

Agenda Annex

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 6TH NOVEMBER 2024

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE MEETING

1. MAKE SHEFFIELD A PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY CITY

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

notes:-

- (a) that Councillors regularly receive complaints about vehicles parked on pavements, dangerous road crossings, bins blocking footways, broken dropped kerbs, obstructive advertising boards and panels, litter and slippery and icy pavements;
- (b) the Council's work making Sheffield more pedestrian friendly, including significant progress delivering 20mph zones (over 50 installed or in construction), and the success of School Streets with 12 permanent schemes, four in trial, and more planned;
- (c) the ongoing delivery of:-
 - (i) Connecting Sheffield schemes, including pedestrianised parts of the city centre and installation of West Bar roundabout; and
 - (ii) the Road Safety Action Plan, including Local Safety Schemes, school streets, 20mph zones, new powers to enforce moving traffic offences, implementing Safer Roads and delivering educational interventions;
- (d) the Government's welcome announcement of £650m funding for local transport in 2025-26, including the renewal of Sheffield's Supertram system;
- (e) the Council's Transport Vision aims to deliver safer and inclusive streets, making it easy to walk, wheel and cycle and states that "we want our streets to be easy to navigate for everyone, including people using wheelchairs or mobility aids, blind or partially sighted people, and residents walking with young children in prams";
- (f) all Sheffielders are pedestrians at some point of every journey;
- (g) the Council's cross-party Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Investment Plan (WWCIP), particularly its strong focus on neighbourhood improvements and creating safer routes for walking, wheeling, and cycling, prioritising community-led design to ensure investments align with local needs and projects to improve access to areas of employment and education establishments, and reduce transport-related social exclusion;

- (h) the 2020 road policing report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services found an absence of effective road safety strategies and highlighted that an increase in numbers killed and injured coincided with a decrease in the amount that the police spent on roads policing;
- (i) the Council has committed to a "Vision Zero" type approach to significantly reduce the yearly average of 357 people killed and seriously injured on Sheffield's roads;
- (j) that Operation ParkSafe was cancelled following a successful pilot scheme with almost 900 reports of parking obstruction submitted in 12 months;

believes that:-

- (k) making Sheffield a Pedestrian Friendly City will have environmental, health and financial benefits for everyone;
- (l) making Sheffield a truly Pedestrian Friendly City will require the Council to lead on action across services in terms of investment, enforcement and better working practices, such as:
 - (i) ensuring pavements are kept clear of litter, fly-tipping, bins, leaves and ice, including supporting community activity such as litter pickers and snow wardens;
 - (ii) enforcing illegal or dangerous parking, especially on pavements and dropped kerbs, where it limits access for disabled people;
 - (iii) looking for pedestrian improvements such as more road crossings and more 20mph zones in residential areas;
 - (iv) inclusive mobility practices as outlined by the Royal National Institute for Blind People such as tactile paving surfaces and accessible crossings;
 - (v) removing physical obstacles to pedestrians in footways;
 - (vi) improving signage for walking routes; and
 - (vii) rolling out Liveable (low traffic) Neighbourhoods where they are supported by local communities that would be impacted;

resolves to:-

- (m) ask the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee to include the above in its WWCIP, with Sheffield aiming to become a Pedestrian-Friendly City;
- (n) support the cross-party Police and Crime Panel in scrutinising the Mayor's emerging Police And Crime Plan, recognising the active role Panel members play in advising the Mayor and promoting Sheffield's priorities, including road safety;
- (o) ask the South Yorkshire Police and Mayor to prioritise and properly fund road safety, and to improve accessibility for pedestrians, including reversing the decision to abandon Operation Parksafes;
- (p) support the cross-committee working group proposed to be established by the Transport, Regeneration and Climate and Waste and Street Scene Policy Committees, which will aim to work with parking services and the police to

eliminate obstructive parking and reduce road danger for all walkers, wheelers and cyclists; and

- (q) ask the Government to give Mayors and Police and Crime Commissioners devolved powers to fund the cost of the administration of programmes like Operation ParkSafe from penalty notices issued through the scheme, and accordingly, asks the Leader of the Council to forward the motion to the Government and to the South Yorkshire Mayor.

2. REAFFIRMING SHEFFIELD'S COMMITMENT TO TACKLING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS AND SUPPORTING THE WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) reaffirms its commitment to the White Ribbon Campaign and the principles it represents: never to commit, excuse, or remain silent about male violence against women and girls (VAWG);
- (b) notes that it will be White Ribbon Day on 25th November, a day which encourages positive action to challenge harmful cultures and behaviours that lead to violence against women and girls;
- (c) notes the progress since the Council motion in November 2021 committing to the White Ribbon campaign, noting that, as an accredited organisation, we have a detailed action plan, as approved by White Ribbon, setting out our work until 2025;
- (d) notes statistics remain clear and shocking - in the year ending March 2023, South Yorkshire Police recorded 39,016 domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes;
- (e) believes these figures demand urgent action, and welcomes the Council's upcoming Violence Against Women and Girls, Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy, which will build on our existing efforts and outline a strong, multi-agency response;
- (f) welcomes the Government's recent enhancements to workers' rights around sexual harassment, including protections against third-party abuse, and supports VAWG being a key mission of this Government;
- (g) notes that there was no indication at the Autumn Budget of how much funding has been allocated to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls, which will require specialist services to tackle meaningfully;

- (h) notes that the £813,311.02 secured in the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner area to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls since 2023 through the Safer Streets Fund is dwarfed by the £65million hole in the Police finances;
- (i) believes masculinity can be positive, but that too often toxic masculinity spread online has normalised misogyny among some young men and therefore welcomes the Government's plans to tackle sexism in schools; and the critical importance of outreach work with men and boys;
- (j) renews our efforts and commits to:-
 - (i) expanding Leadership and Outreach by increasing the number of White Ribbon Ambassadors and Champions among our councillors and workforce;
 - (ii) encourages every male councillor to be a White Ribbon Ambassador;
 - (iii) strengthen partnerships with communities, stakeholders and institutions, including our local football clubs, to engage young men;
 - (iv) prioritising Education and Prevention, in line with our Action Plan, ensuring that each service has a dedicated Lead for the White Ribbon Campaign, and commit to prevention across all services; and
 - (v) strengthening Safety in the Night-Time Economy; working closely with licensed premises to further promote the "Ask for Angela" campaign, and Sheffield's Women and Girls Night-time Safety Charter and Toolkit for businesses in the night-time economy;
- (k) urges all Members to continue championing the White Ribbon Campaign, support the forthcoming Strategy, and reaffirm the Council's role in ending violence against women and girls, committed to changing the culture, supporting victims, and to make our city a safe and equal place for all;
- (l) believes the city centre Safe Square pilot, which provided a safe space including medical assistance, phone charging, advice and signposting and assistance getting home if needed on Friday and Saturday evenings, was a great success;
- (m) notes that the Safe Square had positive feedback from women welcoming it as "providing a comfort and a support network for those out in the city centre" and providing an "extra feeling of security"; and that it has also had positive feedback from businesses in the night time economy, the police and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service;
- (n) notes the Yorkshire Ambulance Service estimated a potential saving of over £3000 a month due to reduced callouts thanks to the Safe Square, with a potential for further savings with greater signposting;
- (o) notes the South Yorkshire Police surveyed 24 officers on the Safe Square, with officers estimating a time saving on average between 30 minutes and an hour per shift it was operating;

- (p) believes it is important to re-launch a permanent Safe Square as soon as possible;
- (q) resolves to request the Strategy and Resources Policy Committee urgently work with and request funds from those organisations that have benefited from the resource, such as police, ambulance services, and partners, to urgently launch a permanent Safe Square, to be operating ahead of the festive season; and
- (r) asks the Chief Executive to forward a copy of this motion to the Yorkshire Ambulance Service and NHS Foundation Trusts, asking for a response.

3. A FAIR DEAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

notes that:-

- (a) Sheffield City Council is currently projected to be £34 million over budget by the end of this financial year;
- (b) according to the Local Government Association, one in four councils will need to apply for exceptional financial support in the next two years, without additional funding;
- (c) a recent report from the National Audit Office described the current Special Educational Needs (SEN) system as “not achieving value for money and is unsustainable”;
- (d) the Prime Minister has announced that the single bus fare cap will rise to £3 when the existing cap of £2 expires at the end of 2024;
- (e) in Sheffield, the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee General Fund is currently overspent by £14.1million;
- (f) according to research from the Health Foundation, real-terms social care spending per person will be at least 5% lower in 2024/25 than it was in 2009/10;
- (g) Care England, a representative body for care providers, has warned the rise in employers’ National Insurance Contributions (NICs) announced at the Autumn Budget risks creating a £2 billion hole in the sector;
- (h) in Sheffield, the Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee is currently overspent by £9million;

- (i) in 2023/24, Sheffield City Council incurred a loss of £4.9million as a result of legislation relating to supported accommodation and the lack of Government funding to fully subsidise housing for those experiencing temporary homelessness;
- (j) this financial year, the Council is expected to lose out on £7.1million due to this legislation;
- (k) also in this financial year, homelessness support in temporary and exempt accommodation is forecast to cost the Council £12.6 million;
- (l) at the Autumn Budget, Local Housing Allowance rates were frozen despite private rent increases by an average of 8.4% in the last year;

believes that:-

- (m) without additional funding, local government provision will continue to decline;
- (n) without additional funding, more local authorities will be forced to issue Section 114 notices, effectively declaring bankruptcy;
- (o) local authorities require sufficient and sustainable funding in order to meet growing demand for services that our communities rely on every day;
- (p) Sheffield City Council faces serious financial challenges in the coming months and years;
- (q) the burden of fixing the country's economy should fall on the broadest shoulders including big banks, social media companies and oil and gas giants rather than hard working households;
- (r) the Government has disappointed local authority signatories to the Future of Council Housing report, which include this Council, by failing to meet the gap of £644m equal to income lost due to the 2023-25 rent cap;

this Council:-

- (s) believes challenges facing local government are caused by systemic under-funding by governments since 2010, by high inflation, and rising demand for services;
- (t) notes the Budget provides a pay rise for over 3 million workers who receive the National Living Wage, and increases the state pension by up to £470;
- (u) supports councils getting 100% of Right To Buy receipts and new funding for the NHS to deliver an extra two million operations, scans and appointments a year;
- (v) supports the extension to the Household Support Fund to help those in hardship;
- (w) welcomes the biggest increase in Carer's Allowance eligibility since its introduction;

- (x) welcomes additional support for local government, social care and for tackling homelessness;
- (y) supports new investment for rebuilding schools, new affordable housing and investment in clean energy;
- (z) commits to ensuring that every pound of public money is spent wisely and to always manage our budget prudently and responsibly;
- (aa) commits to work cross-party over the coming months to prepare a balanced budget for 2025/26;

resolves to:-

- (bb) write to the Deputy Prime Minister:-
 - (i) advocating for clear funding pathways for care providers who cannot afford the rise in employer NICs; and
 - (ii) calling on the Government to properly fund the increased costs that Local Authorities will be subject to resulting from the National Living Wage and employers' NICs increases; and
- (cc) ask the Leader of the Council to forward this motion to the Deputy Prime Minister.

4. THANK YOU TO SHEFFIELD'S FOSTER CARERS

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) believes that every child should have the best start in life;
- (b) is committed to making Sheffield a place where all children belong, and all young people can build a successful future and believes that foster carers in Sheffield help that become a reality;
- (c) says a big thank you to all foster carers and kinship carers who open their home to support children and young people;
- (d) believes that foster carers provide loving, stable homes for children and young people;
- (e) says thank you to the network of foster carers who provide support for each other, and thanks the Council's Fostering Team for their work to provide training for foster carers and 24/7 support;

- (f) welcomes the recent government announcement of £44 million to support kinship and foster carers;
- (g) notes that Sheffield needs more foster carers to help look after children and young people in our city;
- (h) notes that the Education, Children and Families Policy Committee received a proposal to reduce the amount that the Staying Put Provider receives in skills allowance to 50% once a young person has turned 19;
- (i) believes that all elected members should help to raise the profile of fostering in Sheffield so that more children and young people have a safe, loving home;
- (j) encourages people in Sheffield to consider becoming a foster carer;
- (k) notes the Council's 'Fostering Friendly Employer' policy aims to set an example for other employers to follow, including providing five days extra leave for Council staff if they foster a child;
- (l) recommends that anyone interested in becoming a foster carer should contact Sheffield Fostering Service to find out more;
- (m) notes National Care-Leavers Week (28 October to 3 November) with the Council delivering a 7-day programme of activity for our care-experienced young people, aged 16-25, including activities like film screenings, learning and cooking sessions, Breakfast Clubs, and an Education and Employment Fair;
- (n) congratulates Speak Up Now youth group (for older care-experienced young people) for their nomination for a National Voice Award, noting their innovative work on 'Comfy Cozy Crates', which provide blankets, pots and pans, cutlery, a cookbook and a doorbell, as many care leavers report feeling unsafe where they live;
- (o) believes it is important to ensure the voices of care-experienced young people are heard by the Council and all public bodies so that they help to shape our work, and notes that since 2022 the Council has recognised care experience as a protected characteristic;
- (p) congratulates the Council's Voice and Influence Team for their work in ensuring the voices of care-experienced young people help to influence our work;
- (q) notes that over the last year, 45 foster carers left the Council's fostering service, while only 11 were recruited;
- (r) further notes that a quarter of Sheffield's 433 children in foster care live in care provided by private companies; and
- (s) believes that the conditions for foster carers need to be improved if this Council does not want to see more children in for-profit care.