

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 5 February 2020, at 2.00 pm, pursuant to notice duly given and Summonses duly served.

**PRESENT**

THE LORD MAYOR (Councillor Tony Downing)  
THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR (Councillor Gail Smith)

1	<i>Beauchief &amp; Greenhill Ward</i> Bob Pullin Richard Shaw	10	<i>East Ecclesfield Ward</i> Andy Bainbridge Vic Bowden Moya O'Rourke	19	<i>Nether Edge &amp; Sharrow Ward</i> Peter Garbutt Jim Steinke Alison Teal
2	<i>Beighton Ward</i> Bob McCann Chris Rosling-Josephs	11	<i>Ecclesall Ward</i> Roger Davison Barbara Masters Shaffaq Mohammed	20	<i>Park &amp; Arbourthorne</i> Julie Dore Ben Miskell Jack Scott
3	<i>Birley Ward</i> Denise Fox Bryan Lodge Karen McGowan	12	<i>Firth Park Ward</i> Abdul Khayum Alan Law Abtisam Mohamed	21	<i>Richmond Ward</i> Mike Drabble Dianne Hurst Peter Rippon
4	<i>Broomhill &amp; Sharrow Vale Ward</i> Angela Argenzio Kaltum Rivers	13	<i>Fulwood Ward</i> Sue Alston Andrew Sangar Cliff Woodcraft	22	<i>Shiregreen &amp; Brightside Ward</i> Dawn Dale Peter Price Garry Weatherall
5	<i>Burngreave Ward</i> Jackie Drayton Talib Hussain Mark Jones	14	<i>Gleadless Valley Ward</i> Lewis Dagnall Cate McDonald Paul Turpin	23	<i>Southey Ward</i> Mike Chaplin Tony Damms Jayne Dunn
6	<i>City Ward</i> Douglas Johnson Ruth Mersereau Martin Phipps	15	<i>Graves Park Ward</i> Ian Auckland Sue Auckland Steve Ayriss	24	<i>Stannington Ward</i> David Baker Penny Baker Vickie Priestley
7	<i>Crookes &amp; Crosspool Ward</i> Tim Huggan Mohammed Mahroof Anne Murphy	16	<i>Hillsborough Ward</i> Bob Johnson George Lindars-Hammond Josie Paszek	25	<i>Stocksbridge &amp; Upper Don Ward</i> Jack Clarkson Julie Grocutt Francyne Johnson
8	<i>Darnall Ward</i> Mary Lea	17	<i>Manor Castle Ward</i> Pat Midgley Sioned-Mair Richards	26	<i>Walkley Ward</i> Ben Curran Neale Gibson
9	<i>Dore &amp; Totley Ward</i> Joe Otten Colin Ross Martin Smith	18	<i>Mosborough Ward</i> Tony Downing Kevin Oxley Gail Smith	27	<i>West Ecclesfield Ward</i> Alan Hooper Adam Hurst Mike Levery
				28	<i>Woodhouse Ward</i> Mick Rooney Jackie Satur Paul Wood

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Olivia Blake, Simon Clement-Jones, Terry Fox, Mazher Iqbal, Zahira Naz and Sophie Wilson.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 2.1 Councillor Bob Pullin declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 – Notice of Motion regarding Sheffield Parks and Open Spaces – due to his family’s business interests in relation to operating events in parks.

**3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

3.1 Petitions

3.1.1 Petition Requesting More Recycling Bins in the Fir Vale Area

The Council received a petition containing 52 signatures, requesting more recycling bins in the Fir Vale area.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by students at Fir Vale School. They talked about climate change and the issues of litter and recycling. They had concluded that a small change can trigger a larger change in their community and hopefully into the future in relation to how people care for the environment.

The petition requested more recycling bins in the area to make sure that there was a place for people to place items.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Mark Jones, Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change.

Councillor Jones explained that he was responsible for keeping the streets clean and tackling the environmental issues that people faced. He said that he was quite proud that the students were at Council to ask it to do more for the area and that the pupils at Fir Vale School are deeply committed to making the world a better place. He said that he would look forward to doing more work with the school and he agreed that more needed be done to tackle environmental issues.

He referred to the need to look at local impacts of climate change, including the environmental impact of actions such as discarding litter, people using cars and the impact of industry. There would also need to be an understanding of the human impact on environmental events at a larger scale, such as fires in Brazil and Australia.

Councillor Jones said that it was important that young people helped to

make sure decision makers took the right decisions for the future. It was also recognised that environmental issues were local as much as they were global and they needed to be tackled in that context. The Council was to invest to make sure that the environment that people wanted could be delivered.

3.1.2 Petition Requesting the Council to Recommend and Actively Champion the Reinstatement of Funding by the Education and Skills Funding Agency to SHIFT Media

The Council received a joint electronic and paper petition containing 705 signatures, requesting the Council to recommend and actively champion the reinstatement of funding by the Education and Skills Funding Agency to SHIFT Media.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Jill Fearn.

She stated that the petition was about the reinstatement of funding to SHIFT Media and was asking the Council for its support and to actively champion the petition.

She said that her daughter had started at SHIFT to help her to progress and she had gained more confidence and achieved more than she had at school and had made contacts and friends who were still actively supporting her along with other individuals and organisations.

She explained that the petition concerned 16 to 24 year old learners with a disability, educational need or mental health condition. SHIFT offered a specialist and unique provision which engaged students. 69 per cent of students at SHIFT had a mental health condition, which was above the national average.

Jill Fearn said that in January 2019, SHIFT Media, which was a charitable non-profit organisation, was notified by the Education and Skills Funding Agency that funding would cease. Students and parents were notified that this was the case for training providers with inadequate results following an inspection. Previous Ofsted reports in 2013 and 2016 were both rated as good. In 2018 and 2019, SHIFT Media students attained above the regional and national average for both maths and English GCSE and there was no comparable post 16 education provider in Sheffield or the Sheffield region which offered such specialist provision.

She referred to an example of the Education and Skills Funding Agency not applying a policy of terminating funding where similar weaknesses had been found at another education provider and said that this highlighted that young people in Sheffield were comparatively disadvantaged compared to their peers elsewhere in the country.

The petition asked that Sheffield City Council actively champion and take positive actions to influence the Education and Skills Funding Agency to

reverse a decision and reinstate funding to SHIFT Media.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Abtissam Mohamed, the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills. Councillor Mohamed thanked the petitioners for bringing this matter to the Council.

She said that she had spoken with a number of people when funding was withdrawn from SHIFT Media, including parents whose children accessed the provision. She had also seen the most recent and previous Ofsted reports. She said that there were sometimes discrepancies in the way in which post 16 providers were inspected as compared to schools, which received an inadequate rating. Schools might be given more support in comparison to a post 16 provider, which might have its funding withdrawn.

Councillor Mohamed explained that she would be pleased to support SHIFT and to work with them. She would be prepared to write a letter of support and positively and actively support the provision because she knew the difference it made to parents and families. She said that her concern was that the Council might not be in a position to change the government policy in this regard and whilst political pressure might be applied, she was not certain that would overturn the decision in this case.

She was aware of the processes in place regarding an appeal with Ofsted and which was still ongoing and in relation to which she would also be pleased to provide support. She said that she would also be open to a discussion about other alternatives which might be considered to support the organisation. She recognised the valuable work that was done with young people and it would be possible to look at whether alternative provision could be considered in relation to post-16 support.

Councillor Mohamed said that the Education and Skills Funding Agency was an autonomous organisation and made its own decisions. She suggested that a meeting be arranged to look at this matter and other alternatives to see what could be done about it.

### 3.1.3 Petition Requesting the Council to Tell the Truth About Climate Chaos

The Council received an electronic petition containing 196 signatures, requesting the Council to tell the truth about climate chaos.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Dr Bing Jones.

He said that it was believed that the City Council had failed the people of Sheffield and failed to tell the truth about the climate and the ecological emergency.

He stated that the petition demanded that the Council started to tell the truth and use imaginative campaigns and use the 2020 Council Tax letter to facilitate that. He said the Council had a duty to address the issue and communication campaigns were needed to explain clearly how urgent the

emergency was and what the Council and citizens needed to do. The Council also need to explain the risks and the costs of further delay along with explaining a vision of how change could be made towards a better, unpolluted and sustainable city.

Dr Jones said that the Council had declared a climate emergency a year ago and had committed to be carbon zero by 2030. It had also commissioned the Tyndall report, which he said required 14 percent year on year emissions reductions to 2038. However, he said that it was more likely that a 25 percent year on year emissions reduction was now required to reach a target of zero carbon by 2030.

He said that, given the scale of task to reduce carbon emissions, people needed to be informed and popular support was required. People needed to realise what needed to be done and informed by the Council as to the costs and consequences of delay, including worsening pollution, extreme weather, floods and potential mass migration following societal collapse abroad.

Dr Jones said that Council needed to talk about how much better a place the city would be if action was taken to have fantastic public transport, children playing in the streets, warm houses and sustainable jobs in the forefront of a growing economy.

The Council was asked to make the right choice, to stop delaying and use the 2020 Council Tax letter to start to tell Sheffield the truth with regards to the climate and move towards a better city.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Mark Jones, Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change. Councillor Jones said that it was right that action should be taken to ensure that children inherited a world which was worth having. He said it was true that the Council had committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and this was something which the Council had said repeatedly. The Council understood the scale of challenge and people had benefited and contributed to the exploitation of resources and the crisis that we now faced and everybody was responsible for the planet we had today.

He said that whilst there may be differences of opinion about how Extinction Rebellion might chose to protest about climate change, it was right to say that people had a voice in this debate and that more should be done. He said that more was being done and it might be that the Council had not effectively communicated to people in relation to what direction it was taking, for example in relation to the transition to cleaner fuel, and it needed to do more to communicate such activity.

A request had been made by the Sheffield Climate Alliance to the Council for communication to go out during the week that the Council Tax letters were sent to households and that was something the Council was working on. He said that he would like to continue meeting with campaigners in

relation to such matters.

Councillor Jones referred to the Council's commitment to having a citizens' assembly in 2020. The Council would provide to the citizens' assembly as much information as possible. It had gone out to market to obtain an independent analysis of the carbon impacts, sources and what the mitigations could mean to the city. The Council was seeking that evidence base to take to the citizens' assembly and it would be seeking to recruit citizens to the assembly from across the city. It would put to the assembly the measures that it considered would be needed to achieve the required goals.

He said that as regards the Tyndall report, it had been clear that the city would have used its carbon budget by 2026. That was known and it was not refuted.

The questions put and answers from citizens as to the measures and actions they might want and were acceptable to them would come from the citizens' assembly and that was what the Council would deliver. It was something that would need to be done together and there was the need for people to reconcile themselves to their past and continuing impact on the planet and to consider the future.

The Council was sincere and wanted to make a difference so that the future was one which could sustain and support the population – which was not the situation at this time. He said that he would be pleased to talk with the petitioners about other concerns which they might have in the future.

#### 3.1.4 Petition Demanding a Citizens' Assembly on the Climate Change Emergency in Sheffield

The Council received an electronic petition containing 204 signatures, demanding a citizens' assembly on the climate change emergency in Sheffield.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by David Baillie.

He said that in July 2019, the Council committed to publishing plans for a citizens' assembly by December 2019. He asked for an explanation of the delay in forming an assembly and commented that no plans or information had been published on the matter and that this was considered to be a climate emergency requiring urgent action.

He referred to the declaration by the UK Parliament of a national climate emergency and to the holding of a national citizens' assembly and assemblies in Oxford and Leeds. He asked the Council to agree two measures in this regard. Firstly, to make an operational plan for the citizens' assembly public by the end of April 2020 and secondly that the citizens' assembly would meet before the end of June 2020.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Mark Jones, Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change. Councillor Jones stated that he was fully prepared to meet all of the requests which had been put forward by the petition. He referred to the issues in putting in place a citizens' assembly and explained that due to austerity, he did not have the officer core one would have liked to have had to deliver the work that he would like to have seen and this was being addressed. This was to make sure that the Council was able to monitor its progress and that of the city and including other organisations and households as to what they could do to help achieve the goals and the totality of what had to be addressed.

He said the Council was looking to deliver a citizens' assembly as quickly as possible and that he would like to have a roadmap established earlier than April.

Councillor Jones said that he hoped that at the time that the Council Tax letter was sent to people, the Council would be able to say that an assembly would be established and he also hoped that the Council would write to citizens to recruit people to the assembly. He said that, as in other places, such as in Oxford and Leeds, it was proposed that participation in the assembly would be on a lottery based system, so citizens would be represented. Other groups may be invited to give evidence to the assembly.

He said that he had recently spoken with a colleague at Oxford City Council and he felt assured that there had been activity to ensure awareness, understanding and communication within Sheffield City Council in relation to carbon literacy.

He said that he was confident in relation to the actions that had been taken by the Council and by campaigners with regard climate change so that together it was possible to deliver what the city needed to be viable, safe, clean and prosperous for the future. It would be dealt with in the right way and would include the city's citizens.

### 3.1.5 Petition Objecting to the Proposed Demolition of Shiregreen Working Men's Club

The Council received a joint electronic and paper petition containing 856 signatures, objecting to the proposed demolition of Shiregreen Working Men's Club.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Ann Bentley, who stated that the petition asked the City Council to refuse permission for the demolition of the 100 year old Shiregreen Working men's Club. She said that her husband and herself were steward and stewardess at the club until retirement and were privileged to work alongside the cast and crew of the film The Full Monty. The club closed about one year ago and had a healthy bank balance.

She said that she believed that if the club was saved and run by professional qualified people, this would be of benefit to the community. The club was part of the city's heritage and the petition requested that the Council consider saving it from being demolished.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Bob Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Development. Councillor Johnson commented that the Working Men's Club was a very recognisable building in the city.

He said that no planning application had been submitted to the Council relating to the Club and that for any form of demolition to take place, planning permission would need to be granted and an application would have to come forward.

He said that in the meantime, he would work with local ward councillors and community groups to see whether there was any possibility of bringing the building back into an alternative use and before any planning application was made.

Councillor Johnson stated that, if a planning application was received, Members on the cross party Planning and Highways Committee would determine the application based on its merits. He said that he would like to see what could be done before that point was reached and he looked forward to working with people and local community groups to see what could be done to save the building.

### 3.1.6 Petition Requesting a Pedestrian Crossing on Station Road, Near Halfway Nursery Infant School

The Council received a petition containing 538 signatures, requesting a pedestrian crossing on Station Road, near Halfway Nursery Infant School.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Kurtis Crossland who explained that the petition called for a crossing on Station Road, Halfway, which was a main arterial road.

He said that many of those who had signed the petition were parents of children who attended the nursery and infant school and who had to cross the road at peak times. He asked the Council to act and to treat road safety as a priority for people in the area.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Bob Johnson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Development. Councillor Johnson said that he looked forward to working with the elected members for that area and that the site had been looked at already. There was already a request for a pedestrian crossing at that location. Unfortunately, there was insufficient funding and there were a high number of requests for schemes and only a limited budget to use for priorities across the city.

He said that unfortunately, the location in question did not fall within the highest scoring requests and this was partly because there were other locations in the city with a higher accident record and the Council should address safety, regardless of the specific location. He said that an assessment for a school crossing patrol warden was also previously undertaken in this location and the site did not meet the criteria relating to traffic volume and speed, following national guidelines.

He said that unfortunately all he could do was to add the request to the list of small schemes, so that the Council could address it when it was able to. However, he said he would continue to work with local elected Members to see what could be done to address the problem outside of schools city-wide.

### 3.2 Public Questions

#### 3.2.1 Public Questions Concerning Climate Change

Lavinia Jones, Graham Wroe and Stefan Libby spoke in relation to issues relating to climate change, including global heating, carbon emissions and establishing a citizens' assembly and asked when the Council was going start to act as if this was an emergency.

Stephen Ball asked what the City Council had done in terms of divestment from fossil fuels which was now part of a national and global a movement to mitigate against the climate emergency.

Jenny Carpenter, Sheffield Climate Alliance, asked in view of the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions, what steps the Council was taking to reduce the number of car journeys made in the city.

Dr Karine Nohr asked what the Council had done to reduce carbon emissions since the Tyndall report was made available and how effective had this been.

Councillor Mark Jones, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change responded to the questions. He explained that the Council was taking action with regards climate change and said it could try harder to communicate what it was doing, so as to better assure people that actions had taken place.

He said that, with regards to divestment, the Council did not directly invest in fossil fuels, it only had cash reserves, he understood. This was also an issue for the pensions scheme. Members of the Council were Members on the Pensions Authority and they had also raised the issue of divestment from fossil fuels.

The South Yorkshire Pensions Authority had reduced its investment in fossil fuels and, whilst that was not as much as the City Council might like, the

Council would continue to make sure that it was undertaken. The City Council ceased to have any investments in fossil fuels some years ago and it was something of which all Members of the Council could be proud.

Councillor Jones said that the issue of reducing car journeys was a difficult question to address. More needed to be done to encourage active transport and more was being done in this regard. For example, in relation to new and expanded cycle routes and a significant transforming cities bid to ensure that the infrastructure could be developed to help to move people around the city.

The Council was also looking to see how to reduce the need for people to make journeys for certain activities, so as to help make the city's roads congestion free. A better integrated transport system was needed that would better help the city to thrive and improve people's lives.

The Council was constantly reviewing every action and every decision to see what it could do in relation to carbon emissions. Its petrol and diesel fleet was being replaced with electric vehicles. It had also looked at what it could do to reduce use of plastic and had invested in green energy for the city.

He said that he acknowledged that the Council could do more and pointed out that everyone could do more.

### 3.2.2 Public Question Concerning Housing and Room Lettings

Kaltun Elmi said that she had been trying to make an appointment to see the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety concerning housing conditions in Burngreave and the room lettings policy in Council buildings and she asked if she could meet with him this day.

Councillor Paul Wood, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety, apologised and said that although he could not find a request for a meeting on this issue, he would ask for this to be checked.

He said that the Lettings Policy for Community Buildings was part of the portfolio of the Deputy Leader of the Council. However, he said that he had had meetings with Tenants and Residents Associations about that issue and the charge which was being applied to organisations that wished to use some community buildings. He said that the issue was to be reviewed and it was a matter for the Cabinet under the portfolio of the Deputy Leader.

As regards housing conditions in Burngreave, Councillor Wood said that he would be pleased to meet to discuss this issue and that the Councillors for Burngreave should also be included in that discussion, together with the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods. The issue of community lettings might also be discussed further at that meeting and include the Deputy Leader of the Council, although that was quite complex and might benefit from discussion at a separate meeting.

### 3.2.3 Public Question Concerning Pavement Surface

Kaltun Elmi said that pavement had been dug up by contractors during the construction at Ellesmere Green. The pavements had not been put back correctly and were uneven. The work to the pavement was said by Amey Streets Ahead to be the responsibility of the shop owners. She asked how this was the case when the pavement had been dug up by contractors?

Councillor Mark Jones, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change, responded that he would take this matter up with officers as to the assertion that the pavement in that location was not in the public realm and was the responsibility of the shop owners. He said that this would be investigated and he would then respond to the question.

### 3.2.4 Public Question Concerning Decision Making

Dave Dillner referred to a social media comment by a Councillor concerning governance and indicating that committees would consider decisions which would have already been made by Council officers. He asked what assurances could be given to Sheffield citizens to confirm that the Councillor's comment about who made decisions was wrong.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council responded that she had not had sight of the social media message concerned and asked Mr Dillner to please submit the context and the social media conversation and she would then be able to provide a written response to the question. She confirmed following a question from Mr Dillner that she would be pleased to meet with him.

### 3.2.5 Public Question Concerning Smithy Wood

Alan Woodcock asked a question concerning the withdrawal of a planning application for the building of a service station at junction 35 of the M1 motorway. He asked what work the Council proposed to carry out with the landowner to secure the perimeter of the ancient woodland to stop the use of the woodland by off road motorcycles, quad bikes and for fly-tipping. He said that parts of the fencing had been missing for approximately six years and that, if the perimeter was secured, it would allow the woodland to regenerate.

Councillor Bob Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Development, said that the landowner had opened a gap to the site and work was ongoing on the site to remove some overhanging trees from the pylons. There had recently been incidents of fly tipping, which were reported to the landowner and which was removed within 48 hours. He understood that, when the work was completed, the fencing would be restored so as to try and prevent any further fly-tipping.

South Yorkshire Police led on criminality associated with off road

motorbikes and when they required access via Council land, the Council would accommodate that. There was also support for community litter picking and the Council collected large bags after community groups had done good work in collecting the rubbish from the woods.

Recently, the Council had dropped large boulders, logs and other items to try and prevent that type of access and anti-social behaviour in the woods but these were sometimes removed. It had also worked closely with Highways England to carry out overnight works in November to open up the areas around the periphery of junction 35, to improve lighting and remove undergrowth and make everything more exposed and to deter such criminality. The Council looked forward to working with community groups and to securing the site.

### 3.2.6 Public Question Concerning Student Development

Nigel Slack referred to the approval of the new development of student accommodation at Wellington St, Trafalgar St etc and to conditions attached to the planning permission.

He said that only 10% of the development's energy requirements were expected to be met by renewable sources and asked if that was the best that the city could do to meet carbon reduction targets. He also asked how carbon neutral expectations could be met if we continue to build massive developments that will derive 90% of their energy needs from carbon solutions.

Mr Slack stated that the wind impacts of this development were recognised as "not ideal" and that further investigations appeared to be required to ensure safety and comfort in the proposed roof terrace. He stated that this did not appear as one of the planning conditions and there did not appear to be any evidence of studies of the wider Macro wind impacts in the city centre. He asked whether any such wider studies had been required of the developer; and whether any indemnity would be required of the developer to mitigate the fact that the previous studies had shown the wind impact to be less than ideal.

Finally, he asked how many of these conditions might be susceptible to viability amendments as the development progressed and how the Council would handle any such claims for viability amendments.

Councillor Bob Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Development responded to the questions and stated that the development referred to was not only for students but was for other people as well and was not formally approved until the legal agreement had been completed. The development met the planning policy requirement in respect of renewable energy and it would also be required to meet the latest Building Regulations requirements on insulation standards. Policies within the forthcoming local plan would also have to respond to the climate emergency.

He said that the detailed design for the roof terrace would need to be approved under a separate proposed landscape condition, which required full detailed hard and soft landscaping and which would require separate approval and this would include the design of structures on the terrace to be implemented to deal with any wind conditions. The wind tunnel analysis for the site included all the consented schemes in the immediate vicinity. None of the 85 points pinpointed in that analysis indicated the conditions would be classed as uncomfortable or unacceptable for any activities.

Councillor Johnson explained that none of the conditions were such that would allow viability appraisal to be part of those conditions and any such request would need to be dealt with by an application to vary the wording of the condition.

### 3.2.7 Public Question Concerning Private Data

Nigel Slack asked whether the Council's political leadership was aware that the Council allowed data about citizens accessing its webpages to be sold to private data trading companies. He asked if it was appropriate that data from very sensitive engagements with the Council were being touted to companies linked to the likes of Cambridge Analytica?

He asked firstly whether the Council understood that citizens using such pages may not have the understanding of the process and ultimate end point of 'Cookies' and were therefore making ill-advised choices, if any choice was there. Secondly, if it was not the Council's responsibility to ensure users safety and privacy was paramount and certainly came before money making gambits like this. And, thirdly whether the Council was happy in being one of the leaders in this particular race to exploit citizens.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, assured Mr Slack that the Council would be looking at the recent comments which had been made in the media in relation to this matter. She said that a response had been provided to the Deputy Leader as it was within his portfolio and which she would now convey in response to Mr Slack's questions.

Whilst it was true that the Council used cookies to track information about users to its site, largely what every website did, including the Guardian (the source of an article provided by Mr Slack in his question), the implication of the Guardian article that the Council would sell a vulnerable user's data simply was not true.

On the pages cited by the Guardian, the Council collected no personal data whatsoever from users and any tracking that was done was both anonymous and done with informed consent using an industry-leading consent management tool.

Where anonymised data was shared, this was for two reasons - one for statistical purposes, so that the Council could understand how the site was

used and how that might be improved and secondly, to personalize advertising on the site, based on a user's preferences so it made it easier for users. There were strict guidelines on what could be advertised and users could choose to turn these off altogether.

Councillor Dore said that she hoped that would help to provide some reassurance and that the issue would be followed up further. If people had raised concerns then the Council would need to put something on the website to make sure users felt safe when using it.

She said that on a personal level and as a citizen of Sheffield, she used the Council website and certainly would not want to think that she had been exploited, which was the reason why she certainly would not want the Council to exploit any citizens in Sheffield.

### 3.2.8 Public Question Concerning Planning and Highways Committee

Brian Holmshaw stated that the meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January started at 2pm and continued until 7.15 pm. He said that he and others were unable to stay until the end and he commented that such a long meeting would affect committee members, officers and members of the public who had other commitments or appointments. It also restricted the scrutiny of important Planning and Highways issues. He asked if the Council would, in future, split such long planning sessions in two so that people could all have a democratic voice.

Councillor Bob Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Development responded that he would accept that the meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee referred to, did probably last a longer than was normal. However, sometimes time limits were set which meant that the Council had to consider planning applications within a set period of time and it was unfortunate that large developments were brought to Committee at the same time. He said that he would do what was possible with officers to try and make sure that such larger and more contentious applications were not considered by Committee at the same point in time, where possible.

He said that it was precisely because of the consideration that was given to those applications by the Committee that the meeting in January took as long as it did and that wasn't something that he would wish to curtail.

### 3.2.9 Public Question Concerning Moorland

Brian Holmshaw stated that the peat moorland around Sheffield formed 26 percent of Sheffield's total ground area and he referred to its effectiveness in carbon capture. He said that Sheffield should take action, as Bradford Council had done in respect of the restoration of peat bogs, wetting the moors, keeping the water on the open moorland and slowing the flow of water into valleys and by planting vegetation to hold water and to form peat.

He asked when Sheffield planned to match Bradford's commitment and secondly, could it be confirmed whether Sheffield Council had a peat free compost policy.

Councillor Mark Jones, the Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change, responded to the question and stated that the peat moorland was a very significant issue and when a question was brought to the Council as to whether it could double tree cover, part of the reason for not wanting to commit to that was in relation to the amount of peat bog which the Sheffield had and that trees and peat were not necessarily compatible.

He said that, as part of the natural flood measures, which the Council had and would continue to pursue, the restoration and an expansion of the peat moorland was something that it would look to address, including the wilding of other elements of the Council's estate. He had committed to look at this issue and he had also spoken with other members of the Cabinet in this regard.

Councillor Jones said that he would provide a response to Mr Holmshaw as regards a policy on peat free compost.

#### 3.2.10 Public Question Concerning Bus Service to High Green

Anne Whitaker asked what the Council could do about the poor bus service to High Green, in particular services travelling from Hillsborough to High Green which stopped in the early evening and went as far as Grenoside and was not available on Sundays.

Councillor Bob Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Development explained that whilst the Council had responsibility for the highways, bus services were a matter for the bus companies and the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive. He hoped to work closely with the Mayor of the City Region Combined Authority with regards to franchising routes to give greater surety about bus services. The City Region Transport Board might also consider the questions relating to bus services and he said that he would be pleased to support the questioner to ask those questions.

#### 3.2.11 Public Question Concerning Toxic Waste on Brownfield Sites

Christine Rippon asked whether the Council would lobby the government for funding to remove toxic waste on brownfield sites to encourage building on such sites and improve the environment and biodiversity. She also asked what measures the Council was taking to encourage building on brownfield sites and what changes to planning policy were being put in place in relation to the climate emergency.

Councillor Bob Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Development responded that the Council would put in bids to government to

clean up land and part of the upcoming local plan would be to concentrate on brownfield sites rather than greenfield sites. The Council would look for whatever funding was available from the government in relation to any decontamination that was required to allow the market to come forward to deliver housing on such sites.

### 3.2.12 Public Question Concerning Streets Ahead

Russell Johnson made reference to a press article and survey concerning potholes on roads in Sheffield and he also referred to the funding provided to Amey in relation to highways. He asked how it could be that potholes were considered by motorists to be a problem on the City's roads.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, responded that she was not aware of the survey that Mr Johnson referred to. She said that, in her opinion, travelling on the highways in Sheffield was far smoother and more comfortable than elsewhere in the country.

### 3.2.13 Public Question Concerning Chief Executive

Russell Johnson asked the Leader of the Council to justify the appointment of an interim Chief Executive, reportedly costing £18K per month plus expenses and whether one of the Executive Management Team was not of sufficient calibre to 'act up' to the post of Chief Executive.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, responded that the Council had a cross party appointment panel (the Senior Officer Employment Sub-Committee) and that panel decided that the arrangements put in place were the best way to fill the post of Chief Executive.

### 3.2.14 Public Question Concerning Injunction

Russell Johnson made reference to the ending of the High Court injunction relating to protests concerning street trees which he said was punitive and vindictive and sought to intimidate, imprison and financially sanction citizens. He asked the Leader of the Council to reflect on whether with hindsight, obtaining the injunction had been constructive and as to the financial cost. He asked whether the Leader of the Council believed that her actions in that matter were morally supportable and might be seen by future commentators as acts of enlightened leadership.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, stated that she did not believe that when an injunction was put in place, it could be determined that it was punitive and vindictive. Injunctions were used by the Council for a number of reasons, including protecting people from serious harm. They were taken out for a reason. If an individual acted to breach that injunction then that was the decision of the person that breached the injunction.

3.2.15 Public Question Concerning Garden Scheme

Winnie Smith said that a garden scheme had previously been available to pensioners and disabled people. A grant had been made available for the scheme and it was also partly funded by the TARA (Tenants and Residents Association) and the individual customer. The gardeners did a range of tasks and took away garden rubbish. However, she said that the scheme had ceased. She asked whether the grant could be reintroduced. She also asked a question concerning an employment matter.

Councillor Paul Wood, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety, stated that currently, the position was that if someone was vulnerable or disabled and who could not do the gardening, there was a basic service provision for gardening, for which there was no charge at all. There was also another scheme, for which there was a charge at present and which could be requested through the Housing Service.

He said that the garden schemes were currently being reviewed. Where people were aware of someone who was vulnerable and required help with their garden, they could contact the Council through the TARA and this could be followed up. He acknowledged that there was work to be done with regards to the garden scheme and that there were people who did not know what services were available and that was why it was being reviewed. The review was part of the wider review of activity under the Housing Revenue Account.

Councillor Wood asked Winnie Smith to let him know when the next TARA meeting would be taking place and he would try to attend himself or make sure his Cabinet Adviser could attend together with the local councillors, so these issues could be addressed.

3.2.16 Public Question Concerning Electric Vehicles

Ian McHugh asked what plans there were for the introduction of more electric vehicle charging points either by the City Council or its partners in the city over the next 12 months.

Councillor Bob Johnson, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Development stated that there had been a procurement process and agreement for the installation of 22 rapid charging points throughout the city. The Council was also working with a number of commercial partners in relation to solutions that would work across the city. He said that he was mindful of the potential for charging points to affect pavement and highways and the Council was working with commercial partners to overcome such problems. He also recognised that neighbourhoods were different and he hoped that work could be done by the Council, together with its partners to be able to offer a solution that was suitable for every area.

### 3.2.17 Pubic Questions Concerning Shift Media

A number of questions were asked concerning SHIFT media.

They referred to the report by Ofsted in relation to SHIFT Media and to the concerns within that report. There was also precedent that other providers in similar circumstances were supported or given time to reform before funding was withdrawn and especially since the previous SHIFT Ofsted report for SHIFT was good.

It was also considered that the Council had a duty of care for children with special needs and vulnerable children. Certain actions were requested, including, firstly, a robust challenge to the Department of Education and for the Council, and local MPs to push for the reopening and support for SHIFT media. Secondly, a strategic way of supporting SHIFT media, if it was considered to be inadequate although it was not thought that SHIFT media had been measured fairly. Thirdly, to ensure that a provision like SHIFT was supported because many of the children concerned were not able to manage their environment and had mental health concerns and such issues that SHIFT had coped with very successfully.

Reference was made to public comments made by the Head of Ofsted concerning media courses and the questioner set out the benefits of arts and the media on the economy and an increase in employment in related fields, together with the range of transferable skills which were a major part of the arts and media curriculum. It was observed that, where other small and specialist colleges had received similar adverse inspections, they had managed to maintain their funding.

Whilst grateful for the response that Sheffield City Council would support SHIFT, it was thought that the Council needed to also champion the reinstatement of funding so that very vulnerable young people could actually gain confidence and achieve. It was asked whether Sheffield City Council would actively champion a change to this decision.

The Chief Executive of SHIFT media thanked the Cabinet Member for the support given. She said it was felt to be within the Council's gift to say that this was needed provision and to go to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and to put that to them.

She asked the Council to consider that SHIFT had improved educational outcomes by 11 percent on the previous year and outperformed both regionally and nationally, outcomes for GCSE English and maths by age group 17 to 19 by 30 percent. She said that to judge such provision to be failing indicated a flawed Ofsted process and to challenge that required political will and a strong sense of social justice.

She also commented on concerns as to the understanding and ability of Ofsted to inspect provision such as that provided by SHIFT. There were a large proportion of students there with mental health issues and additional

learning needs. It was requested that the Council champion SHIFT Media with the ESFA by saying that the provision was unique and needed within Sheffield.

Councillor Abtisam Mohamed, the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, stated that she would be pleased to champion SHIFT Media and the work that it did and recognised that it worked with the city's most vulnerable children. She also recognised the fact that SHIFT had a number of good Ofsted inspections and that this one Ofsted inspection should not determine the outcome of what's going to happen to the organisation.

She suggested that a meeting be arranged to talk about what the next steps should be in terms of her political support to the organisation and what next steps the Council might take to support SHIFT working with children and young people.

### 3.2.18 Public Question Concerning Big City Conversation and Governance Arrangements

Ruth Hubbard referred to the Big City Conversation and commented that it had not collected views about the Council's governance model. She asked whether the Council would summarise the results of another survey which had not been advertised and directly concerned governance.

In relation to alternative governance arrangements and to the report before this meeting of the Council concerning that issue, she asked what could be done to achieve greater clarity for voters in the time available prior to the referendum concerning governance, how could people and stakeholders influence the proposals and what information did the Council intend to provide for voters in order for them to make an informed choice.

She commented that she was pleased there was a commitment to a change in the way the Council operated asked how could the public trust this commitment to change and where was the commitment to more democratic governance and renewal in Sheffield voiced?

Further, Ruth Hubbard asked if the Council recognised the democratic deficit in the city and whether it was committed to power sharing and collaboration; and what the proposals did to address the democratic deficit and meet the aspirations of Sheffielders for more democratic local governance and power sharing.

She asked as part of clarifying the proposal before the referendum, and in the rewrite of the constitution, would the Council clarify the limits to the powers of a Policy and Strategy Committee so that it did not act as an overarching executive.

She asked whether the Cabinet Member would state clearly a commitment to devolving power and resources to communities and to implementing ways of addressing inequalities through its governance model, including

attention to voices of those who were marginalised: and in any devolvement of decision making power and resources to communities, that there would be fair arrangements in place, and no favouritism to particular groups.

She asked for clarity in relation to distinctions relating to power and decision making within the strong leader model and the committee system.

Councillor Julie Dore, the Leader of the Council, responded and commented on the differences in the proportion of people who contributed to the governance petition submitted to the Council according to electoral ward. In relation to inequalities and engagement she said it was important to make sure that, through engagement, the Council was able to reach all voices across the city and that was why the Council had entered into a big conversation to find out what people across the city thought.

### 3.2.19 Public Question Concerning Street Trees

Mr Parkinson referred to an email which he said was from a Council director to the Leader of the Council relating to the starting of work to remove branches from trees before 7am. He referred to his experience of events which had subsequently taken place which he said had included intimidation and violence and had affected local residents which he said involved people sustaining injuries and traumatised by what had happened. He asked whether approval of the works facilitated the Council's negotiating position with Amey as regards compensation in the core investment period of the contract; what were the negotiations and were they ongoing and how they were proceeding and was the position of the Council helped by the Leader of the Council giving approval.

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Tony Downing) requested that Mr Parkinson put the question in writing to the Leader of the Council.

### 3.3 NOTES

Note 1. Mr Graham Wroe informed the meeting that other questions submitted relating to climate change would not be asked at this meeting, in view of the high number of questions submitted to the Council meeting.

Note 2. At approximately 4.15 p.m., due to a general disturbance in the Public Gallery and Council Chamber, the Lord Mayor (Councillor Tony Downing) adjourned the meeting and ordered that the Public Gallery be cleared. The meeting re-convened at approximately 4.45 p.m., with the meeting closed to the public for the remainder of the proceedings.

**4. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUSINESS PLAN AND HRA BUDGET 2020/21**

4.1 RESOLVED: On the motion of Councillor Peter Rippon and seconded by Councillor Dianne Hurst, that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1, the order of business as published on the Council Summons be altered by taking items 5 and 6 on the agenda (Housing Revenue Account Business Plan & Budget 2020/21, and Proposal For Alternative Governance Arrangements For Sheffield City Council, respectively) as the next two items of business.

4.2 It was moved by Councillor Paul Wood, and formally seconded by Councillor Garry Weatherall, that the following recommendations made by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in relation to the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and Budget 2020/21, be approved:-

“RESOLVED: That Cabinet recommends to the meeting of the City Council on 5th February 2020 that:-

- (a) the HRA Business Plan report for 2020/21, as set out in the appendix to the report, is approved;
- (b) the HRA Revenue Budget 2020/21, as set out in the appendix to the report, is approved;
- (c) rents for Council dwellings, including temporary accommodation, are increased by 2.7% from April 2020 in line with the Regulator of Social Housing’s Rent Standard;
- (d) garage rents for garage plots and garage sites are increased by 2.7% from April 2020 for those garages tenants that have seen improvements; garage rents for garage plots and sites will not be increased for garages that have not yet received improvements; this increase will be applied to individual units once garage improvement work has been completed;
- (e) the burglar alarm charge is £1.25 per week from April 2020; this is a reduction of £0.36 per week;
- (f) the community heating charge remains unchanged for 2020/21;
- (g) the sheltered housing service charge remains unchanged for 2020/21; and
- (h) the furnished accommodation charge remains unchanged for 2020/21.”

4.3 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, seconded by Councillor Penny Baker, as an amendment, that the recommendations made by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 15th January, 2020, concerning the

Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and HRA Budget 2020/21, be approved with the addition of a new paragraph (i) as follows:-

- (i) it be noted that Sheffield has set an ambition to become a zero carbon city by 2030, and therefore requests that a report is brought to Cabinet within the next six months which sets out a programme outlining how all of the housing stock covered by the HRA will have had sufficient investment in both energy efficiency schemes and new heating systems to contribute to meeting the city's zero carbon target within the next ten years.

4.4 It was then moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson, seconded by Councillor Alison Teal, as an amendment, that the recommendations made by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 15th January, 2020, concerning the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and HRA Budget 2020/21, be approved with the addition of new paragraphs (i) and (j) as follows:-

- (i) it be noted that, despite recognising the impact that housing can have in addressing the climate change emergency, no such proposals feature in the selected priorities and, therefore, requests the Administration to prepare an urgent plan of action for the Housing Service to reduce carbon emissions; and
- (j) in respect of garage rents, referred to in recommendation (d), the rent be increased by 3.7% (not 2.7%) and that increase in revenue be used to offset the new cost of the paid-for gardening scheme for older and disabled tenants.

4.5 After contributions from five other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Paul Wood, the amendment moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar was put to the vote and was carried.

4.6 The amendment moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson was then put to the vote and was negated.

4.6.1 (NOTE: The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Gail Smith) and Councillors Bob Pullin, Richard Shaw, Bob McCann, Tim Huggan, Mohammed Mahroof, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Vic Bowden, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Sue Auckland, Steve Ayris, Kevin Oxley, David Baker, Penny Baker, Vickie Priestley, Alan Hooper and Mike Levery voted for paragraph (i) and against paragraph (j) of the amendment, and asked for this to be recorded.)

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

RESOLVED: That:-

- (a) the HRA Business Plan report for 2020/21, as set out in the appendix

- to the report, is approved;
- (b) the HRA Revenue Budget 2020/21, as set out in the appendix to the report, is approved;
  - (c) rents for Council dwellings, including temporary accommodation, are increased by 2.7% from April 2020 in line with the Regulator of Social Housing's Rent Standard;
  - (d) garage rents for garage plots and garage sites are increased by 2.7% from April 2020 for those garages tenants that have seen improvements; garage rents for garage plots and sites will not be increased for garages that have not yet received improvements; this increase will be applied to individual units once garage improvement work has been completed;
  - (e) the burglar alarm charge is £1.25 per week from April 2020; this is a reduction of £0.36 per week;
  - (f) the community heating charge remains unchanged for 2020/21;
  - (g) the sheltered housing service charge remains unchanged for 2020/21;
  - (h) the furnished accommodation charge remains unchanged for 2020/21; and
  - (i) it be noted that Sheffield has set an ambition to become a zero carbon city by 2030, and therefore requests that a report is brought to Cabinet within the next six months which sets out a programme outlining how all of the housing stock covered by the HRA will have had sufficient investment in both energy efficiency schemes and new heating systems to contribute to meeting the city's zero carbon target within the next ten years.

## **5. PROPOSAL FOR ALTERNATIVE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL**

- 5.1 It was moved by Councillor Bryan Lodge, and seconded by Councillor Cate McDonald, that approval be given to the recommendations set out in the report of the Executive Director, Resources, now submitted, that the Council recommends to Cabinet (a) the proposals for an enhanced Leader and Cabinet governance model and (b) proposals for a Committee system of

governance to be published before a referendum, as set out in the report.

5.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Colin Ross, and seconded by Councillor Richard Shaw, as an amendment, that the recommendations set out in the report be approved with the addition of a paragraph (c) as follows:-

(c) these proposals to include significant delegation of powers and budgets to formal Area Committees which comprise all the elected members in an area.

5.3 It was then moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson, and seconded by Councillor Angela Argenzio, as an amendment, that the recommendations set out in the report be approved with the addition of a paragraph (c) as follows:-

(c) that section 3.3 of the report is amended so that Full Council is the body that takes the strategic decisions with substantial implications for the city and its communities in the proposed committee system.

5.4 After contributions from five other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Bryan Lodge, the amendment moved by Councillor Colin Ross was put to the vote and was negated.

5.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson was then put to the vote and was also negated.

5.6 The original Motion was then put to the vote and carried as follows:-

RESOLVED: That approval be given to the recommendations set out in the report of the Executive Director, Resources, now submitted, that the Council recommends to Cabinet (a) the proposals for an enhanced Leader and Cabinet governance model and (b) proposals for a Committee system of governance to be published before a referendum, as set out in the report.
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## **6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

6.1 A schedule of questions to Cabinet Members, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16, and which contained written answers, was circulated.

6.2 Supplementary questions (under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.4), questions relating to urgent business (under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6ii) and questions relating to the discharge of the functions of the South Yorkshire Joint Authorities for Fire and Rescue and Pensions (under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6i), were not able to be asked before the meeting terminated at 5.30 p.m..

**7. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "BUSINESS RATES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO BUSINESSES" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MAZHER IQBAL AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BEN MISKELL**

7.1 It was formally moved by Councillor Peter Rippon, and formally seconded by Councillor Ben Miskell, that this Council:-

- (a) notes the Council's commitment to the city's businesses and that Sheffield has over 19,000 businesses, but believes support is needed to help organisations who are struggling, and further notes that the Council supports over 9,300 businesses through some form of business rates relief, which reduces the amount of rates they have to pay;
- (b) believes that the country's high streets, neighbourhood retailers and community centres have been badly damaged over the last decade, and that a big part of this decline has been caused by unfair rates and a system of taxation which appears to support online business giants whilst punishing conventional retailers;
- (c) agrees with the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) that the business rates system is long overdue radical reform and at present it is 'entrenching regional unfairness';
- (d) notes the Council has no powers on what businesses are billed, and that the Government's Valuation Office Agency (VOA) sets the value of a property and the annual bill is set based on that value;
- (e) believes that the VOA is woefully underfunded by the Government, meaning, despite their best efforts, valuations are taking 12 – 18 months, a long and often damaging delay for businesses;
- (f) believes everything possible must be done to support the city's smaller businesses, and notes this Council's Small Business Rate Relief provides support to businesses with a Rateable Value up to £16,000 – this is the largest relief granted and 7,200 businesses receive it, and of these, 6,700 receive the full amount, meaning they have no rates to pay;
- (g) notes that the Small Business Rate Relief is calculated to be worth over £17m to Sheffield businesses;
- (h) notes that in addition to this support, over £26m per year is awarded through other forms of rate relief, and that this Council is committed to using Business Rates Relief wherever it can to support a varied range of businesses and organisations, including small manufacturing companies, pubs, restaurants, universities, health centres, hospitals, theatres and charities;
- (i) notes that whilst the Council cannot change the bill set by the

Government, the Council has used what powers it does have available to provide fairer ways of repaying the bill and has agreed different schedules of payments for businesses who are struggling;

- (j) notes with alarm that the Government is considering reducing the revenue grants received by local authorities and instead replacing it with 100% retention of business rates, and contends that such a move would be self-defeating, as Sheffield, like other local authorities, could never raise enough business rates to offset the loss of grants and, therefore, this policy should be opposed in the strongest possible terms;
- (k) believes that Government policy over the last decade has badly let down not only our high streets and neighbourhood retailers, but our key industries and business sectors, with an industrial strategy that is not fit for purpose, and which cherry-picks support for some industries over others – for instance, the Government had no problem bailing out Flybe but were not prepared to support Liberty Steel; and
- (l) commits to starting a campaign in the city, including the Chamber of Commerce and organisations from across the business community, to call on the Government to reform the rates system so that it is fairer for Sheffield.

7.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Martin Smith, and formally seconded by Councillor Mohammed Mahroof, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the deletion of paragraphs (a) to (k) and the addition of new paragraphs (a) to (e) as follows:-
  - (a) asserts that the business rates system in England is not fit for purpose as it is extremely complicated, unpopular with the business community, unfairly disadvantages ‘bricks & mortar’ retailers over on-line companies and penalises businesses that seek to improve their premises;
  - (b) is concerned that Government plans to allow full rates retention by local authorities but reduce central grant funding risks business being increasingly treated as a source of funding, rather than an integral part of the local community;
  - (c) notes that Sheffield City Council has no control over property valuations & basic bills and little or no discretion on most of the relief schemes;
  - (d) believes the schemes over which the Council does have control are confusing and ineffective, for example:-
    - (i) the Hardship Relief scheme is mostly used to write-off the debt

of businesses that have already ceased trading, rather than help them before they get into that state;

- (ii) payments under the Hardship, Not For Profit and Discretionary Top Up relief schemes are reported to be less than 0.1% of the baseline business rates funding; and
  - (iii) the Cabinet Member for Business and Investment, and the previous Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance, gave conflicting information on whether traders in Chapel Walk seeking business rates relief should apply to the Council or the Valuation Office;
- (e) therefore directs the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance to:-
- (i) conduct a review of all discretionary rate relief schemes to ensure that they are easier to understand and ensure that funds are targeted appropriately;
  - (ii) update the Council's Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy accordingly; and
  - (iii) complete both the above within the next three months.
2. the re-lettering of original paragraph (l) as a new paragraph (f).

7.3 It was then formally moved by Councillor Paul Turpin, and formally seconded by Councillor Martin Phipps, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of new paragraphs (l) to (p) as follows:-
- (l) notes that business rates reliefs are set by Government and this Council cannot claim credit for granting mandatory awards;
  - (m) believes that far too many small businesses, independents and not-for-profits in Sheffield experience real difficulties in obtaining even the mandatory reliefs they are entitled to;
  - (n) believes there has been a lack of support offered to independent businesses on Chapel Walk facing poor trading conditions for years under the scaffolding;
  - (o) notes that businesses currently pay for business rates instead of the land owners, who, it is believed, have enough money to own the land;
  - (p) calls for the outdated and unfair system of business rates to be scrapped and replaced by a land value tax on the owners of land and buildings rather than the occupiers; and

2. the re-lettering of original paragraph (l) as a new paragraph (q) and the insertion, after the words “reform the rates system”, of the words “by replacing it with a land value tax”.

7.4 The amendment moved by Councillor Martin Smith was put to the vote and was negated.

7.4.1 (NOTE: Councillors Angela Argenzio, Kaltum Rivers, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Paul Turpin, Peter Garbutt and Alison Teal voted for the amendment on the basis that the proposed additional paragraphs (a) to (e) in Part 1 of the amendment were to be additional paragraphs to the Substantive Motion, and not replace paragraphs (a) to (k), and asked for this to be recorded.)

7.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Paul Turpin was then put to the vote and was also negated.

7.6 The original Motion was then put to the vote and carried as follows:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes the Council’s commitment to the city’s businesses and that Sheffield has over 19,000 businesses, but believes support is needed to help organisations who are struggling, and further notes that the Council supports over 9,300 businesses through some form of business rates relief, which reduces the amount of rates they have to pay;
- (b) believes that the country’s high streets, neighbourhood retailers and community centres have been badly damaged over the last decade, and that a big part of this decline has been caused by unfair rates and a system of taxation which appears to support online business giants whilst punishing conventional retailers;
- (c) agrees with the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) that the business rates system is long overdue radical reform and at present it is ‘entrenching regional unfairness’;
- (d) notes the Council has no powers on what businesses are billed, and that the Government’s Valuation Office Agency (VOA) sets the value of a property and the annual bill is set based on that value;
- (e) believes that the VOA is woefully underfunded by the Government, meaning, despite their best efforts, valuations are taking 12 – 18 months, a long and often damaging delay for businesses;

- (f) believes everything possible must be done to support the city's smaller businesses, and notes this Council's Small Business Rate Relief provides support to businesses with a Rateable Value up to £16,000 – this is the largest relief granted and 7,200 businesses receive it, and of these, 6,700 receive the full amount, meaning they have no rates to pay;
- (g) notes that the Small Business Rate Relief is calculated to be worth over £17m to Sheffield businesses;
- (h) notes that in addition to this support, over £26m per year is awarded through other forms of rate relief, and that this Council is committed to using Business Rates Relief wherever it can to support a varied range of businesses and organisations, including small manufacturing companies, pubs, restaurants, universities, health centres, hospitals, theatres and charities;
- (i) notes that whilst the Council cannot change the bill set by the Government, the Council has used what powers it does have available to provide fairer ways of repaying the bill and has agreed different schedules of payments for businesses who are struggling;
- (j) notes with alarm that the Government is considering reducing the revenue grants received by local authorities and instead replacing it with 100% retention of business rates, and contends that such a move would be self-defeating, as Sheffield, like other local authorities, could never raise enough business rates to offset the loss of grants and, therefore, this policy should be opposed in the strongest possible terms;
- (k) believes that Government policy over the last decade has badly let down not only our high streets and neighbourhood retailers, but our key industries and business sectors, with an industrial strategy that is not fit for purpose, and which cherry-picks support for some industries over others – for instance, the Government had no problem bailing out Flybe but were not prepared to support Liberty Steel; and
- (l) commits to starting a campaign in the city, including the Chamber of Commerce and organisations from across the business community, to call on the Government to reform the rates system so that it is fairer for Sheffield.

- 7.6.1 (NOTE: The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Gail Smith) and Councillors Bob Pullin, Richard Shaw, Bob McCann, Tim Huggan, Mohammed Mahroof, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Vic Bowden, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Sue Auckland, Steve Ayriss, Kevin Oxley, David Baker, Penny Baker, Vickie Priestley, Alan Hooper and Mike Levery voted for paragraphs (a), (c), (d), (g), (h), (j) and (l) of the Motion, and abstained from voting on paragraphs (b), (e), (f), (i) and (k) of the Motion, and asked for this to be recorded.)

**8. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "SHEFFIELD PARKS AND OPEN SPACES" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MARY LEA AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ANDY BAINBRIDGE**

- 8.1 It was formally moved by Councillor Mary Lea, and formally seconded by Councillor Andy Bainbridge, that this Council:-

- (a) notes the public responses during the Big City Conversation which showed that a majority of Sheffielders believe one of the best things about the city is its parks and open spaces;
- (b) believes the city's parks should be accessible to everyone and for people of all ages, and this Council remains committed to ensuring this;
- (c) believes that Sheffield truly is the Outdoor City, which helps make it such a fantastic place to live, work or study;
- (d) believes that despite a decade of austerity and government funding cuts, the city's parks have continued to go from strength to strength under the current Administration, including:-
  - (i) creation of the Sheffield Trees and Woodland Strategy; a 15 year programme for Sheffield's non-highway trees which will see a huge 100,000 trees planted over this time, and notes that this target is well on course to being delivered, with over 13,000 trees planted since the strategy launched in December 2018;
  - (ii) refurbishment of twenty parks in some of Sheffield's most deprived areas, using contributions from the city's Public Health budget;
  - (iii) launch of the Better Parks initiative to develop better facilities and increase income in Sheffield parks and green spaces;
  - (iv) creation of a new War Memorial in Sheffield parks, with a commitment to plant 300 new protected trees, 200 of which have now been planted and recognised with a dedication plaque;

- (v) securing Fields in Trust status for many parks across the city, to ensure the parks' continued protection for years to come, at sites including Woodhouse Mill Recreation Ground (2014), Weston Park (2016), Ochre Dyke (2017), Stocksbridge Clock Tower (2019), Tinsley Green (2019) and Hollinsend Park (2019);
  - (vi) securing £3.2m of Lottery Heritage Funding to improve Sheffield's General Cemetery; and
  - (vii) working to secure additional funding for sporting and play equipment across the city's parks, including ten Non-Turf Cricket Wickets, in conjunction with the English Cricket Board, and ten Tennis Courts uplifted and refurbished in conjunction with the Lawn Tennis Association;
- (e) believes that Sheffield is not only a uniquely green city, the greenest in Europe, but is also a considerably rural one in parts and it is, therefore, important that this Council's Cabinet is developing a Rural Strategy to ensure that our rural spaces are supported so they can continue to flourish; and
- (f) believes that it is heartening to know that Sheffielders are so fond of their parks and open spaces, and believes this Council must continue to work closely with local communities to ensure their parks and open spaces continue to be such a positive.

8.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, and formally seconded by Councillor Roger Davison, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (g) to (m) as follows:-

- (g) requests that Fields in Trust status be secured for all Sheffield parks, including its largest one, Graves Park;
- (h) commends the work of Friends' groups in maintaining, championing and protecting our parks, and will continue to support them;
- (i) believes that the nature of the Parks service lends itself to local management and governance arrangements, centred around the leadership of local Members in partnership with the community, and believes that charitable status, where already in place, offers a ready means to improve local involvement and accountability;
- (j) requests officers to ensure that the strategy for Better Parks is compatible with the Council's climate change commitments and targets;
- (k) commits to protecting our parks from sale or disposal;

- (l) acknowledges the part played by far-sighted 19th and early 20th century Sheffield councillors and philanthropists who purchased or donated parks across Sheffield; and
- (m) further acknowledges the part played by early city councillors and philanthropists in planting street trees, making Sheffield one of the greenest cities in Europe.

8.3 It was then formally moved by Councillor Alison Teal, and formally seconded by Councillor Paul Turpin, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraph (e), the addition of new paragraphs (e) and (f) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraph (f) as a new paragraph (g):-

- (e) believes that with an ambitious programme of planting, Sheffield could become the greenest city; Sheffield has rural land within its boundary which provides opportunities to achieve net zero carbon targets, through rewilding and planting the right species of trees; in urban areas we must preserve our existing green spaces and increase green coverage in every ward;
- (f) believes that reassessing some decisions to fulfil the Council's ambition to be the greenest city could help, such as:-
  - (i) retaining Owlthorpe Fields as a greenfield site;
  - (ii) not building a car park in Sheffield General Cemetery or breaking its historic perimeter;
  - (iii) ensuring officers always bid for Government grants for pocket parks, so opportunities like Duchess Road Open Space in the deprived Highfields part of City Ward, are not missed;
  - (iv) streamlining and encouraging the access to grants from members of the public wanting to create pocket parks and community gardens in their communities;
  - (v) ensuring safeguards against damage to green spaces so that situations like Fire in the Park Festival event at the Ponderosa will not deprive local residents of its full use;
  - (vi) gradually increasing the number of meadows and, where appropriate, 'rewilding' land which is currently grass requiring regular maintenance, in order to increase biodiversity and reduce costs and use of chemical pollutants;
  - (vii) providing more green spaces in the city centre, with it being the most polluted area in Sheffield, including the original plan for a park on the historic site of Sheffield Castle; and

(viii) committing to stopping the routine use of toxic chemicals, including glyphosate.

8.4 The amendment moved by Councillor Ian Auckland was put to the vote and was carried, except for paragraphs (g) and (i) which were negated.

8.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Alison Teal was then put to the vote and was negated.

8.5.1 (NOTE: The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Gail Smith) and Councillors Bob Pullin, Richard Shaw, Bob McCann, Tim Huggan, Mohammed Mahroof, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Vic Bowden, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Sue Auckland, Steve Ayriss, Kevin Oxley, David Baker, Penny Baker, Vickie Priestley, Alan Hooper and Mike Levery voted for paragraph (e) and paragraphs (f)(i), (iii), (iv), (v) and (vii), and abstained from voting on paragraphs (f) (ii), (vi) and (viii) of the amendment, and asked for this to be recorded.)

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes the public responses during the Big City Conversation which showed that a majority of Sheffieldsers believe one of the best things about the city is its parks and open spaces;
- (b) believes the city's parks should be accessible to everyone and for people of all ages, and this Council remains committed to ensuring this;
- (c) believes that Sheffield truly is the Outdoor City, which helps make it such a fantastic place to live, work or study;
- (d) believes that despite a decade of austerity and government funding cuts, the city's parks have continued to go from strength to strength under the current Administration, including:-
  - (i) creation of the Sheffield Trees and Woodland Strategy; a 15 year programme for Sheffield's non-highway trees which will see a huge 100,000 trees planted over this time, and notes that this target is well on course to being delivered, with over 13,000 trees planted since the strategy launched in December 2018;

- (ii) refurbishment of twenty parks in some of Sheffield's most deprived areas, using contributions from the city's Public Health budget;
  - (iii) launch of the Better Parks initiative to develop better facilities and increase income in Sheffield parks and green spaces;
  - (iv) creation of a new War Memorial in Sheffield parks, with a commitment to plant 300 new protected trees, 200 of which have now been planted and recognised with a dedication plaque;
  - (v) securing Fields in Trust status for many parks across the city, to ensure the parks' continued protection for years to come, at sites including Woodhouse Mill Recreation Ground (2014), Weston Park (2016), Ochre Dyke (2017), Stocksbridge Clock Tower (2019), Tinsley Green (2019) and Hollinsend Park (2019);
  - (vi) securing £3.2m of Lottery Heritage Funding to improve Sheffield's General Cemetery; and
  - (vii) working to secure additional funding for sporting and play equipment across the city's parks, including ten Non-Turf Cricket Wickets, in conjunction with the English Cricket Board, and ten Tennis Courts uplifted and refurbished in conjunction with the Lawn Tennis Association;
- (e) believes that Sheffield is not only a uniquely green city, the greenest in Europe, but is also a considerably rural one in parts and it is, therefore, important that this Council's Cabinet is developing a Rural Strategy to ensure that our rural spaces are supported so they can continue to flourish;
- (f) believes that it is heartening to know that Sheffielders are so fond of their parks and open spaces, and believes this Council must continue to work closely with local communities to ensure their parks and open spaces continue to be such a positive;
- (g) commends the work of Friends' groups in maintaining, championing and protecting our parks, and will continue to support them;

- (h) requests officers to ensure that the strategy for Better Parks is compatible with the Council's climate change commitments and targets;
- (i) commits to protecting our parks from sale or disposal;
- (j) acknowledges the part played by far-sighted 19th and early 20th century Sheffield councillors and philanthropists who purchased or donated parks across Sheffield; and
- (k) further acknowledges the part played by early city councillors and philanthropists in planting street trees, making Sheffield one of the greenest cities in Europe.

8.6.1 (NOTE: The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Gail Smith) and Councillors Bob Pullin, Richard Shaw, Bob McCann, Tim Huggan, Mohammed Mahroof, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Vic Bowden, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Ian Auckland, Sue Auckland, Steve Ayriss, Kevin Oxley, David Baker, Penny Baker, Vickie Priestley, Alan Hooper and Mike Levery voted for paragraphs (a) to (c) and (e) to (k), and abstained from voting on paragraph (d) of the Substantive Motion, and asked for this to be recorded.)

**9. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "PEOPLE AND POWER" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JOE OTTEN AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BARBARA MASTERS**

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

- (a) notes the receipt of the It's Our City petition, triggering a referendum on the governance of the city;
- (b) notes that the referendum will be legally binding on the City Council, short of another referendum, as regards to the choice of executive arrangements or the committee system, but not on the specific implementation of either system (Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000, Chapter 1, as amended by the Localism Act 2011, Schedule 2, Part 1, Clause 9M);
- (c) notes that under a committee system, committees of the council are legally required to be politically proportional to the composition of the council, with the exception of area committees (The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 - Regulation 19);

- (d) believes that this unusual development reflects justified dissatisfaction with the decision making processes of the City Council, in particular, concerns over decisions relating to the issue of highway trees, such as the operation on Rustlings Road and the committal proceedings against citizens of Sheffield, including an elected Member;
- (e) believes that decision making should be open, accountable, democratic and transparent, that it should make good use of the contributions of elected members, and that it should be timely and efficient;
- (f) believes that a change of governance to a committee system represents a good opportunity to improve decision making at the Council;
- (g) believes that more timely engagement with popular calls for improved governance would have avoided the need for a costly referendum, and avoided binding the city to the result of the referendum, for better or worse;
- (h) believes that the devolution of powers and budgets relating to local matters to committees of local Members would result in better decisions and the more effective use of public money;
- (i) deplores the decision by the Administration to abolish Community Assemblies and replace them with a much weaker neighbourhood structure;
- (j) regrets the decision by the Administration to abandon the principle of proportionality in chairs of scrutiny committees, previously adopted in the Council;
- (k) regrets that the 'Big City Conversation' consultation exercise has largely avoided the governance issues, has run down the clock, and prevented any consultation on the options that will be put to the referendum; and
- (l) calls on all elected Members of the Council to engage positively and earnestly with citizens expressing concerns regarding decision making structures and culture at the Council, and to adopt a positive and collaborative working relationship where common ground might be found, to advance the interests of the city and its people, while each respecting our various political traditions and values.

9.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Bryan Lodge, and formally seconded by Councillor Cate McDonald, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraph (d) and the re-lettering of paragraph (e) as a new paragraph (d);
2. the deletion of paragraphs (f) to (k) and the addition of new paragraphs (e) to (i) as follows:-
  - (e) notes the results of the Big City Conversation, and the many conversations held by local councillors within their communities, which showed that the biggest concerns in the city are some of the following - improving public transport; improving our roads and making them free of congestion; tackling crime and anti-social behaviour; providing services for children, young people and teenagers; delivering social care; maintaining our parks and green spaces; tackling the climate emergency and air pollution; and ensuring that everyone in the city has a safe, secure and affordable place to call home – issues all highlighted from responses collected during the Big City Conversation, and had opposition councillors taken part in the events across the City, they would have enjoyed first-hand knowledge of these responses;
  - (f) believes that people in Sheffield want to see the Council getting on with issues that matter the most to them, and that elected members would be better serving their constituents by spending more time in their communities working to address and understand these concerns, rather than spending more time in the town hall for committee meetings;
  - (g) notes that adopting a committee system has the potential to cost the Council a lot more every year in administration and that, especially during austere times, this would be regrettable; this is based on the information provided to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 26th November 2019 on the unit cost of servicing a committee;
  - (h) believes that the major opposition group has chosen to ignore the potential additional costs that would ultimately be passed on to all council tax payers of Sheffield, regardless that the majority of these tax payers see other matters more worthy of this expenditure; and
  - (i) believes that, as noted in the report on governance arrangements, community involvement cannot be described as being inherently better or worse under either a Cabinet system or committee system and that, fundamentally, it is how locality arrangements are drawn up, and notes that the Council has committed to strengthening these arrangements and increasing community voice, influence and the opportunity for people to have their say at a local level and within the Council's decision making processes.
3. the re-lettering of original paragraph (l) as a new paragraph (j).

9.3 It was then formally moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson, and formally seconded by Councillor Angela Argenzio, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted by amended by the addition of a new paragraph (m) as follows:-

(m) therefore supports a change to the committee system of governance.

9.4 The amendment moved by Councillor Bryan Lodge was put to the vote and was carried.

9.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson was then put to the vote and was negatived.

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 the receipt of the It's Our City petition, triggering a referendum on the governance of the city;
- (b) notes that the referendum will be legally binding on the City Council, short of another referendum, as regards to the choice of executive arrangements or the committee system, but not on the specific implementation of either system (Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000, Chapter 1, as amended by the Localism Act 2011, Schedule 2, Part 1, Clause 9M);
- (c) notes that under a committee system, committees of the council are legally required to be politically proportional to the composition of the council, with the exception of area committees (The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 - Regulation 19);
- (d) believes that decision making should be open, accountable, democratic and transparent, that it should make good use of the contributions of elected members, and that it should be timely and efficient;
- (e) notes the results of the Big City Conversation, and the many conversations held by local councillors within their communities, which showed that the biggest concerns in the city are some of the following - improving public transport; improving our roads and making them free of congestion; tackling crime and anti-social behaviour; providing services for children, young people and teenagers; delivering social care; maintaining our parks and green

spaces; tackling the climate emergency and air pollution; and ensuring that everyone in the city has a safe, secure and affordable place to call home – issues all highlighted from responses collected during the Big City Conversation, and had opposition councillors taken part in the events across the City, they would have enjoyed first-hand knowledge of these responses;

- (f) believes that people in Sheffield want to see the Council getting on with issues that matter the most to them, and that elected members would be better serving their constituents by spending more time in their communities working to address and understand these concerns, rather than spending more time in the town hall for committee meetings;
- (g) notes that adopting a committee system has the potential to cost the Council a lot more every year in administration and that, especially during austere times, this would be regrettable; this is based on the information provided to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019 on the unit cost of servicing a committee;
- (h) believes that the major opposition group has chosen to ignore the potential additional costs that would ultimately be passed on to all council tax payers of Sheffield, regardless that the majority of these tax payers see other matters more worthy of this expenditure;
- (i) believes that, as noted in the report on governance arrangements, community involvement cannot be described as being inherently better or worse under either a Cabinet system or committee system and that, fundamentally, it is how locality arrangements are drawn up, and notes that the Council has committed to strengthening these arrangements and increasing community voice, influence and the opportunity for people to have their say at a local level and within the Council's decision making processes; and
- (j) calls on all elected Members of the Council to engage positively and earnestly with citizens expressing concerns regarding decision making structures and culture at the Council, and to adopt a positive and collaborative working relationship where common ground might be found, to advance the interests of the city and its people, while each respecting our various political traditions and values.

Pullin, Richard Shaw, Bob McCann, Angela Argenzio, Kaltum Rivers, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Tim Huggan, Mohammed Mahroof, Joe Otten, Colin Ross, Martin Smith, Vic Bowden, Roger Davison, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Sue Alston, Andrew Sangar, Cliff Woodcraft, Paul Turpin, Ian Auckland, Sue Auckland, Steve Ayriss, Kevin Oxley, Peter Garbutt, Alison Teal, David Baker, Penny Baker, Vickie Priestley, Alan Hooper and Mike Levery voted for paragraphs (a) to (d) and (j), and against paragraphs (e) to (i) of the Substantive Motion, and asked for this to be recorded.)

**10. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "THE PLANET IS ON FIRE" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR DOUGLAS JOHNSON AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR RUTH MERSEREAU**

10.1 It was formally moved by Councillor Douglas Johnson, and formally seconded by Councillor Ruth Mersereau, that this Council:-

- (a) notes that it is 12 months since this Council declared a climate emergency;
- (b) notes the Tyndall Centre's advice to "Initiate an immediate programme of CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation to deliver cuts in emissions averaging 14% per year";
- (c) is disappointed to have seen no evidence showing this yearly reduction has been achieved in the last 12 months;
- (d) believes that this Council needs a cross-party Climate Emergency Committee to lead on implementing the changes Sheffield needs to make to be resilient for the future; and
- (e) asks that the Council sets up a properly resourced team of sustainability officers as a priority at the earliest opportunity.

10.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Mark Jones, and formally seconded by Councillor Adam Hurst, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraphs (c) to (e) and the addition of new paragraphs (c) to (g) as follows:-

- (c) further notes the budget for this was calculated as 16mT CO<sub>2</sub> from 2020 to 2038 and that the Council has committed to achieving net zero by 2030, therefore we have 16mT CO<sub>2</sub> for the next 10 years, which demonstrates why the following action has been delivered since a Climate Emergency was declared:-
  - (i) the Council now purchases electricity generated from 100% renewable sources, this is an increase of 81%;
  - (ii) the Council has established Energy Surgeries and installed

- Smart Energy Meters for Council tenants – creating a 40% saving for tenants as well as a substantial reduction in wasted energy;
- (iii) Sheffield is trialling electric bin lorries powered by the very waste they collect, with re-powered lorries having zero carbon emissions and producing no air pollution;
  - (iv) working with the city's schools and education community to see a reduction in plastic usage and waste, including huge reductions in the amount of single use plastics used at school meal times; and
  - (v) the Council has recently prepared an £85m programme of cycling, walking and bus corridor improvements as part of a further Sheffield City Region Transforming Cities Fund bid, announcements on which are expected soon;
- (d) notes, in addition, the work currently being undertaken to improve air quality in the city, including:-
- (i) anti-idling zones are now active outside of all primary and secondary schools, and other notable places such as hospitals and health centres; and
  - (ii) piloting schemes to close targeted roads to traffic for set periods of time to create a better, less polluted and congested environment, targeted at benefiting children; such as School Streets - where roads outside schools are closed at drop-off and pick-up times; Play Streets - a resident-led scheme where a road is closed to traffic for a set period of time; and Living Streets - where a road is closed to traffic completely;
- (e) further notes that last summer, the Council consulted on its proposals to introduce a Clean Air Zone to improve emissions from the 19% of vehicles that are responsible for 50% of the Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from transport, and are currently awaiting confirmation from Government on our CAZ proposals;
- (f) notes that a Citizens Assembly will be introduced by June 2020 - to consider the necessary actions in the city to implement further change, with its membership being drawn to represent all parts of the city, including young people, and that it has taken time to set this up as it needs to be ensured that sufficient research has been conducted, and that there is a significant evidence base so that the assembly understands the scale of the task and what work is required, and that procurement for gathering this evidence is now almost over; and
- (g) believes great strides have been made in the last twelve months in

tackling the climate emergency, but that huge changes will have to continue to be made in order to meet the Council's commitment of making Sheffield carbon neutral by 2030.

10.3 It was then formally moved by Councillor Tim Huggan, and formally seconded by Councillor Andrew Sangar, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (f) to (j) as follows:-

- (f) believes that, nationally, only the Liberal Democrats have a bold and credible plan to tackle the climate emergency, which includes:-
  - (i) reaching 80% renewable electricity by 2030;
  - (ii) insulating all low-income homes by 2025;
  - (iii) raising energy efficiency standards for new homes; and
  - (iv) investing £15 billion to retrofit 26 million homes;
- (g) believes this Council has a responsibility as a land, property and house owner to ensure its stock is energy efficient, which will help to reduce carbon emissions in the city;
- (h) is dismayed that the timetable for the Sheffield Local Plan has been rescheduled and publication will, at the earliest, be 2023, seven years off when this Council proposes to reach carbon zero;
- (i) calls for a plan to reduce the carbon footprint of the Council's housing stock to be drafted and for officers to report back to full Council with their findings; and
- (j) acknowledges the current increased risk of intense rainfall leading to flooding and calls for significant mitigation measures, including substantial additional tree planting and improved moorland management in the upper catchments of Sheffield's rivers.

10.4 It was then formally moved by Councillor Peter Garbutt, and formally seconded by Councillor Alison Teal, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of a new paragraph (f) as follows:-

- (f) notes the increasing public concern about the Climate Emergency and acknowledges the hard work of the community groups lobbying the Council and demanding we respond urgently to the crisis we are facing.

10.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Mark Jones was put to the vote and was carried.

10.6 The amendment moved by Councillor Tim Huggan was then put to the vote and was negated.

- 10.6.1 (NOTE: Councillors Angela Argenzio, Kaltum Rivers, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Paul Turpin, Peter Garbutt and Alison Teal voted for paragraphs (g) to (j) and against paragraph (f) of the amendment, and asked for this to be recorded.)
- 10.7 The amendment moved by Councillor Peter Garbutt was then put to the vote and was carried.
- 10.8 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 it is 12 months since this Council declared a climate emergency;
- (b) notes the Tyndall Centre's advice to "Initiate an immediate programme of CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation to deliver cuts in emissions averaging 14% per year";
- (c) further notes the budget for this was calculated as 16mT CO<sub>2</sub> from 2020 to 2038 and that the Council has committed to achieving net zero by 2030, therefore we have 16mT CO<sub>2</sub> for the next 10 years, which demonstrates why the following action has been delivered since a Climate Emergency was declared:-
  - (i) the Council now purchases electricity generated from 100% renewable sources, this is an increase of 81%;
  - (ii) the Council has established Energy Surgeries and installed Smart Energy Meters for Council tenants – creating a 40% saving for tenants as well as a substantial reduction in wasted energy;
  - (iii) Sheffield is trialling electric bin lorries powered by the very waste they collect, with re-powered lorries having zero carbon emissions and producing no air pollution;
  - (iv) working with the city's schools and education community to see a reduction in plastic usage and waste, including huge reductions in the amount of single use plastics used at school meal times; and
  - (v) the Council has recently prepared an £85m programme of cycling, walking and bus corridor improvements as part of a

- further Sheffield City Region Transforming Cities Fund bid, announcements on which are expected soon;
- (d) notes, in addition, the work currently being undertaken to improve air quality in the city, including:-
    - (i) anti-idling zones are now active outside of all primary and secondary schools, and other notable places such as hospitals and health centres; and
    - (ii) piloting schemes to close targeted roads to traffic for set periods of time to create a better, less polluted and congested environment, targeted at benefiting children; such as School Streets - where roads outside schools are closed at drop-off and pick-up times; Play Streets - a resident-led scheme where a road is closed to traffic for a set period of time; and Living Streets - where a road is closed to traffic completely;
  - (e) further notes that last summer, the Council consulted on its proposals to introduce a Clean Air Zone to improve emissions from the 19% of vehicles that are responsible for 50% of the Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from transport, and are currently awaiting confirmation from Government on our CAZ proposals;
  - (f) notes that a Citizens Assembly will be introduced by June 2020 - to consider the necessary actions in the city to implement further change, with its membership being drawn to represent all parts of the city, including young people, and that it has taken time to set this up as it needs to be ensured that sufficient research has been conducted, and that there is a significant evidence base so that the assembly understands the scale of the task and what work is required, and that procurement for gathering this evidence is now almost over;
  - (g) believes great strides have been made in the last twelve months in tackling the climate emergency, but that huge changes will have to continue to be made in order to meet the Council's commitment of making Sheffield carbon neutral by 2030; and
  - (h) notes the increasing public concern about the Climate Emergency and acknowledges the hard work of the community groups lobbying the Council and demanding we respond urgently to the crisis we are

facing.

- 10.8.1 (NOTE: Councillors Angela Argenzio, Kaltum Rivers, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Paul Turpin, Peter Garbutt and Alison Teal voted for paragraphs (a), (b) and (h) and against paragraphs (c) to (g) of the Substantive Motion, and asked for this to be recorded.)

## **11. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING**

- 11.1 RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Peter Rippon, seconded by Councillor Dianne Hurst, that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020, be approved as a true and accurate record.

## **12. REPRESENTATION, DELEGATED AUTHORITY AND RELATED ISSUES**

- 12.1 RESOLVED: On the Motion of Councillor Peter Rippon, seconded by Councillor Dianne Hurst, that:-

(a) it be noted that, with effect from 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2020, Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed was reinstated as Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council and Councillor Penny Baker was reinstated as Deputy Leader of the Group;

(b) approval be given to the following change(s) to the membership(s) of Committees, Boards, etc.:-

Senior Officer Employment Committee	- Councillor Bob Johnson to replace Councillor Mark Jones
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(c) Mr. Edward Fleming (former Independent Co-optee on the Standards Committee) be re-appointed to serve as a private sector representative on the Council's Independent Remuneration Panel, for a two year term ending 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2022.

## **13. VOTE OF THANKS TO FORMER COUNCILLOR MICHELLE COOK**

- 13.1 Members of the Council paid tribute to former Councillor Michelle Cook who had resigned as a Member of the Council on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 for health and personal reasons, after serving as a member of the Council, representing the Broomhill and Sharrow Vale Ward, since May 2016.

- 13.2 It was **RESOLVED**: that this Council places on record its thanks and appreciation to former Councillor Michelle Cook for her hard work and service to the City of Sheffield.

- 13.3 (NOTE: Prior to the start of the above tributes to former Councillor Michelle

Cook, it was RESOLVED: On the motion of The Lord Mayor (Councillor Tony Downing) and seconded by The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Gail Smith), that the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 5.5 be suspended and the termination of the meeting be extended to enable the tributes to be paid.)