

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

### RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE MEETING

#### **1. CONSULTATION RESPONSES ON THE PUBLICATION DRAFT SHEFFIELD PLAN**

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) approves the recommended responses to the main issues raised in representations on the Publication Draft Plan set out in the Consultation Statement (already endorsed by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee and presented in Appendix 2, 2c & 2f of the report);
- (b) approves the more detailed responses to the individual representations received on the Publication Draft Plan Part 1, Part 2, Annex B and the Glossary, as well as the responses to representations on the other submission documents (not previously considered by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee unless the matter(s) raised was addressed as part of a 'main issue') – now set out in Appendix 2a, 2b, 2d, 2e and 2g of the report;
- (c) approves the suggested amendments to the Publication Draft Sheffield Plan set out in Appendix 3 of the report and shown as tracked changes within Appendices 5a-5e (which have already been endorsed by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee);
- (d) approves the further suggested amendments to the Publication Draft Sheffield Plan summarised in the report and highlighted in red in Appendix 3 (also shown as tracked changes in Appendices 5a-5e);
- (e) approves the suggested other minor amendments to the Publication Draft Sheffield Plan set out in Appendix 4 of the report and shown as tracked changes within Appendices 5a-5e (which have already been endorsed by the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee);
- (f) approves the further suggested minor amendments to the Publication Draft Sheffield Plan highlighted in red in Appendix 4 (also shown as tracked changes in Appendices 5a-5e);
- (g) notes the ongoing evidence updates with respect to the relevant 'submission documents' as set out in Appendix 6 of the report;
- (h) endorses the Infrastructure Delivery Plan Part 2 (Appendix 7 of the report);
- (i) expresses its thanks to all the people of Sheffield who submitted views about the Local Plan through the different stages of consultation;

- (j) notes that any future development would be subject to the usual planning process which would ensure that residents are able to further express their views on future planning proposals, and that traffic, biodiversity, and air quality assessments should be considered if any planning applications are submitted; and
- (k) approves submission of the Draft Sheffield Plan and associated documentation to the Government for independent examination.

## **2. CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION**

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) approves the changes to the various Parts of the Constitution, as outlined in sections 3.2 to 3.6 of the report and as set out in appendices 1 to 18; and
- (b) approves that where the agenda of any Committee meeting has already been published but the meeting has not yet taken place, any change now approved to the remit of that Committee does not take effect until the conclusion of the meeting.

## **3. NATIONAL POLICIES TO TACKLE CHILD POVERTY**

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes with concern that:-
  - (i) the child poverty rate in Sheffield is around 37%, the highest in South Yorkshire and 10% above the national average, with an estimated 7,096 children living in poverty;
  - (ii) families on Universal Credit earning above £7.4k are not eligible for Free School Meals in England, meaning that 30% of all school-aged children living in poverty in Yorkshire miss out on a free hot meal every day; and
  - (iii) 4,200 families in Sheffield do not receive support for one or more children due to the two-child benefit cap, with the average family losing out on

£3,235 per year on average, with a corresponding serious impact on children's material wellbeing, nutrition, and mental health;

- (b) notes the positive work that the Council has undertaken on the Cost of Living crisis, including the recent allocation of £600,000 in additional funding to Local Area Committee (LAC) projects and citizens advice services to maximise benefits, however, believes that there is only so much that Local Authorities can do in the absence of Government support;
- (c) believes that several simple, relatively low-cost interventions are available to Government which would alleviate child poverty substantially, such as removing the two-child benefit cap (cost of £1.4bn), and universalising free school meals in primary schools (cost of £1bn);
- (d) notes that, disappointingly, the leadership of the two largest Westminster parties have refused to adopt these two policies;
- (e) notes that the effect of bad policies on child poverty, like the bedroom tax, were brought in through the Welfare Reform Act 2012; and
- (f) therefore, requests the Chief Executive to write to the Government stressing the importance of alleviating child poverty and requesting it commits to:-
  - (i) abolishing the two-child cap on benefits;
  - (ii) expanding free school meals to every child in primary school, and every secondary school child whose family receives Universal Credit; and
  - (iii) raising funding for Free School Meals in line with inflation, backdated to match the real terms level of funding provided in 2014-15.

#### **4. QUICKER, SAFER, AFFORDABLE JOURNEYS**

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) welcomes the move to develop a new Sheffield Transport Strategy;
- (b) believes that a strategy must help people get around the city, must have a vision for trams, trains, buses, taxis and other motor vehicles, and active travel, and must plan for how these forms of transport will interlink to create a multimodal, interconnected transport system;
- (c) believes that the people of Sheffield need a transport system that gets them from A-to-B quickly, safely and affordably;

- (d) believes that upgrading our transport infrastructure is essential to grow Sheffield's economy, tackle congestion, reduce emissions, improve air quality and improve physical health;
- (e) believes that upgrading our transport infrastructure will provide people with greater choice about how to make journeys;
- (f) believes that Sheffield and South Yorkshire have been badly let down by 13 years of government underinvestment in transport infrastructure, and further notes the Government's track record of broken promises from cancelling the eastern leg of HS2, to scrapping the electrification of Midland Mainline, and chronically underfunding our buses;
- (g) notes that in 2017, emissions from the transport sector contributed 26% of Sheffield's emissions with  $\frac{2}{3}$  of these from private car journeys;
- (h) believes Sheffield must reduce our reliance on private cars to have any chance of meeting our net zero commitment, and that the most effective way to reduce congestion is to have more people using public transport, walking, wheeling and cycling;
- (i) supports bus franchising and welcomes the work by South Yorkshire's Mayor to accelerate the franchising process;
- (j) believes that congestion can be reduced through active travel schemes, improving public transport and upgrading key road junctions, and believes that sustainable development must be supported by sufficient transport infrastructure;
- (k) however, believes that active travel schemes and public transport initiatives are only successful when they have the support of their local community, and reaffirms the Council's commitment to devolving decisions and budgets on minor local transport and highways issues to Local Area Committees (LACs);
- (l) believes that an ambitious transport strategy will help to attract investment from the private sector and national government;
- (m) calls on the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee to ensure the public has a say in designing the new strategy; and
- (n) believes that, from listening to residents throughout the city, it is clear that the prioritisation of the below in the strategy would be hugely welcome:-
  - (i) a plan to tackle congestion across the city, with a focus on hotspots, such as in parts of south-east Sheffield;
  - (ii) an ambitious vision to expand the tram network;
  - (iii) re-opening rail lines for tram-train and rail services including to Stocksbridge, along the Sheaf Valley and the Barrow Hill line through

south-east Sheffield, with the potential for new stations, including at Beighton, the investigation of a tram line from Herdings to Meadowhead, and the investigation of a tram line to the Northern General Hospital;

- (iv) a plan to realise the benefits of bringing buses and trams under public control, such as shared ticketing arrangements and designing bus services that link with tram stops;
- (v) a plan to ensure all parts of Sheffield from Stocksbridge to Mosborough have frequent, reliable buses;
- (vi) a plan to upgrade cycling infrastructure, particularly with segregated cycle routes;
- (vii) a clear focus on improving the pedestrian experience, recognising the enormous health benefits of walking;
- (viii) accelerating the rollout of 20mph zones and school streets so that families have safe journeys to and from school; and
- (ix) restoring the direct rail link between Sheffield and Manchester airport.

## **5. PROTECTING OUR SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK**

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) believes that the Right to Buy (RTB) scheme has been detrimental to Sheffield, as:-
  - (i) Sheffield is suffering from an annual affordable accommodation shortfall of 902 units;
  - (ii) in 2021-22, this Council lost 408 units of housing stock to RTB sales, representing a net loss of 277 units of affordable housing in Sheffield;
  - (iii) despite positive work being done to increase Sheffield's social rented stock through the Stock Improvement Programme, Sheffield has suffered a net loss of affordable housing since 2015-16 due to the RTB;
  - (iv) due to this long-term reduction in social housing stock, on average only 54 council properties are advertised each week in Sheffield, with 22,338 households on the housing register;

- (v) of these, 639 are in priority bands A and B, representing the highest housing need, including people who are homeless and people suffering from domestic abuse; and
  - (vi) this Council has recently begun a review of planned new build housing, as due to construction inflation, a new build property being purchased under RTB after 10 years would represent a significant financial loss to the Council;
- (b) notes that a shortage of social housing impacts renters widely, as:-
- (i) tenants requiring extensive repairs can wait for months to be moved into a temporary property while repairs are carried out;
  - (ii) the 881 households with a priority rehousing award will wait longer for rehousing, residing meanwhile in abusive relationships, homeless accommodation, and unsuitable properties;
  - (iii) a 2015 evidence review found that the RTB intensified problems of housing affordability and increased Housing Benefit expenditure; and
  - (iv) nationally over 40% of homes bought under RTB are now let privately, and that 1 in 3 private renters borrowed money to pay their rent in June 2023;
- (c) notes with concern that this Government has proposed to extend RTB to Housing Associations, and believes this is likely to exacerbate negative trends in affordable housing provision;
- (d) believes that, in addition to increasing housing stock, the Council must work more closely with private developers to prioritise affordable housing completions;
- (e) believes that the RTB policy as currently enacted has done considerable damage to Sheffield, and the wider nation, and further believes that replacing properties lost through RTB on a one-to-one basis would be a huge help in replacing lost stock;
- (f) believes that strong local communities are built on the back of families having a secure and stable home, not being forced to repeatedly uproot on the whims of landlords or due to escalating prices, and notes that the Labour Party has promised to deliver a new housing settlement, rebalancing power between developers and communities, and ensuring local councils can deliver the affordable housing their communities need;
- (g) notes that the Labour Party have stated they will create a new definition of affordable homes pegged to local incomes, close the loopholes that let developers wriggle out of commitments and introduce tough new powers so councils can develop more land for affordable housing, and this Council supports this approach;

- (h) notes the stated ambition of the Labour Party to ensure that more council homes are built in every part of the country that provide secure, genuinely affordable tenancies and which will further boost communities through the skills, apprenticeships and jobs created to build these homes, with Labour recognising the challenges councils face in delivering these vital services and being committed to working with them to address these; and
- (i) therefore resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, requesting the Government grant local councils the power to set the RTB discount locally (including the power to discontinue the scheme), and to make permanent the 100% retention of RTB receipts, in line with the Local Government Association's position.

## **6. A FAIRER GREEN ECONOMY FOR SHEFFIELD**

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes that:-
  - (i) through its Decarbonisation Routemaps, the Council is setting out plans to minimise, mitigate and adapt to the climate emergency;
  - (ii) small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) account for 50% of UK business emissions, yet currently 76% of SMEs do not have a decarbonisation strategy;
  - (iii) as well as residents, SMEs are struggling with record energy costs; and
  - (iv) Sheffield's businesses want to be leaders on climate but need a willing partner in Government that is prepared to invest in low-carbon energy and provide energy support for businesses;
- (b) believes that SMEs are essential for sustainable economic growth and job creation;
- (c) believes that Sheffield's historic heavy industry sector continues to play a critical role in the city and that these large employers must be properly supported on the net zero transition, and welcomes the moves towards 'Green Steel' production through modern steelmaking technology;
- (d) welcomes:-
  - (i) that South Yorkshire is the UK's first Investment Zone which will create new opportunities for jobs and investment in Sheffield;

- (ii) the new £80m investment for a University of Sheffield and Boeing-led research project at the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) into manufacturing lightweight structures for aeroplanes which is a key part of making global aviation more sustainable;
  - (iii) that Sheffield has been announced as a heat network zoning pioneer, opening a route to cheaper and cleaner energy for our city's businesses and public services; and
  - (iv) the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee's recent approval of £3.4m Shared Prosperity Funding to support SMEs become more energy efficient, and the Committee's continued funding for the Launchpad start up and early stage business support scheme;
  - (v) that Sheffield has significantly improved its environment for business start ups, and in particular has:-
    - (A) the strongest annual business growth across the core cities at 27%;
    - (B) the 3rd lowest business failure rate across the core cities; and
    - (C) been voted the best city to start a business in 2022;
- (e) believes that:-
- (i) the development of home-grown British renewables and nuclear power will make us less dependent on energy imports;
  - (ii) we must address climate change in a way that creates good green jobs;
  - (iii) a wide range of stakeholders including trade unions must be partners in any industrial transition;
  - (iv) Sheffield's advanced manufacturing and research expertise provides enormous potential to create new jobs in the nuclear and low-carbon energy sectors;
  - (v) pursuing a decarbonisation agenda will unlock social, economic and climate opportunities and deliver sustainable economic growth;
  - (vi) Sheffield's draft Local Plan sets out an ambitious vision for advanced manufacturing and green industries and will deliver high-skilled, high-wage jobs; and
  - (vii) the Labour Party's commitment to invest £3 billion in green steel production will support steel jobs in Stocksbridge and lead to more steel jobs in the future; and
- (f) resolves to:-



- (i) ask the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee to consider working with partners, including its Diverse Business Advisory Board and the Chamber of Commerce, on how to further support small businesses to address climate impacts; and
- (ii) establish a cross-committee working group, drawing on Members from the Governance Committee, the Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee, and the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee, to investigate how the Authority's Decarbonisation Routemaps can be embedded into our decision-making structures.

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