

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council of the City of Sheffield held on Wednesday 31 March 2021, at 2.00 pm, as a remote meeting in accordance with the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, 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 & Greenhill Ward</i>
Simon Clement-Jones
Bob Pullin
Richard Shaw | 10 <i>East Ecclesfield Ward</i>
Andy Bainbridge
Vic Bowden
Moya O'Rourke | 19 <i>Nether Edge & 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 & Arbourthorne</i>
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 |
| 4 <i>Broomhill & Sharrow Vale Ward</i>
Angela Argenzio
Kaltum Rivers | 13 <i>Fulwood Ward</i>
Sue Alston
Andrew Sangar
Cliff Woodcraft | 22 <i>Shiregreen & 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>
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 Ayris | 24 <i>Stannington Ward</i>
David Baker
Penny Baker
Vickie Priestley |
| 7 <i>Crookes & Crosspool Ward</i>
Tim Huggan
Mohammed Mahroof
Anne Murphy | 16 <i>Hillsborough Ward</i>
Bob Johnson
George Lindars-Hammond
Josie Paszek | 25 <i>Stocksbridge & Upper Don Ward</i>
Julie Grocutt
Francyne Johnson |
| 8 <i>Darnall Ward</i>
Mazher Iqbal
Mary Lea
Zahira Naz | 17 <i>Manor Castle Ward</i>
Terry Fox
Sioned-Mair Richards | 26 <i>Walkley Ward</i>
Ben Curran
Neale Gibson |
| 9 <i>Dore & 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. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1.1 In relation to agenda item 6 (Notice of Motion Regarding "Thanking The City's Workers and Demanding Pay Justice For Them") (item 8 of these minutes), (a) the following Members declared personal interests for the reasons stated:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Councillor Kevin Oxley	He is employed in the public sector
Councillor Sue Alston	She is employed in the NHS
Councillor Andrew Sangar	His wife is employed in the NHS
Councillor Mike Drabble	He is employed in the NHS, is a member of the Unison Union and receives a local government pension
Councillor George Lindars-Hammond	His partner is employed in the NHS and he is a member of the GMB Union
Councillor Mary Lea	She receives a pension from the NHS
Councillor Ben Curran	His wife is employed in the NHS
Councillor Joe Otten	His wife is employed in the NHS
Councillor Tim Huggan	His wife is employed in the NHS
Councillor Penny Baker	She receives a pension from the NHS
Councillor Gail Smith	She receives a pension from the NHS
Councillor Talib Hussain	His wife is employed in the NHS and he is a member of the GMB Union
Councillor Josie Paszek	She is a member of Unison Union and receives a local government pension
Councillor Cliff Woodcraft	His wife receives a pension from the NHS
Councillor Jayne Dunn	She is a member of the GMB Union
Councillor Mark Jones	He is a member of the GMB Union
Councillor Tony Damms	He receives a local government pension and is a member of the Unite Union
Councillor Paul Wood	He is a member of the GMB Union

Councillor Garry Weatherall	He receives a local government pension and is a member of the GMB Union
Councillor Adam Hurst	He receives a local government pension and is a member of the GMB Union
Councillor Ian Auckland	He receives a local government pension and a pension as a Trustee
Councillor Mohammed Mahroof	He is a non-executive director and trustee of Sheffield Hospitals Charity which supports the NHS, and in the future will receive a local government pension
Councillor Colin Ross	He receives a local government pension
Councillor Bob McCann	His daughter is employed in the NHS
Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards	She receives a local government pension
Councillor Jackie Drayton	She receives a local government pension and is a member of Unison Union
Councillor Vickie Priestley	She receives a local government pension
Councillor Anne Murphy	She will soon be in receipt of an NHS pension and is a member of Unison Union
Councillor David Baker	He receives a local government pension
Councillor Alan Hooper	His wife receives a local government pension
Councillor Angela Argenzio	She is a member of the Unite Union
Councillor Peter Garbutt	His wife receives a local government pension
Councillor Dianne Hurst	She receives a local government pension
Councillor Sue Auckland	She receives a local government pension as a Trustee
Councillor Cate McDonald	She receives a local government pension and is a member of Unison Union
Councillor Abdul Khayum	He receives a local government pension and is a member of the GMB Union

Councillor Julie Grocutt

She and her husband receive a pension

Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed

He will receive a local government pension in the future

(b) Councillor Terry Fox declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest as a member of the Friends of the NHS, the Unison and NACODS Unions and he receives a local government pension.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Jack Clarkson, Lewis Dagnall, Julie Dore and Sophie Wilson.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 The Lord Mayor (Councillor Tony Downing) reported that five petitions and questions from thirteen members of the public had been received prior to the published deadline for submission of petitions and questions for this meeting. On all five petitions, representations were to be made on behalf of the petitioners. All thirteen questioners had been invited to attend the meeting to ask their questions.

3.2 Petitions

3.2.1 Petition Requesting Action to Deter Fly Tipping

The Council received a petition containing 552 signatures requesting the Council to reintroduce Bring Your Own Rubbish days in Sheffield.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Michelle Hinson, a member of the Sheffield Litter Pickers and the S20/S21 Litter Pickers groups. Ms Hinson stated that she had been part of work removing hundreds of bags of rubbish and fly tipping, which was then reported to the Council or through the Fix my Street app. She said that Sheffield had significant fly tipping and litter issues, which created a lot of work for both the Council and volunteers. Ms Hinson said she had spoken with local residents in her area, and that they suggested the fly tipping was due to low-income households not being able to afford to pay somebody to remove their items. Ms Hinson said she had received good feedback following the Bring Out Your Rubbish days, and that it had drastically reduced fly tipping. Ms Hinson stated she felt reintroducing Bring Out Your Rubbish days would be more cost effective for the Council and would significantly reduce fly tipping and littering. Ms Hinson referenced recent TV programmes, which she said indicated it remained difficult to catch the perpetrators of fly tipping and littering. Ms Hinson suggested prevention was the best way to progress.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change). Councillor Jones thanked Ms Hinson for the petition, and for her work to remove litter. Councillor Jones agreed that prevention was the best way forward. He stated that at the last full Council meeting, proposals were put forward for the establishment of Local Area Committees (LACs). He hoped that through the LACs, Bring Out Your Rubbish days could be established in co-ordination with local Councillors. Councillor Jones said he believed the best way to establish Bring Out Your Rubbish days was at a local level, developed with local communities.

3.2.2 Petition Requesting the Council Introduce CCTV in Page Hall

The Council received a petition containing 6 signatures requesting the Council to bring in CCTV in Page Hall.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Damien Callaghan who stated that his father and family had lived there for over 20 years and issues have increased in the area, leading to South Yorkshire Police bringing in an independent police team in the area. Mr Callaghan said that a number of crimes were taking place there, and that CCTV would allow them to identify the perpetrators.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety). Councillor Wood thanked Mr Callaghan for the petition and stated that there were new community safety plans being introduced which would include CCTV which would be trialled in a number of areas. Councillor Wood said that to be effective CCTV needed to be monitored either by the police or Council. He added that if the trials were effective, CCTV would form a tool within the community safety plans which could be deployed into any area of Sheffield. Councillor Wood stated that Local Area Committees would likely be involved in this process to assess whether there was a local need for CCTV.

3.2.3 Petition Requesting a Pedestrian Crossing on Abbey Lane

The Council received an electronic petition containing 5,700 signatures, requesting a Pedestrian Crossing on Abbey Lane between Ecclesall Woods.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Chloe Cheeseman, who informed the Council that Ecclesall Woods offers thousands of Sheffield residents the opportunity to visit nature; however, she stated that visiting the woods or its popular discovery centre is not always safe due to crossing Abbey Lane. She added that Abby Lane has a speed limit of 40mph and there are no crossing facilities across that Lane leading to various issues and risks when crossing the road. Ms Cheeseman shared comments from petitioners regarding these risks and stated that the lack of crossing most significantly affects elderly and disabled citizens.

Ms Cheeseman asked the Council to act urgently by investigating and planning

suitable crossing improvements, in consultation with the Friends of Ecclesall Woods group. She asked that a plan be produced which includes a budget by the summer.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Julie Grocutt (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development). Councillor Grocutt thanked Ms Cheeseman for presenting the petition, and said she understood the concerns raised. Councillor Grocutt stated that the pandemic had led to an increased number of requests for improved road safety measures throughout Sheffield. She added that the Council would want to encourage an increase in pedestrian activity for leisure purposes and is looking into what measures would be suitable on Abbey Lane to reflect the increased popularity of Ecclesall Woods. She added that there are many points when people using the woods might cross Abbey Lane, and that the Council needs to consider what methods would be suitable to address this increased demand. Councillor Grocutt stated that any measures introduced must be sympathetic to the tree-lined, peaceful location of Abbey Lane. She said that a feasibility study has been commissioned to identify various options to install crossing facilities on Abbey Lane. Councillor Grocutt stated she would keep Ms Cheeseman and the Friends of Ecclesall Woods group updated on this study.

3.2.4 Petition Requesting a Speed Camera in Mosborough

The Council received an electronic petition containing 424 signatures, requesting a speed camera in Mosborough and that the Council work with the police to tackle speeding in Mosborough.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Kurtis Crossland, who began by thanking the Lord Mayor (Councillor Tony Dowling) for his work. Mr Crossland informed the Council that he had been contacted by a number of residents in Mosborough whose vehicles had been written off due to speeding in the area. He added that there had been a number of accidents within the last few weeks in the area. Mr Crossland requested that the Council find solutions to these issues in order to improve road safety in the area.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Julie Grocutt (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development). Councillor Grocutt thanked Mr Crossland for presenting the position. She informed Mr Crossland and his fellow petitioners that the introduction of speed cameras was managed by South Yorkshire Police as part of the South Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership. Councillor Grocutt stated that as the Council moves towards Local Area Committees (LACs) it would be possible for a resident to contact their LAC and request that they work with the South Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership and South Yorkshire Police to look at how these situations can be resolved. She stated that the petition had been forwarded to the South Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership for their attention; however, she said that petitioners should be aware that there had been an unprecedented increase in these requests and that it may be some time before mobile enforcement occurs in Mosborough. Councillor Grocutt said she had requested that Mosborough be included in the Community Speed Watch initiative. She stated that the initiative had been paused due to COVID-

19 but will recommence once restrictions are lifted.

3.2.5 Petition Requesting that Recycling Centres Open 7 Days a Week and the Reintroduction of Bring Out Your Rubbish Days

The Council received an electronic petition containing 265 signatures requesting that household recycling centres open 7 days a week and that Bring Out Your Rubbish days be reintroduced.

Representations on behalf of the petitioners were made by Adil Mohammed, who began by thanking litter picking volunteers. Mr Mohammed stated that there had been a number of issues with accessing recycling centres and disposing of rubbish in Sheffield, which had increased during the pandemic. Mr Mohammed requested that the Council bring back Bring Out Your Rubbish Days and extend the opening hours of recycling centres to 7 days a week. He suggested a booking system could be used at recycling centres and added that these had been used in other Local Authorities.

The Council referred the petition to Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change). Councillor Jones thanked Mr Mohammed for his petition and for his work removing litter. Councillor Jones stated that the Council had worked hard to keep its services running during the pandemic, and added that Sheffield was one of only two Councils in the country that kept its household waste recycling centres open throughout the pandemic. He added that Sheffield had received national recognition for the work it carried out, and was used as a template to inform Local Authorities in their handling of their recycling centres during the pandemic. Councillor Jones stated he was proud of the work that had been done by Sheffield City Council staff, and all those working at Sheffield recycling sites, and thanked them for their dedication and hard work during the pandemic.

Councillor Jones explained that Sheffield had 5 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs), and discussions have been ongoing around how to address local residents' concerns. Councillor Jones announced that following these discussions all sites in Sheffield would now be open 7 days a week, 9.30am-5.30pm, from the 1st of April 2021. He added that the earlier opening times are in response to a consultation which has been in progress for a number of months.

In addition, Councillor Jones stated that the Blackstock Road and Beighton sites would have extended opening hours over the Bank Holiday weekend. He added that the restrictions regarding numbers of people on site would now be lifted. He said face coverings would need to be worn, but more people would now be able to access the sites. Councillor Jones said it would be the responsibility of members of the public to maintain social distancing and added that staff would not be able to assist members of the public in removing items from their vehicles due to increased safety measures.

Councillor Jones added that there would be a trial using Veolia's waste transfer service at Tinsley Park Road to allow people to dispose of waste. He said that

the further extension of opening hours was under review, but any changes would need to be in accordance with planning and site licensing requirements.

In response to the Bring Out Your Own Rubbish days, Councillor Jones referred Mr Mohammed to the answer provided to Ms Hinson.

3.3 Public Questions

3.3.1 Public Questions Concerning Cladding, Repairs and Building Safety

Peter Housley asked the following question: 'Many thanks for your involvement with the urgent, ongoing and soon to escalate issues on fire risks in many apartments in Sheffield.'

One of my many questions (as a directly involved leaseholder), is:
How can so many buildings be built to an inferior standard, with poor workmanship, incorrect design, unsuitable and not up to specification materials?

There are, correctly so, authorities and official bodies in place to monitor, check and sign for these works before being declared safe (Building Control, Architects, surveyors, legal, insurers, developers, NHBC, etc). Where did it all go so very wrong?'

Jennie Garratt (Sheffield Cladding Action Group) asked the following question:-

'We note that Sheffield City Council is due to consider a Motion given by Councillor Paul Wood at the upcoming meeting regarding the cladding and building safety crisis which is impacting thousands of leaseholders and residents in Sheffield.

We ask: 'Will the Council commit to questioning any developer which applies for construction contracts/planning permission within Sheffield on their suitability for the works if existing residential buildings of theirs have unresolved cladding and/or fire safety issues related to the original construction of the building?'

We do not think it is fair for developers which have left leaseholders in their existing buildings without support in remediating fire safety defects to be granted further work in our city until the urgent remedial work is funded by the responsible party.'

Olivia Hill asked the following questions:-

1. 'How can the Council help spread the word on the severity of the situation to people living in these affected buildings?'
2. 'How can we prevent people unknowingly buying these problem properties (many of which are for sale)? How can estate agents and local law firms ensure people's life savings are making a safe investment?'
3. 'How could the Council support Sheffield CAG. Is there any funding for

volunteer groups such as ourselves? Help with scaling up our activism, support for planning events in future such as protests, etc.'

Phil Carter asked the following question:-

'Re: agenda item on Building Safety, this is so important for thousands of Sheffield leaseholders / voters it should be higher up the agenda. 36 buildings in Sheffield have applied to the Government's Building Safety Fund for grants, in the hope that crippling remediation costs (that the original developers should be paying) are not passed down to them. Lots of words on the agenda about what the Government should be doing, but what about the Council & commitments made months ago to write to those developers & others who were culpable? The Council needs to be as proactive as its City's MPs.'

Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety) thanked the questioners for their time.

In response to Mr Housley's question, Councillor Wood stated that the deregulation of building control was a factor. He explained that regulations have increasingly become controlled at government level rather than at a local level. Councillor Wood stated that he and the Director of Housing, Janet Sharpe, had meetings with the Government Minister who had agreed to put forward some amendments to the Housing Bill which would give Local Authorities the power to issue a Right to Reside certificate. He added that this was in progress.

In response to Ms Garratt's question, Councillor Wood said that while ever he is the Cabinet Member with responsibility for housing, he would instruct officers to look out for any irregularities in lease holder properties when carrying out any development. He added that he was responsible for social housing, but he would speak to Councillor Julie Grocutt (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development) to see what could be done collectively across the entire housing and building sectors. He said that the Council would need to confirm what could be legally done at a local level, but he stated he would support not using contractors who have blatantly disregarded building controls and had taken cheap options in order to maximise profits in the private sector.

In response to Ms Hill's question, Councillor Wood said the Council had supported CAG through lobbying extensively for the funds required to fit alarms in some of the buildings. He stated that there is a £500,000 grant available, and there had been discussions around further grants to allow for more alarms to be fitted in additional buildings. Councillor Wood stated that the Council had recognised 133 buildings which required full investigations. He added that the private rented sector team and private landlord team would investigate each of these buildings to ensure the fire regulations are appropriate. Councillor Wood said that the grants should enable immediate cladding work, however; the grants would not be given for fire safety unless for alarm systems. Councillor Wood stated that the Council had spoken with the CAG almost weekly in order to process grants.

Councillor Wood stated the Council would work with government, lobby in

conjunction with the Cladding Action Group, press for any grants available and would provide all other Council services which include mental health and debt advice. Councillor Wood expressed his sympathy to all those affected.

(NOTE: The questions on the same issue, which had been submitted by Lindsay Hewson and William Martin, but were not asked at the meeting, would receive written responses from the Cabinet Member)

3.3.2 Public Questions Concerning the Closure of the John Lewis Store

Nigel Slack asked the following questions:-

1. 'With the closure of the John Lewis store, how can SCC (Sheffield City Council) help ensure that the John Lewis Partnership provides proper support for the employees that are about to be thrown out of a job?'
2. 'What is the financial impact of the loss of rent and rates on the building?'
3. 'Will this be compensated by the penalty clause for the early end of the lease and to what amount?'
4. 'There is a deal of positivity about future uses for the building but much of this will depend on the refurbishment needs of the building. Is the building in need of structural repair as well as refurbishment? What are the current estimates for that refurbishment, and will SCC be carrying that out before future plans are in place?'

Councillor Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment) was not present at the meeting at this point in the proceedings, therefore the Lord Mayor (Councillor Tony Downing) requested that an answer be given to Mr Slack in writing at a later time.

3.3.3 Public Questions Concerning Acorn Sheffield

Zobia Rafique asked the following questions:-

1. 'I am aware that some of the Councillors in this meeting are friends or associates of an association called Acorn Sheffield. I am also aware that a few of the Councillors in this meeting have had similar experiences of people hoaxing and turning up outside their homes protesting. You had all condemned this behaviour then, so do you today Councillors of my city also condemn Acorn's action of protesting on this occasion towards me?'
2. 'Acorn failed to investigate this landlord/tenant matter prior to marching to my home and later to accept the DPS (Deposit Protection Scheme) decision. Do you agree that they discriminate against landlords as all bad and act as vigilantes?'
3. 'Do you think that the Council should offer support for not only tenants but

also landlords such as myself who felt particularly targeted due to being not only an Asian but also a female, I was labelled as "one of the 50 rogue Landlords" in a recent protest outside the Town Hall by Acorn?'

4. 'Disregarding whether this is a criminal matter or not, do you find this behaviour acceptable?'

Councillor Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety) stated that as the questions presented involved a number of organisations including the Council, and due to the fact that these are ongoing matters which could have legal ramifications, he had been advised by the Council's Legal and Governance Service that he could not pass comment on these events. Councillor Wood apologised, and stated he had to respond to the advice given to him by the Council's Legal service.

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Tony Downing) confirmed that Councillor Wood was not able to respond to these questions and stated he would confirm the reasons behind this.

Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed stated that he had received an email from Ms Rafique which he had responded to. He asked for clarification around the legal advice given to Councillor Wood. Councillor Wood stated he would discuss this with Councillor Mohammed following this meeting. The Lord Mayor (Councillor Tony Downing) stated a written response would be provided to Ms Rafique at a later time.

3.3.4 Public Questions Concerning the Archiving of Tree Felling Information and Public Questions

Justin Buxton asked the following questions:-

1. 'Further to the 'Archive' that the Council has promised its citizens, of all information relating to the Street Tree felling scandal in Sheffield. Please could the Council categorically confirm and rigorously ensure that ALL information (data as specified by FOIA legislation) held by 'Amey' pursuant to Clause 90.2.1 of the Streetsahead contract is retained and will be archived - over and above any 'Data Retention Policy' agreed between the Council and Amey.'
2. 'Does the Council's action (policy) of reading out public questions submitted to February's Full Council meeting (03/02/2021) demonstrate and prove that it is unnecessary for the questioner to be present at council meetings for both their question(s) and any subsequent response(s) to be minuted?'

Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance and Deputy Leader of the Council) responded to question two. Councillor Fox thanked Mr Buxton for his question and explained the Public Questions process. He said that the public could submit a public question which would then be sent to the relevant Cabinet Member for a response. Councillor Fox

said he would ask for guidance on whether this would then be included in the minutes and provide this information to Mr Buxton.

3.3.5 Public Questions Concerning the Blackstock Road Recycling Facility

Janet Ridler asked the following question:-

'During the pandemic, capacity at the Gleadless Valley Recycling Centre has been greatly reduced whilst essential social distancing measures have been in place. However, demand for the recycling facility continues to grow and the resulting queues of traffic waiting to use the facility is now causing serious problems for local residents, with local buses having to be diverted and the real possibility of a serious road traffic accident happening on Blackstock Road. This is understandably causing great concern amongst local residents and frustration from people queueing to use the recycling centre but who are being moved on. I would be grateful if the Cabinet Member responsible for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change could please outline what is being done to resolve the problem of lack of capacity at the Blackstock Road Centre and to relieve the impact that this is having on local residents?'

Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change) thanked Ms Ridler for her question. He stated that he was aware that the pandemic had affected the usage of recycling centres, with Blackstock Road's Centre's usage increasing. Councillor Jones stated that the Blackstock Road Centre was a small site, used by a large number of people, and more needed to be done to control the traffic around that site. Councillor Jones explained that the road had a number of crossing points and was also on a bus route which caused issues when trying to manage traffic. Councillor Jones stated that the Council had encouraged users of the site to come back at a later time to reduce queuing on the road. He added that opening hours at this site would be extended, and that he would hope these extended hours would have a positive impact on traffic. Councillor Jones said the Council was in conversations with third-party groups to discuss the possibility of further recycling centres being opened in Sheffield and that there was an ongoing trial of pop-up sites. Councillor Jones stated the Council had encouraged people to dispose of their own rubbish where possible and to use sites other than the one at Blackstock Road. Councillor Jones added that should the Council feel that the road traffic conditions were unsustainable, advice would be taken from the police regarding closing these sites at certain times.

3.3.6 Public Questions Concerning 'Best Value', Freedom of Information Requests and a Labour Councillor

Russell Johnson asked the following questions:-

1. 'In the context of the Liverpool City Council scandal triggered in part by an investigation into failure to ensure 'Best Value', is SCC confident that the destruction of public assets with a CAVAT value of c. £30m during the Tree Felling Fiasco does not constitute a breach of the legal requirement for the Council to secure Best Value in its actions or those undertaken on its

behalf? Furthermore, is the Council aware that the charade (which was a politically driven, less than sincere sham consultation exercise, as clearly and undoubtedly evidenced by facts now available in the public) known as the 'Independent Tree Panel' costing £132K itself may well be deemed unlawful under Best Value obligations? An Elected Member's answer should in this case be supported by a named senior SCC legally qualified Officer: clearly the view of a layperson in a matter such as this would not carry any credibility. Should this be unavailable at the meeting please assure me that a proper written answer will be provided within a reasonable time period and that this will form part of the Meeting Public Record.'

2. 'Please would The Leader explain the Council's alarmingly dismal performance in complying with its legal obligations to provide the public with responses to Freedom of Information and Subject Access Requests in a timely manner? Long delays are being experienced even where the work required is minimal and even where the Information Commissioner has expressed concern. Cabinet Members should note that the reason for this systemic obstruction, where given, is not pandemic or staffing capacity related. Is Cllr Johnson aware that this pattern is building suspicion that the Council is seeking to hide incriminating information, and would he not prefer that further reputational damage to his organisation and Party is avoided by demonstrating transparency, honesty and conscientious adherence to the law?'
3. 'Please would Cllr Johnson on behalf of the Cabinet distance himself from the scurrilous tweets made by a back bench Labour Councillor, whom I understand I may not name in a public question, which sought to dishonestly suggest that the It's Our City community group is a front for a political party?'

Councillor Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change) stated he could not provide an answer to question one at this time; however, he said he would speak with the legal department and provide a written answer to Mr Johnson when possible.

Councillor Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance and Deputy Leader of the Council) responded to question two. He stated he would provide Mr Johnson with a full written response. Councillor Fox explained that he had been asked a similar question regarding Freedom of Information requests in Member's Questions, and that he would share this response with Mr Johnson.

In response to question three, Councillor Fox stated he was not on social media but that he or Councillor Bob Johnson (Leader of the Council) would send a full written response to Mr Johnson.

3.3.7 Public Questions Concerning Play Streets

Oli Johnson asked the following question:-

'Will the Council put a temporary play street policy into place to make it easier

for residents to apply for regular play streets and to show council level support for the idea?’

Councillor Julie Grocutt (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development) thanked Mr Johnson for his question. Councillor Grocutt stated that she was pleased to hear that Mr Johnson had had a good experience of the Play Street policy. She confirmed that the Council was supportive of Play Streets and said that on the Playing Out website, Sheffield City Council had been confirmed as an active area on the Local Authority map. Councillor Grocutt explained that there was a link on the Playing Out website to Sheffield City Council's Street Party Licence page. She added that this form should also be used for Play Street applications, and she stated she would instruct officers to clarify that this form is for both Street Party and Play Street applications.

- 3.3.8 (NOTE: Questions regarding the Council's decision making structures, which had been submitted by Mark Smith, but which were not asked at the meeting, would receive written responses from the relevant Cabinet Member).

4. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "DEMANDING AN END TO THE NATIONAL CLADDING SCANDAL"

- 4.1 RESOLVED: On the motion of Councillor Tony Damms 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 (a) taking item 9 (Notice of Motion Regarding “Demanding An End To The National Cladding Scandal”) as the next item of business and (b) moving item 6 (Notice of Motion Regarding “Thanking The City's Workers and Demanding Pay Justice For Them”) to be taken after item 8 on the agenda.
- 4.2 It was moved by Councillor Paul Wood, and seconded by Jim Steinke, that this Council:-
- (a) notes it is now over three and half years since the tragic Grenfell Tower fire and yet the Government have failed to get to grips with the scandal of dangerous cladding;
 - (b) notes that lack of proper action from government over covering the costs has affected Sheffield residents with many having bought their property in good faith, only to face both the immediate cost of having to fund ‘waking watches’, as well as not knowing whether they will one day be confronted by a financially crippling bill from their building owner for remedial works;
 - (c) believes it would be distressing to see anyone held to ransom in this way at any time, but it is even more concerning given the current economic uncertainty and pandemic, and that whilst all of this hangs over them, owners in these tower blocks have little chance of selling their flats, and it is not hard to imagine the impact this must be having on the mental

wellbeing of the individuals affected;

- (d) believes it is time for firm action from the Government rather than continued broken promises, to avoid a repeat of the Grenfell Tower tragedy;
- (e) believes that government are not providing the support needed to deal with all the safety problems faced in high-rise homes, including those that relate to non-ACM cladding – such as Sheffield buildings like Metis and Wicker Riverside - and that, furthermore, there is no real help for buildings with other safety issues or buildings under 18 metres in height;
- (f) believes that this is inexcusable, and that the Government must come forward with proposals for comprehensive remediation for safety issues and all buildings, at no cost to leaseholders;
- (g) notes that locally this Administration is fully supporting Sheffield City Council tenants in high-rises and, having checked out all blocks, no further cladding is to be removed, and that all blocks are regularly checked for fire safety protection;
- (h) further notes that, as part of the Housing Revenue Account, the Council will invest £500 million into council housing stock over the next five years, including investment in further health and safety measures such as fire safety improvements;
- (i) notes, however, that far more needs to be done for those in private blocks and notes that the Leader of the Council has confirmed the Council's support for the campaign to 'End Our Cladding Scandal' which demands that Government leads a national effort to ensure safety in all tower blocks, with the prioritisation of those blocks most at risk;
- (j) confirms its backing for Sheffield Cladding Action Group and their calls on the Government to take these 10 steps to end the National Cladding Scandal:-
 - (i) the Government must lead an urgent national effort to remove all dangerous cladding from buildings by June 2022;
 - (ii) the Building Safety Fund must cover all buildings, regardless of height, and a range of internal and external fire safety defects, not just cladding;
 - (iii) the Government should provide the money up front and then seek to recover it from any responsible parties or via a temporary levy on development;
 - (iv) social housing providers must have full and equal access to the fund;

- (v) the Government must compel building owners or managers to be honest with residents about fire safety defects;
 - (vi) the Government should cover the cost of interim safety measures;
 - (vii) the Government should act as an insurer of last resort and underwrite insurance where premiums have soared;
 - (viii) a fairer, faster process is needed to replace the EWS form and funding is necessary to ensure all buildings requiring a form are surveyed within 12 months;
 - (ix) mental health support must be offered to affected residents; and
 - (x) protecting residents from historic and future costs must be a key commitment of new building safety legislation; and
- (k) commits to putting this motion and the 10 demands directly to Government.

4.3 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Martin Phipps, seconded by Councillor Kaltum Rivers, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of new paragraphs (e) and (f) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraphs (e) to (j) as new paragraphs (g) to (l);
 - (e) deeply regrets that, because of the cladding crisis, residents in the Wicker Riverside were evacuated during a pandemic, and just before Christmas, and that residents subsequently lived with the fear that they may be asked to evacuate their homes for months;
 - (f) welcomes the installation of the alarm to relieve the waking watch in Wicker Riverside, but believes that, even with the Wicker Riverside having received “emergency” funding for the alarm to be fitted from the Waking Watch Relief Fund, first announced in December, it took far too long to install, with tens of thousands of pounds for the cost of waking watches falling on residents and a real impact to their mental health and sense of security;
2. the addition of new paragraphs (m) to (r) as follows:-
 - (m) requests officers investigate how the Council can implement:-
 - (i) requiring freeholders of private or housing association residential blocks taller than eighteen metres in Sheffield to make publicly available periodic fire risk and safety assessments, with a recommendation that this duty does not lead to a disproportionate cost for leaseholders or tenants; and

- (ii) querying developers submitting new planning applications of their suitability to build again in Sheffield, if any previous construction project of theirs is subject to unresolved cladding or other major fire safety issues like compartmentation;
- (n) notes the results of the mental health study by Dr Martin of the UK Cladding Action Group of those affected by the cladding crisis where 9 in 10 people said their mental health had deteriorated as a direct result of the cladding situation;
- (o) resolves to consider how the Council could enable access to additional mental health support for those affected by the fire safety crisis, consulting with mental health services (both VCSEs, SCC and NHS) and cladding groups for how this could be best provided;
- (p) requests that officers report regularly to the relevant committee on the work to remove combustible cladding from residential properties, and address other serious fire safety issues like compartmentation, in Sheffield;
- (q) resolves to learn the lessons of the perceived lack of communication and transparency with Hanover Tower residents that is believed to have led to tenants' losing trust;
- (r) resolves to send this motion to all Sheffield MPs and ask that they support amendments to the Fire Safety Bill that seek to prevent the costs of fire safety issues falling on leaseholders, and ask them to ask others in their parties to do the same;
- 3. the re-lettering of original paragraph (k) as a new paragraph (s) and the addition of a new paragraph (t) as follows:-
 - (t) resolves to write to ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to support the End Our Cladding Scandal campaign and publish a database of every affected building, including type, height and cladding material used.
- 4.4 After contributions from nine other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Paul Wood, the amendment moved by Councillor Martin Phipps was put to the vote and was carried, with the exception of paragraph (q) in part 2 of the amendment which was negated.
- 4.4.1 (NOTE: The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Gail Smith) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, 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 part 1, paragraphs (m), (n), (o), (q) and (r) of part 2 and part 3 of the amendment, and voted against paragraph (p) in part 2 of the amendment, and

asked for this to be recorded.)

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes it is now over three and a half years since the tragic Grenfell Tower fire and yet the Government have failed to get to grips with the scandal of dangerous cladding;
- (b) notes that lack of proper action from government over covering the costs has affected Sheffield residents with many having bought their property in good faith, only to face both the immediate cost of having to fund 'waking watches', as well as not knowing whether they will one day be confronted by a financially crippling bill from their building owner for remedial works;
- (c) believes it would be distressing to see anyone held to ransom in this way at any time, but it is even more concerning given the current economic uncertainty and pandemic, and that whilst all of this hangs over them, owners in these tower blocks have little chance of selling their flats, and it is not hard to imagine the impact this must be having on the mental wellbeing of the individuals affected;
- (d) believes it is time for firm action from the Government rather than continued broken promises, to avoid a repeat of the Grenfell Tower tragedy;
- (e) deeply regrets that, because of the cladding crisis, residents in the Wicker Riverside were evacuated during a pandemic, and just before Christmas, and that residents subsequently lived with the fear that they may be asked to evacuate their homes for months;
- (f) welcomes the installation of the alarm to relieve the waking watch in Wicker Riverside, but believes that, even with the Wicker Riverside having received "emergency" funding for the alarm to be fitted from the Waking Watch Relief Fund, first announced in December, it took far too long to install, with tens of thousands of pounds for the cost of waking watches falling on residents and a real impact to their mental health and sense of security;
- (g) believes that government are not providing the support needed to deal with all the safety problems faced in high-rise homes, including those that relate to non-ACM cladding – such as Sheffield buildings like Metis and Wicker Riverside - and that, furthermore, there is no real help for buildings with other safety issues or buildings under 18 metres in height;
- (h) believes that this is inexcusable, and that the Government must come forward with proposals for comprehensive remediation for safety issues

and all buildings, at no cost to leaseholders;

- (i) notes that locally this Administration is fully supporting Sheffield City Council tenants in high-rises and, having checked out all blocks, no further cladding is to be removed, and that all blocks are regularly checked for fire safety protection;
- (j) further notes that, as part of the Housing Revenue Account, the Council will invest £500 million into council housing stock over the next five years, including investment in further health and safety measures such as fire safety improvements;
- (k) notes, however, that far more needs to be done for those in private blocks and notes that the Leader of the Council has confirmed the Council's support for the campaign to 'End Our Cladding Scandal' which demands that Government leads a national effort to ensure safety in all tower blocks, with the prioritisation of those blocks most at risk;
- (l) confirms its backing for Sheffield Cladding Action Group and their calls on the Government to take these 10 steps to end the National Cladding Scandal:-
 - (i) the Government must lead an urgent national effort to remove all dangerous cladding from buildings by June 2022;
 - (ii) the Building Safety Fund must cover all buildings, regardless of height, and a range of internal and external fire safety defects, not just cladding;
 - (iii) the Government should provide the money up front and then seek to recover it from any responsible parties or via a temporary levy on development;
 - (iv) social housing providers must have full and equal access to the fund;
 - (v) the Government must compel building owners or managers to be honest with residents about fire safety defects;
 - (vi) the Government should cover the cost of interim safety measures;
 - (vii) the Government should act as an insurer of last resort and underwrite insurance where premiums have soared;
 - (viii) a fairer, faster process is needed to replace the EWS form and funding is necessary to ensure all buildings requiring a form are surveyed within 12 months;
 - (ix) mental health support must be offered to affected residents; and

- (x) protecting residents from historic and future costs must be a key commitment of new building safety legislation;
- (m) requests officers investigate how the Council can implement:-
 - (i) requiring freeholders of private or housing association residential blocks taller than eighteen metres in Sheffield to make publicly available periodic fire risk and safety assessments, with a recommendation that this duty does not lead to a disproportionate cost for leaseholders or tenants; and
 - (ii) querying developers submitting new planning applications of their suitability to build again in Sheffield, if any previous construction project of theirs is subject to unresolved cladding or other major fire safety issues like compartmentation;
- (n) notes the results of the mental health study by Dr Martin of the UK Cladding Action Group of those affected by the cladding crisis where 9 in 10 people said their mental health had deteriorated as a direct result of the cladding situation;
- (o) resolves to consider how the Council could enable access to additional mental health support for those affected by the fire safety crisis, consulting with mental health services (both VCSEs, SCC and NHS) and cladding groups for how this could be best provided;
- (p) requests that officers report regularly to the relevant committee on the work to remove combustible cladding from residential properties, and address other serious fire safety issues like compartmentation, in Sheffield;
- (q) resolves to send this motion to all Sheffield MPs and ask that they support amendments to the Fire Safety Bill that seek to prevent the costs of fire safety issues falling on leaseholders, and ask them to ask others in their parties to do the same;
- (r) commits to putting this motion and the 10 demands directly to Government; and
- (s) resolves to write to ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to support the End Our Cladding Scandal campaign and publish a database of every affected building, including type, height and cladding material used.

5. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

5.1 Urgent Business

There were no questions relating to urgent business under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6(ii).

5.2 Written Questions

A schedule of questions to Cabinet Members, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16, and which contained written answers, was circulated. Supplementary questions, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.4, were asked and were answered by the appropriate Cabinet Members until the expiry of the time limit for Members' Questions (in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.7).

5.3 South Yorkshire Joint Authorities

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 expiry of the time limit for Members' Questions

6. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "BUS SERVICES"

6.1 It was moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, and seconded by Colin Ross, that this Council:-

- (a) notes the publication by the Department for Transport of "Bus Back Better - National Bus Strategy for England";
- (b) believes that the City Region Mayor must exercise powers to bring bus services back under local control (franchising), at the earliest practicable date, and central government must continue to provide significant funding to revitalise local transport;
- (c) fears that once again the City Region Mayor has "missed the bus" regarding improving bus services in Sheffield and South Yorkshire, as we must, as an alternative, commit by 1st July 2021 to implementation of "Enhanced Partnership" arrangements;
- (d) supports Clive Betts MP's call for the roll-out of Bus Franchising to be speeded up and fully endorses the consistent commitment, over very many years, of the major opposition party to introduce bus franchising in Sheffield;
- (e) believes that excellent public transport and people friendly neighbourhoods are key to reducing pollution, congestion, improving health, and contributing to zero carbon, and notes proposals, made within successive budget amendments proposed by the major opposition party, to devolve funding and powers to Community Assemblies which would have enabled them to introduce local highway schemes, which invariably

aim to make neighbourhoods more accessible by walking and cycling to local services, and discourage very short trips by private car; and

- (f) regrets “eight wasted years” by the Administration, in bringing forward proposals for Local Area Committees, which this Council believes should be called Community Assemblies.

6.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Julie Grocutt, seconded by Councillor Ben Miskell, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words “That this Council”, and the addition of the following words:-

- (a) notes that the city’s bus services have been devastated by central government funding cuts since the formation of the coalition government in 2010, with funding to South Yorkshire’s bus service slashed by 48% - leading to routes reduced and fares going up;
- (b) notes the regional imbalances for bus funding whereby buses in London get the funding equivalent of £76 per head, and yet in Sheffield it is only £5, and believes this is simply unacceptable;
- (c) believes that everything possible must be done to bring greater investment into the city’s bus service and that Sheffield is best served by taking matters into its own hands, and notes the repeated calls from this Administration for re-regulation of the bus services – including franchising – to be considered;
- (d) notes that as a result of the Sheffield Devolution Deal, the Mayor of Sheffield City Region, Dan Jarvis, and the leaders of the Combined Authority have been able to bring forward much needed investment into the city’s bus service and recently announced increased support for young people with the extension of concessionary travel fares for under 21s;
- (e) notes that South Yorkshire local leaders, including Sheffield, and the Region’s Mayor, are investing £3.2 million to improve the region’s network, as part of the Mayoral Combined Authority’s recovery plan for the region, which will replace up to a third of community transport buses with electric vehicles, upgrade 300 bus shelters, and install electronic displays to 250 bus stops, and notes that the funding for this is a direct result of the Sheffield Devolution Deal;
- (f) notes that in the longer term this Administration is collaboratively working across the region to deliver cheaper fares, improved services and better integration with other transport, as well as widespread conversion to zero-emissions vehicles;
- (g) notes the recent comments from South Yorkshire Leaders and the Region’s Mayor that ultimately, we need a structure that lets us build the service right for the city’s passengers, including the possibility of

franchising;

- (h) commits to building a stronger, greener and fairer economy – and that a sustainable, accessible, affordable and reliable bus network must play a central role in delivering this;
- (i) notes that this Administration is working collaboratively to urgently work on how to implement lessons from the comprehensive review of bus services in South Yorkshire, conducted by Clive Betts MP - looking at fares, services, integration with other transport, and conversion to zero-emissions vehicles;
- (j) believes that Greater Manchester's commitment to franchising is a major shot in the arm for reform, and that the city needs a structure that builds the service we need; and
- (k) believes that as we gradually transition and exit lockdown, we need to be actively encouraging people back onto the buses, and that the Government must recognise the need for increased support - for our Supertram and rail networks - as well as our buses.

6.3 It was then moved by Councillor Richard Shaw, seconded by Councillor Barbara Masters, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (g) and (h) as follows:-

- (g) applauds the decision of the Mayor of Greater Manchester to proceed with arrangements for Bus Franchising; and
- (h) believes that following the pandemic there is a real opportunity to revolutionise public transport and that the Council and the Sheffield City Region Mayor need to act now to futureproof Sheffield's public transport system.

6.4 After contributions from five other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Ian Auckland, the amendment moved by Councillor Julie Grocutt was put to the vote and was carried.

6.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Richard Shaw was then put to the vote and was negatived.

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes that the city's bus services have been devastated by central government funding cuts since the formation of the coalition government in 2010, with funding to South Yorkshire's bus service slashed by 48% - leading to routes reduced and fares going up;

- (b) notes the regional imbalances for bus funding whereby buses in London get the funding equivalent of £76 per head, and yet in Sheffield it is only £5, and believes this is simply unacceptable;
- (c) believes that everything possible must be done to bring greater investment into the city's bus service and that Sheffield is best served by taking matters into its own hands, and notes the repeated calls from this Administration for re-regulation of the bus services – including franchising – to be considered;
- (d) notes that as a result of the Sheffield Devolution Deal, the Mayor of Sheffield City Region, Dan Jarvis, and the leaders of the Combined Authority have been able to bring forward much needed investment into the city's bus service and recently announced increased support for young people with the extension of concessionary travel fares for under 21s;
- (e) notes that South Yorkshire local leaders, including Sheffield, and the Region's Mayor, are investing £3.2 million to improve the region's network, as part of the Mayoral Combined Authority's recovery plan for the region, which will replace up to a third of community transport buses with electric vehicles, upgrade 300 bus shelters, and install electronic displays to 250 bus stops, and notes that the funding for this is a direct result of the Sheffield Devolution Deal;
- (f) notes that in the longer term this Administration is collaboratively working across the region to deliver cheaper fares, improved services and better integration with other transport, as well as widespread conversion to zero-emissions vehicles;
- (g) notes the recent comments from South Yorkshire Leaders and the Region's Mayor that ultimately, we need a structure that lets us build the service right for the city's passengers, including the possibility of franchising;
- (h) commits to building a stronger, greener and fairer economy – and that a sustainable, accessible, affordable and reliable bus network must play a central role in delivering this;
- (i) notes that this Administration is working collaboratively to urgently work on how to implement lessons from the comprehensive review of bus services in South Yorkshire, conducted by Clive Betts MP - looking at fares, services, integration with other transport, and conversion to zero-emissions vehicles;
- (j) believes that Greater Manchester's commitment to franchising is a major shot in the arm for reform, and that the city needs a structure that builds the service we need; and

- | |
|--|
| (k) believes that as we gradually transition and exit lockdown, we need to be actively encouraging people back onto the buses, and that the Government must recognise the need for increased support - for our Supertram and rail networks - as well as our buses. |
|--|

6.6.1 (NOTE: The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Gail Smith) and Councillors Simon Clement-Jones, 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 paragraphs (b) to (k) and voted against paragraph (a) of the Substantive Motion, and asked for this to be recorded.)

7. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL DECLARES A BIODIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY"

7.1 At this point in the proceedings the time for terminating the meeting (5.30 p.m.) had been reached, meaning that all unfinished business would be voted on without debate. Prior to the commencement of this item of business, it was moved by Councillor Martin Phipps, and seconded by Councillor Paul Turpin, that the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 5.5 be suspended and the termination of the meeting be extended to provide time for the mover and seconder of the Notice of Motion to make their speeches. On being put to the vote, the motion was negatived.

7.2 It was formally moved by Councillor Peter Garbutt, and formally seconded by Councillor Angela Argenzio, that this Council:-

- (a) notes with alarm that:-
 - (i) according to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES), species extinction is running at between 10 and 100 times faster than historical averages;
 - (ii) the State of Nature 2019 UK report, published by a consortium of 70 nature organisations, finds that as little as 5% of land in the UK is being effectively looked after for nature, that 41% of species are in decline and 10% are threatened with extinction;
 - (iii) the UK only has half its biodiversity remaining, and is in the bottom 10% of countries on this measure; and
 - (iv) the RSPB reports that there are 40 million fewer birds in the UK than in 1970;
- (b) further notes that the biggest drivers of biodiversity decline nationally are

climate change, habitat loss and intensive farming, and believes that, locally, mismanagement of moorland to the west of the city can be added;

- (c) believes that the health and well-being of the people of Sheffield depends crucially on maintaining a thriving and biodiverse natural environment;
- (d) therefore, declares a Biodiversity and Ecological emergency;
- (e) directs officers, in consultation with organisations such as Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Wildscapes CIC and ShefFood Partnership, to draw up plans to reverse declines in species and habitats in Sheffield, reporting back in July 2021, paying particular attention to the opportunities for:-
 - (i) natural solutions rather than technical and engineering fixes and especially when considering flood management;
 - (ii) change of use of grassed areas throughout the city to become areas of planting of native wildflowers, shrubs and trees, as well as being used to grow food, to bolster habitats for invertebrates and birds;
 - (iii) the inclusion in the emerging Sheffield Plan of the vital importance of habitat integrity and wildlife corridors;
 - (iv) the embedding in the Sheffield Plan of the use of green spaces for urban horticulture; and
 - (v) training and apprenticeship opportunities in horticulture and ecological management;
- (f) resolves in the meantime to immediately stop using any practices and materials detrimental to wildlife, including glyphosate; and
- (g) commits to negotiating with private landowners to initiate restoration of peat land and utilising natural flood management techniques to greatly reduce Sheffield residents and businesses exposure to flooding.

7.3 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Mark Jones, and formally seconded by Councillor Mary Lea, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the deletion of paragraphs (d) to (f) and the addition of new paragraphs (d) to (h) as follows:-
 - (d) commits to reviewing the findings of Sheffield Wildlife Trust's map of biodiversity corridors and to continue to review habitat management techniques, including the use of alternative approaches to pesticides;
 - (e) commits to addressing this crucial issue but rejects a top-down

prescriptive approach, as this issue is simply too important to rush through ill-thought-out and that, rather than as being solely prescribed by political parties, there is a need for a truly a collaborative approach – with real action - to ensure that everything possible is being done to protect the city's biodiversity, ecology and wildlife;

- (f) believes that it should not be for the Council alone to decide the terms of what an ecological and biodiversity emergency looks like, and how this should be dealt with and instead a collaborative approach needs to be developed which listens to wider views including key anchors and partners, including Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Sheffield Climate Alliance, Wildscapes CIC and ShefFood Partnership and that, crucially, Sheffield citizens must be part of this conversation;
 - (g) commits, therefore, to the development of a Sheffield Citizens Pledge, co-produced throughout the city, and that work on this should start from May, with wide consultation when safe to do so;
 - (h) believes that we must work on a shared strategy to protecting Sheffield's ecology, including those who have previously petitioned on this issue, to deliver something really meaningful, that the whole city can get behind;
- 2. the re-lettering of original paragraph (g) as a new paragraph (i); and
 - 3. the addition of a new paragraph (j) as follows:-
- (j) commits to working with landowners to adopt methods that encourage stabilisations and expansion of a biodiverse environment.

7.4 It was then formally moved by Councillor Tim Huggan, and formally seconded by Councillor Alan Hooper, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the addition of new sub-paragraphs (e)(vi) to (xii) as follows:-
 - (vi) drawing up a 'Biodiversity Plan' with local wildlife and environmental organisations to assign all appropriate land to categories such as: habitat restoration, rewilding, rewetting, community horticulture, tree planting, urban wildflowers, ponds and wildflower meadows and other designations with a key aim to connect fragmented habitats;
 - (vii) monitoring and revision of the Biodiversity Plan with measurable targets for biodiversity gain with reporting back every three years;
 - (viii) supporting community composting and community orchards by providing land and appropriate resources whenever possible;
 - (ix) using the upcoming Local Plan consultation to embed Biodiversity Net Gain as a requirement into planning policy, by embedding the

‘Biodiversity Plan’ into the local plan - ensuring that biodiversity investments are planned and strategic;

- (x) supporting education to make Sheffield gardens ‘wildlife friendly’, such as hedgehog tunnels in solid fence boundaries and cutting lawns later in the year so wildflowers can set seed;
- (xi) encouraging planting green roofs and fences in urban areas to support invertebrates and pollinators and to reduce air pollution; and
- (xii) introducing a programme to install bird and/or bat boxes on Council- owned properties;

2. the addition of new paragraphs (h) to (j) as follows:-

- (h) believes that rewilding is often best practice for supporting wildlife recovery;
- (i) believes that all residents should have local access to high value natural environments and that this is an important consideration for reducing inequalities in the city; and
- (j) requests that local Household Waste Recycling Centres be kept open and accessible for as long as possible to help reduce the prevalence of fly-tipping and plastic pollution in sensitive habitats.

7.5 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 addition of new paragraphs (h) to (l) as follows:-

- (h) notes that the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill currently passing through Parliament gives greater powers to take strong, urgent action on both emergencies than the current Climate Change Act;
- (i) further notes that more than one hundred MPs have already pledged to support the Bill;
- (j) supports, therefore, the passing of the Bill;
- (k) requests officers to write to all Sheffield’s MPs urging them to pledge to support the Bill; and
- (l) requests officers to write to the Environment Minister, the Rt. Hon. George Eustice MP, the President of the COP26 Climate Conference, the Rt. Hon. Alok Sharma MP, and the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP, informing them of this Council’s support for the Bill and urging them to support it through Parliament.

7.6 The amendment moved by Councillor Mark Jones was put to the vote and was

carried.

- 7.6.1 (NOTE: Councillors Angela Argenzio, Kaltum Rivers, Douglas Johnson, Ruth Mersereau, Martin Phipps, Paul Turpin, Peter Garbutt and Alison Teal voted for part 3 and against parts 1 and 2 of the amendment, and asked for this to be recorded,)
- 7.7 The amendment moved by Councillor Tim Huggan was then put to the vote and was negated, except for paragraphs (x) to (xii) in part 1 and all of part 2 of the amendment, which were carried.
- 7.8 The amendment moved by Councillor Alison Teal was then put to the vote and was carried.
- 7.9 The original Motion, as amended, was then put as a Substantive Motion in the following form and carried:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

- (a) notes with alarm that:-
- (i) according to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES), species extinction is running at between 10 and 100 times faster than historical averages;
 - (ii) the State of Nature 2019 UK report, published by a consortium of 70 nature organisations, finds that as little as 5% of land in the UK is being effectively looked after for nature, that 41% of species are in decline and 10% are threatened with extinction;
 - (iii) the UK only has half its biodiversity remaining, and is in the bottom 10% of countries on this measure; and
 - (iv) the RSPB reports that there are 40 million fewer birds in the UK than in 1970;
- (b) further notes that the biggest drivers of biodiversity decline nationally are climate change, habitat loss and intensive farming, and believes that, locally, mismanagement of moorland to the west of the city can be added;
- (c) believes that the health and well-being of the people of Sheffield depends crucially on maintaining a thriving and biodiverse natural environment;
- (d) commits to reviewing the findings of Sheffield Wildlife Trust's map of biodiversity corridors and to continue to review habitat management techniques, including the use of alternative approaches to pesticides;
- (e) commits to addressing this crucial issue but rejects a top-down prescriptive approach, as this issue is simply too important to rush

through ill-thought-out and that, rather than as being solely prescribed by political parties, there is a need for a truly a collaborative approach – with real action - to ensure that everything possible is being done to protect the city's biodiversity, ecology and wildlife;

- (f) believes that it should not be for the Council alone to decide the terms of what an ecological and biodiversity emergency looks like, and how this should be dealt with and instead a collaborative approach needs to be developed which listens to wider views including key anchors and partners, including Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Sheffield Climate Alliance, Wildscapes CIC and ShefFood Partnership and that, crucially, Sheffield citizens must be part of this conversation;
- (g) commits, therefore, to the development of a Sheffield Citizens Pledge, co-produced throughout the city, and that work on this should start from May, with wide consultation when safe to do so;
- (h) believes that we must work on a shared strategy to protecting Sheffield's ecology, including those who have previously petitioned on this issue, to deliver something really meaningful, that the whole city can get behind;
- (i) commits to negotiating with private landowners to initiate restoration of peat land and utilising natural flood management techniques to greatly reduce Sheffield residents and businesses exposure to flooding.
- (j) commits to working with landowners to adopt methods that encourage stabilisations and expansion of a biodiverse environment;
- (k) directs officers, in consultation with organisations such as Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Wildscapes CIC and ShefFood Partnership, to draw up plans to reverse declines in species and habitats in Sheffield, reporting back in July 2021, paying particular attention to the opportunities for:-
 - (i) supporting education to make Sheffield gardens 'wildlife friendly', such as hedgehog tunnels in solid fence boundaries and cutting lawns later in the year so wildflowers can set seed;
 - (ii) encouraging planting green roofs and fences in urban areas to support invertebrates and pollinators and to reduce air pollution; and;
 - (iii) introducing a programme to install bird and/or bat boxes on Council- owned properties;
- (l) believes that rewilding is often best practice for supporting wildlife recovery;
- (m) believes that all residents should have local access to high value natural environments and that this is an important consideration for reducing

inequalities in the city;

- (n) requests that local Household Waste Recycling Centres be kept open and accessible for as long as possible to help reduce the prevalence of fly-tipping and plastic pollution in sensitive habitats;
- (o) notes that the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill currently passing through Parliament gives greater powers to take strong, urgent action on both emergencies than the current Climate Change Act;
- (p) further notes that more than one hundred MPs have already pledged to support the Bill;
- (q) supports, therefore, the passing of the Bill;
- (r) requests officers to write to all Sheffield's MPs urging them to pledge to support the Bill; and
- (s) requests officers to write to the Environment Minister, the Rt. Hon. George Eustice MP, the President of the COP26 Climate Conference, the Rt. Hon. Alok Sharma MP, and the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP, informing them of this Council's support for the Bill and urging them to support it through Parliament.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "THANKING THE CITY'S WORKERS AND DEMANDING PAY JUSTICE FOR THEM"

8.1 It was formally moved by Councillor George Lindars-Hammond, and formally seconded by Councillor Josie Paszek, that this Council:-

- (a) believes that keyworkers have kept the city's essential services going, working alongside communities, mutual aid groups, voluntary services, faith groups, businesses and schools to provide support to those in need;
- (b) believes that thanks and gratitude should be given to all keyworkers, not just those at the NHS, but also the city's teachers, police, bus drivers, postal workers, and shop workers – plus many more;
- (c) believes it is inexcusable that the Government have frozen public sector pay for at least a year, and that whilst they clapped for key workers on the steps of Downing Street the Government are now turning their backs on them at the first opportunity;
- (d) notes that public sector workers have already seen their pay decrease in real terms over the last decade – due to pay freezes first enacted by the coalition government from 2010;
- (e) believes that, like all the city's key workers, care workers have given so

much during the pandemic and we should all be grateful for their dedicated work;

- (f) notes that the city's carers often work in difficult working conditions with inadequate pay, and believes that care workers deserve a pay rise and, therefore, welcomes that from April this Administration is investing £4.2 million into the care sector to enable Sheffield's care workers to receive a pay rise;
- (g) notes that this investment is the first step in this Administration's ambition to achieve pay, conditions and a career path in line with NHS Healthcare Assistants, and the Council will work with the city's care providers to deliver this;
- (h) believes that all our workers are public service super-heroes - they keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running, and that without the professionalism and dedication of staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable;
- (i) believes that local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase, and the Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase and should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone, and who have not been offered adequate support through the Covid-19 pandemic;
- (j) notes that since 2010 there is a £475 million shortfall for council services due to central government funding cuts and increased service pressures – this is a huge 50% of the budget – and this is not even considering the current pandemic of which the full impact on council finances is not yet known;
- (k) resolves to support the pay claim submitted by GMB, Unison and Unite on behalf of council and school workers, for a substantial increase with a minimum of 10 per cent uplift in April 2021, and calls on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim;
- (l) commits to writing to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government;
- (m) commits to meeting with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the Council can support the campaign; and
- (n) encourages all local government workers to join a union.

8.2 Whereupon, it was formally moved by Councillor Mike Levery, and formally seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, as an amendment, that the Motion now

submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraphs (g) to (n) and the addition of new paragraphs (g) to (q) as follows:-

- (g) resolves to re-consider providing funding for the vocational development and training of frontline staff who provide direct care to those with physical and mental health needs or disability, which would additionally help improve the quality of care and the retention of staff;
- (h) believes that this Administration's ambition to achieve a pay, conditions, and a career path in line with other sectors should apply to all Council employees;
- (i) notes that the Transfer of Undertakings for the Protection of Employment (TUPE) was designed to protect employees' terms and conditions when outsourcing to a service provider, and also applies when insourcing back to the original parent company; however, should the outsourced employees adopt the outsourced company's terms and conditions, there is invariably a mismatch when returning to the parent company;
- (j) supports the trade union view that equal pay for comparable jobs is a standard requirement in the public sector, particularly within an organisation like Sheffield City Council;
- (k) believes that the Repairs and Maintenance Service is performing poorly despite the Kier contract having been insourced over four years ago and the workforce still operating on the Kier terms and conditions which are designed for the world of contracting, not an in-house service provider;
- (l) believes other insourced services' employees have not been given the option to take harmonised terms and conditions since being insourced;
- (m) believes the former Sheffield Futures staff were unable to be offered pay increases for many years leading up to being insourced, due to the financial constraints within the contract, and that this has led to significant differentials in pay with comparable staff, and no plan to redress this issue;
- (n) believes that the Administration needs to get its own house in order before demanding a proper real terms pay increase from central government;
- (o) resolves to support the trade union view on pay harmonisation for insourced activities, and introduce a policy objective to achieve this within the foreseeable future;
- (p) believes that improved decision making on insourcing activities needs to be made, including proper best value assessment and a full understanding of average pay of the outsourced activity so a robust financial case can be made for offering harmonisation of terms and conditions to the incoming employees in line with TUPE law; and

- (q) believes that our workforce, whether directly employed or on a contract basis, are a valued asset and decisions that affect their future should ensure that they are not demotivated by decisions that are driven by political expediency.

8.3 It was then formally moved by Councillor Martin Phipps, and formally seconded by Councillor Paul Turpin, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of new paragraphs (l) to (n) as follows, and the re-lettering of original paragraphs (l) to (n) as new paragraphs (o) to (q):-

- (l) resolves to support the demands of the grassroots NHS Workers Say No to Public Sector Pay Inequality and Nurses United campaigns, including a restorative 15% pay rise for health and care workers on Agenda for Change contracts and for outsourced services in the NHS to be brought back in-house;
- (m) resolves to support the ongoing Moving Forwards on NHS Pay campaign, led by 14 trade unions representing more than 1.3 million members, to secure a fair pay rise for health and care workers;
- (n) requests the Chief Executive to write to the NHS Pay Review Body and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care with a copy of this motion requesting the above demands are met;

8.4 The amendment moved by Councillor Mike Levery was put to the vote and was negated.

8.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Martin Phipps was then put to the vote and was carried.

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) believes that keyworkers have kept the city's essential services going, working alongside communities, mutual aid groups, voluntary services, faith groups, businesses and schools to provide support to those in need;
- (b) believes that thanks and gratitude should be given to all keyworkers, not just those at the NHS, but also the city's teachers, police, bus drivers, postal workers, and shop workers – plus many more;
- (c) believes it is inexcusable that the Government have frozen public sector pay for at least a year, and that whilst they clapped for key workers on the steps of Downing Street the Government are now turning their backs on them at the first opportunity;

- (d) notes that public sector workers have already seen their pay decrease in real terms over the last decade – due to pay freezes first enacted by the coalition government from 2010;
- (e) believes that, like all the city's key workers, care workers have given so much during the pandemic and we should all be grateful for their dedicated work;
- (f) notes that the city's carers often work in difficult working conditions with inadequate pay, and believes that care workers deserve a pay rise and, therefore, welcomes that from April this Administration is investing £4.2 million into the care sector to enable Sheffield's care workers to receive a pay rise;
- (g) notes that this investment is the first step in this Administration's ambition to achieve pay, conditions and a career path in line with NHS Healthcare Assistants, and the Council will work with the city's care providers to deliver this;
- (h) believes that all our workers are public service super-heroes - they keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running, and that without the professionalism and dedication of staff, the council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable;
- (i) believes that local government workers deserve a proper real-terms pay increase, and the Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase and should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone, and who have not been offered adequate support through the Covid-19 pandemic;
- (j) notes that since 2010 there is a £475 million shortfall for council services due to central government funding cuts and increased service pressures – this is a huge 50% of the budget – and this is not even considering the current pandemic of which the full impact on council finances is not yet known;
- (k) resolves to support the pay claim submitted by GMB, Unison and Unite on behalf of council and school workers, for a substantial increase with a minimum of 10 per cent uplift in April 2021, and calls on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim;
- (l) resolves to support the demands of the grassroots NHS Workers Say No to Public Sector Pay Inequality and Nurses United campaigns, including a restorative 15% pay rise for health and care workers on Agenda for Change contracts and for outsourced services in the NHS to be brought back in-house;
- (m) resolves to support the ongoing Moving Forwards on NHS Pay campaign,

- led by 14 trade unions representing more than 1.3 million members, to secure a fair pay rise for health and care workers;
- (n) requests the Chief Executive to write to the NHS Pay Review Body and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care with a copy of this motion requesting the above demands are met;
 - (o) commits to writing to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government;
 - (p) commits to meeting with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the Council can support the campaign; and
 - (q) encourages all local government workers to join a union.

9. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS

- 9.1 RESOLVED: On the motion of Councillor Dianne Hurst, seconded by Councillor Tony Damms, that the minutes of the meeting of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 3rd February 2021 and the special meeting of the Council held on 3rd March 2021, be approved as a true and accurate records.

10. REPRESENTATION, DELEGATED AUTHORITY AND RELATED ISSUES

- 10.1 RESOLVED: On the motion of Councillor Dianne Hurst, seconded by Councillor Tony Damms, that:-
- (a) Councillor Abtisam Mohamed be appointed to serve on the Joint Commissioning Committee in place of Councillor Mark Jones; and
 - (b) Councillors Tony Damms and Josie Paszek be appointed to serve on the new Sheffield Museums Trust, in accordance with the decision taken by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 17th February, regarding the merger of Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust and Museums Sheffield into one unified Trust from April 2021.