUNCIL TO STOP USING GLYPHOSATE**

RESOLVED: That this Council refers the petition to the appropriate executive decision maker for consideration.

#### **2. URGENT ITEM - GP SERVICES**

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) recognises that general practices across the country are at breaking point, putting the whole of the NHS at risk;
- (b) thanks those who work in the NHS for their commitment to their patients, often putting themselves at risk for the sake of others;
- (c) congratulates NHS staff past and present on being awarded the George Cross for their courage, compassion and dedication;
- (d) believes that Primary Care is the 'Bedrock of the NHS', dealing with around 90% of patient contacts, and acknowledges that, currently, GPs and their teams are at the forefront of helping communities recover from the pandemic; caring for people whose mental and physical health has been affected by Covid 19; and leading the Vaccination programme; whilst at the same time, they are dealing with the backlog of people on waiting lists elsewhere in the NHS;
- (e) notes that:-
  - (i) in 2016 the Conservative Government promised to increase GPs by 5,000 in 5 years but that the overall number of GPs has seen little growth since 2015;
  - (ii) the number of patients per practice is 22% higher than it was in 2015 but the GP workforce has not grown with this demand; there are now just 0.46 fully qualified GPs per 1,000 patients in England – significantly below the average number of physicians in comparable nations;

- (iii) there is a growing backlog of care in the NHS; long waits for specialist treatment are skyrocketing and pressure on Accident and Emergency Departments is reaching pre-pandemic levels;
  - (iv) General practice and general practitioners are under pressure; a recent survey by the British Medical Association (BMA) showed high levels of mental health conditions and exhaustion; resignations from General Practice are also rising, and practices are shutting down at record rates;
  - (v) it is becoming increasingly difficult to get GPs to practice in deprived areas; as a result, those communities who most need good primary care are least able to access it; and
  - (vi) half of GP surgeries in England are considered by professionals to be unfit for purpose, and ill-equipped to meet future demand, while lack of expertise and capacity constraints have been highlighted as important barriers to GPs accessing infrastructure funding;
- (f) calls upon the Government and the Chief Executive of the NHS to take urgent measures to address this crisis, including:-
- (i) delivering on previously unmet promises to increase the number of GPs by at least 5,000;
  - (ii) ensuring that incentives are in place to meet the primary care needs of communities with the greatest need;
  - (iii) reducing red tape and bureaucracy by exploring with the profession which regulatory and administrative tasks need to be kept and which don't;
  - (iv) rebalancing the health system by encouraging better outreach work from secondary care;
  - (v) increasing investment in community-based health-promoting activities to address the underlying causes of poor health; and
  - (vi) fundamental reform of investment in the primary care estate, including action to address the barriers to accessing current capital funding streams;
- (g) notes with concern that the US private health care company, Centene, is now the single largest provider of Primary Care in the NHS;
- (h) opposes privatisation and outsourcing in the NHS and will write to the Government and Sheffield MPs urging them to support an NHS reinstatement bill; and
- (i) notes with concern that administering and patient opt-out of the NHS "data grab" (requiring GPs to handover all their patients data to be pseudonymised) places yet another additional burden on GP practices when they need it least, and will urge the Government to scrap this data grab.

### 3. THE CITY CENTRE

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) recognises that a thriving city centre is vitally important for the economic and social future of Sheffield because it supports jobs, attracts inward investment and provides a focus for the cultural life of Sheffield;
- (b) notes that the Covid pandemic has had a devastating impact on the city centre, with decreasing footfall and a significant increase in retail closures;
- (c) believes that when the regeneration of our city centre was stalled from the financial crash and lack of action from the previous Lib Dem administration, the Labour administration acted to take control of the scheme away from a development company back into the hands of the city and believes that this proactive action was necessary in contrast to the inaction of the previous Lib Dem administration;
- (d) welcomes that by doing this the Heart of the City 2 project has been developed and believes that this is a cornerstone project that is helping to restore economic momentum and will drive growth in a post Covid-19 Sheffield and believes that if it had been left to the inaction of the previous Lib Dem administration the current developments that can be seen throughout the city centre would not be taking place;
- (e) further welcomes that by doing this the Administration has been able to future proof the regeneration of our city centre so that it is fit for how city centres are changing, not shaped by the old model of how city centres work but adapting to trends such as increases in online shopping, creating a thriving hub mix of independent businesses and larger companies, both commercial and retail occupiers, some of which have already opened, some are being built now and some are still in development;
- (f) therefore supports Heart of the City 2;
- (g) welcomes the success of Sheffield in being awarded over £15 million in funding for Fargate and High Street and thanks all partners who were involved in developing the bid;
- (h) believes it is important to ensure that the city centre remains accessible to all, recognises that many necessary actions were taken during the lockdown to enable social distancing and believes that as we move out of lockdown it will be important that a solution which maintains many of the benefits that have been brought about by the changes whilst ensuring everyone can access the city centre, should be sought;
- (i) confirms that the Administration will have a new Central Area Strategy in place by Autumn 2021, talking to people and businesses over the summer on their aspirations for the city centre's future and welcomes the extensive action

already taken, such as the publication of the Central Area Strategy Capacity Report last year, which looks at the capacity for new homes in the city;

- (j) welcomes that Sheffield has a plan and it is only by taking proactive action as a city to put ourselves in the driving seat of the regeneration of our city centre that we are now creating a new city centre that we can be proud of as a city and puts us in a strong position to rebuild;
- (k) believes that Sheffield must look forward to a vibrant city centre that supports Sheffield's local businesses, has a good quality of life for an increasing residential population and is an enjoyable place to visit;
- (l) believes that good access into the city centre is vital and we should aim to increase the numbers of people visiting on foot, by bike, by bus, tram and train;
- (m) therefore believes that the best way to support a good bus and tram network is to make it cheaper and more convenient to arrive by public transport than by private car;
- (n) believes that we need to improve air quality and should therefore reduce the number of unnecessary journeys by private car;
- (o) believes that reducing congestion in the city centre will make streets safer as well as cleaner and more pleasant to enjoy;
- (p) welcomes independent shops and would like to see more neighbourhood shops and services, so that a wide range of shops and services is within 15 minutes walk;
- (q) notes that research by the London Borough of Waltham Forest showed that people walking to their high street spent 40% more than people who drove but that business owners massively over-estimated their customers' car use;
- (r) to give protection against inappropriate development and to give certainty to potential investors, believes that the grossly delayed development of the local plan must go ahead; and, following a resounding response from local people on options for housing numbers, calls on the co-operative executive to publish the draft local plan without further delay; and
- (s) is deeply concerned that to date the Administration has failed to explain whether there is an adequate clawback provision for the £3m offered to John Lewis to stay in Sheffield City Centre and calls on the co-operative executive to publish the financial implications to the Council of this closure.

#### 4. PUTTING SHEFFIELD FIRST

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) recognises the incredible efforts that all staff, partner organisations, voluntary sector, local businesses, community groups and the people of Sheffield have made to get the city through the past 18 months, and thanks everyone for their contribution;
- (b) notes that as the city moves out of lockdown, and continues to open up, it is essential that the Council takes action to secure the city's recovery across a wide range of areas including support for jobs and the local economy, children and education, supporting people in financial hardship and the full reopening of Council services;
- (c) welcomes the co-operation agreement between the Labour and Green Groups, as set out below:-

"This Agreement is dated 19 May 2021 and is made between the Labour and Green political groups elected as Members of Sheffield City Council. This is an agreement for the 2021/22 municipal year and will therefore come to an end at the AGM in May 2022 unless extended by agreement of both parties.

This Agreement has been drawn up following detailed discussions between the two groups. The Green and Labour Groups acknowledge that no party has an overall majority on Sheffield City Council and this requires a new way of working to be established between the parties.

Both groups are committed to working in an open, inclusive and democratic way and ensuring the Council has stability and effective leadership. In order to support this and reflecting the decision of the people of Sheffield in the governance referendum, a politically proportionate transition committee model has been introduced and will be piloted to enable a new way of working in the Council which will facilitate the transition to the committee system.

Both parties will support the appointment of Terry Fox as Leader of the Council, Julie Grocutt as Deputy Leader of the Council and the appointment of five Labour and three Green Executive Members (designed to represent political proportionality). Whilst the Liberal Democrats declined to join the Executive, if they were to reconsider this decision, then they will get three seats, two to be offered by Labour and one offered by the Greens.

Both parties will work together in the interests of Sheffield. In order to secure the city's recovery we will:-

- (i) implement the new Local Area Committees, giving power back to our communities;

- (ii) introduce a new approach to community safety with additional safer neighbourhood wardens;
- (iii) provide additional investment in our young people;
- (iv) support the recovery of our district centres;
- (v) implement the recommendations in the Arup report dated 19 March to create a pathway to deliver the shared ambition for net zero; and
- (vi) appoint an independent person to conduct a local non-statutory inquiry into the management of the street trees dispute.

Both parties agree:-

- (i) a commitment to deal with each other fairly and honestly;
- (ii) to recognise that this is a new way of working that has not been experienced in Sheffield before;
- (iii) to recognise that all parties, officers and the public will take time to get used to a new style of governance;
- (iv) to recognise that mistakes will be made and to address these respectfully;
- (v) always to act in the best interests of the residents of the city; and
- (vi) to develop a new system to manage council business, taking account of the new working arrangements. This should ensure: All Cabinet briefings are open to both parties; All papers going to Cabinet are fully shared with both parties before the agenda is published; All Council communications in relation to executive decisions are cleared by both parties before issue; and consensus is sought wherever possible and a mechanism will be established between the leadership of both groups to resolve any issues that may arise.

A programme of meetings will be planned to facilitate discussions on the budget. It is the full intention to reach a consensus on the Council's 2022/23 Budget and Housing Revenue Account.”;

- (d) welcomes the plans by the Administration to deliver on the following commitments:-
  - (i) to introduce Local Area Committees, agreed by this Council in March, as a top priority, with the aim of establishing and embedding them within the Council, thus putting our communities at the heart of decision making and ensuring that Council services are responsive and accountable to the needs of our communities;

- (ii) delivering new investment in District Centres throughout the city to ensure their recovery and renewal, coupled with a wider programme of initiatives to support the re-opening of the city's economy, such as the recently announced Summer in the Outdoor City Programme;
  - (iii) investing in our young people through delivery of the Administration's additional investment in youth services, following the service being brought back in-house;
  - (iv) implementing the recommendations set out in the Arup report to create a pathway to deliver the shared ambition for net zero;
  - (v) introducing a new approach to community safety, with additional safer neighbourhood wardens; and
  - (vi) appointing an independent person to conduct a local inquiry into the management of the street trees dispute;
- (e) believes that the overriding priority of the Council, and the city as a whole, should be to put Sheffield first and work in the interests of the city and its people and welcomes the commitment of the new Administration to always Put Sheffield First;
- (f) believes that to meet the challenges the city faces it is important for Councillors to work together and co-operate across the city and that this is the responsible thing to do to provide the effective leadership and stability that the city needs from the Council going forward;
- (g) notes that the Council will now begin a transition into new governance arrangements following the result of the governance referendum and welcomes the Council's plans to introduce transitional committees to facilitate this change in governance and believes that they will be an important part of piloting this new way of working and supporting the organisation to put in place the best possible arrangements to deliver for Sheffield, working in an open, inclusive and democratic way;
- (h) asserts that the historic first of a two-party Administration for this great city is an essential marker of openness, civic responsibility and genuine collaboration; and that this must be better for the people of Sheffield;
- (i) believes that tackling global climate change and the ecological emergency requires both responsibility of leadership and collaboration at all levels of government to succeed; and
- (j) welcomes that Sheffield has been shortlisted for City of the Year in the annual EG awards following a joint entry by Sheffield City Council and the Sheffield Property Association recognising Sheffield's all-encompassing strengths, our people and place that make us stand out from the rest and believes that Sheffield is deserving of the title of 'City of the Year'.

## **5. THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) welcomes the revisiting of this motion brought in December 2019;
- (b) notes that in December 2019 we could not have foreseen that six months later we would have been in the grasp of a global pandemic which has cost this city, our nation and all of humanity so much, and:-
  - (i) believes that, as we look to move to a 'new-normal' way of working, now is the time to revisit this critical issue; and
  - (ii) notes the efforts of the dedicated staff at our household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) along with Council Officers who worked hard to keep our HWRCs open, showing councils up and down this land what can be done even in the face of such challenging times;
- (c) resolves to go on record and thank all those dedicated public servants who went above and beyond to keep our city working;
- (d) believes that with the right support, Sheffield businesses have the opportunity to be leaders in green and sustainable technology;
- (e) believes successful local councils of the future will be those which adopt the 'circular economy' approach, which designs out waste, is regenerative by design and is powered by renewable energy; at its heart is the idea of reducing resource use through well-developed local plan policies that embeds reusing resources and materials that are in circulation in the economy and recycling as a last resort, which will help us meet our sustainable development goals;
- (f) believes a prime example of this is the EU 'right to repair' legislation which requires manufacturers to design longer lasting products and make spare parts readily available in a push to reduce waste and increase opportunities for small businesses in the after-sales support sector;
- (g) believes that Sheffield must have a huge and positive role to play in the transition to a circular economy;
- (h) believes it is incumbent on all councils to reduce waste and drive up the recycling rates;
- (i) also notes that food waste is a hugely important economic and environmental issue for the country, with more than 600 tonnes thrown away by Sheffield households each year;
- (j) believes that, as residents' shopping habits have changed during the pandemic, there has been a significant increase in the amount of cardboard many residents



wish to be recycled through their household waste recycling collection and often the blue bins are of insufficient size;

(k) therefore resolves to:-

- (i) publish the results of the consultation with local universities, charities and Ellen MacArthur Foundation Knowledge Partner organisations, that have experience of delivering circular economy projects with businesses and local authorities, as resolved at the Council meeting in December 2019 and bring this report to the appropriate Transitional Committee at the earliest time;
- (ii) explore the introduction of local deposit return and refill schemes for all food and drinks containers; these local deposit schemes could be piloted at a local level through the Local Area Committees;
- (iii) make 'evidence of environmental improvement' a requirement for all businesses and organisations seeking grant funding or any other form of financial support from the Council;
- (iv) instruct the Executive Director, Place, to carry out a full study that quantifies the potential benefits of the circular economy approach to the city and report back to full Council within six months;
- (v) use best practice in conjunction with councils across the UK and beyond, to define a metric for progress made in the transition to circular economy;
- (vi) explore measuring food waste in all Council premises and support measures to communicate the importance of reducing food waste;
- (vii) develop proposals to introduce a pilot scheme for the collection of food waste from households to identify the issues and opportunities in a wider roll-out across the whole city, with the intention to roll out domestic food waste collection across the city to produce biogas energy via anaerobic digestion as soon as is practicable;
- (viii) support local businesses to transition to closed loop systems and eco-design approaches using the RESolve framework, with an emphasis on production of products that can last several lifecycles, that are easily repaired and are designed for easy disassembly and remanufacture;
- (ix) write to the Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to ask them to introduce environmental taxation and introduce tax credits to incentivise efficiency of resource use, longer lifespan and remanufacture of products to reduce commercial and domestic waste;
- (x) support local businesses who offer reduced prices and other incentives when people use their own cups to be refilled;

- (xi) explore the introduction of a Carbon Impact Assessment to accompany all decisions, and report to the appropriate committee at the earliest date possible within 6 months;
- (xii) recognising that Sheffield's HWRCs are no longer fit-for-purpose, establish a working group to explore the delivery of new generation of HWRC Supersites, incorporating: Reuse Shops, Electrical Equipment Banks for repair and reuse, Waste Transfer Sites to facilitate greater recycling, making the experience of recycling more pleasant for citizens and workers alike; again, bringing this to the appropriate committee at the earliest date possible within 6 months;
- (xiii) work across the South Yorkshire Mayoral Authority to enhance recycling options for Sheffield and our neighbours, exploring where we can co-deliver recycling sites and where we can leverage in economies of scale, enabling the establishment of 'new' recycling sectors as economically viable opportunities;
- (xiv) look beyond existing waste streams and explore with partners like Yorkshire Water the establishment of biogas production from sewage, looking to examples like the BioBus and determine if this is a viable and environmentally responsible way forward;
- (xv) explore the establishment of green-house systems to cultivate food in a sustainable way locally, and use biproducts of Enzymatic Digesters to cultivate value food crops, like mushrooms;
- (xvi) request the co-operative executive to bring forward proposals so that households are given the option of requesting a larger capacity blue bin to recycle their paper and cardboard; and
- (xvii) request the co-operative executive to review capacity for cardboard and paper at local recycling sites;
- (l) believes that the low regulation, low tax policies typical of free market and neoliberal economics has been the single biggest driver of climate change and the pollution of our water, air and land;
- (m) recognises that environmental pollution is intrinsically linked to the climate crisis and a joined up, holistic approach is needed to tackle it, not politically motivated isolated concepts;
- (n) recognises that since the Co-operative Executive has been formed, sustainability has been written into economic grant recovery schemes, obliging applicants to consider how they will address the climate emergency, for example, in terms of transport, energy use and single use plastics; and
- (o) resolves to:-
  - (i) develop a Climate Impact Assessment for every decision;

- (ii) work with businesses to help them reduce their carbon footprint and eliminate single use plastics and will promote businesses that are, or seek to become, carbon neutral and/or plastic free;
- (iii) work with businesses to help research and set up procurement partnerships to reduce the cost of recycled and/or compostable packaging; and
- (iv) look to introduce more free-to-use water fountains to reduce plastic waste and protect people from heat waves.

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