

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 2 October 2024, at 2.00 pm, pursuant to notice duly given and Summonses duly served.

**PRESENT**

THE LORD MAYOR (Councillor Jayne Dunn)  
THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR (Councillor Safiya Saeed)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1 <i>Beauchief &amp; Greenhill Ward</i><br>Simon Clement-Jones<br>Sophie Thornton                | 10 <i>East Ecclesfield Ward</i><br>Robert Reiss<br>Alan Woodcock                          | 19 <i>Nether Edge &amp; Sharrow Ward</i><br>Nighat Basharat<br>Ibby Ullah                      |
| 2 <i>Beighton Ward</i><br>Kurtis Crossland<br>Ann Woolhouse                                      | 11 <i>Ecclesall Ward</i><br>Peter Gilbert   | 20 <i>Park &amp; Arbourthorne</i><br>Mia Drazaic<br>Ben Miskell<br>Nabeela Mowlana             |
| 3 <i>Birley Ward</i><br>Matthew Dwyer<br>Denise Fox<br>Karen McGowan                             | 12 <i>Firth Park Ward</i><br>Fran Belbin<br>Nikki Belfield                                | 21 <i>Richmond Ward</i><br>David Barker<br>Mike Drabble<br>Dianne Hurst                        |
| 4 <i>Broomhill &amp; Sharrow Vale Ward</i><br>Angela Argenzio<br>Maleiki Haybe<br>Brian Holmshaw | 13 <i>Fulwood Ward</i><br>Sue Alston<br>Andrew Sangar<br>Cliff Woodcraft                  | 22 <i>Shiregreen &amp; Brightside Ward</i><br>Dawn Dale<br>Mark Rusling<br>Garry Weatherall    |
| 5 <i>Burngreave Ward</i><br>Talib Hussain<br>Mark Jones<br>Safiya Saeed                          | 14 <i>Gleadless Valley Ward</i><br>Alexi Dimond<br>Marieanne Elliot<br>Paul Turpin        | 23 <i>Southey Ward</i><br>Mike Chaplin<br>Jayne Dunn<br>Gareth Slater                          |
| 6 <i>City Ward</i><br>Douglas Johnson<br>Ruth Mersereau<br>Martin Phipps                         | 15 <i>Graves Park Ward</i><br>Steve Ayris<br>Rob Bannister<br>Mohammed Mahroof            | 24 <i>Stannington Ward</i><br>Penny Baker<br>William Sapwell<br>Richard Williams               |
| 7 <i>Crookes &amp; Crosspool Ward</i><br>Tim Huggan<br>Ruth Milsom<br>Minesh Parekh              | 16 <i>Hillsborough Ward</i><br>Christine Gilligan Kubo<br>Toby Mallinson<br>Henry Nottage | 25 <i>Stocksbridge &amp; Upper Don Ward</i><br>Julie Grocutt<br>Janet Ridler<br>Mark Whittaker |
| 8 <i>Darnall Ward</i><br>Qais Al-Ahdal<br>Mary Lea<br>Zahira Naz                                 | 17 <i>Manor Castle Ward</i><br>Laura Moynahan   | 26 <i>Walkley Ward</i><br>Tom Hunt<br>Laura McClean<br>John Wright                             |
| 9 <i>Dore &amp; Totley Ward</i><br>Rebecca Atkinson<br>Joe Otten<br>Martin Smith                 | 18 <i>Mosborough Ward</i><br>Glynis Chapman<br>Tony Downing                               | 27 <i>West Ecclesfield Ward</i><br>Alan Hooper<br>Mike Levery<br>Ann Whitaker                  |
|  |   | 28 <i>Woodhouse Ward</i><br>Alison Norris<br>Mick Rooney                                       |

**1. MINUTE'S SILENCE - DEATHS OF COUNCILLOR PAUL WOOD AND FORMER COUNCILLOR FRANK PRINCE**

In the absence of the Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) at the commencement of the meeting, the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Safiya Saeed) chaired the meeting up to and including item 6 on the agenda (Members' Questions).

- 1.1 The Deputy Lord Mayor reported with sadness, the death, on 15th September 2024, of Councillor Paul Wood who had served as a Member of the Council since 2014, firstly representing the City's Richmond Ward and then the Woodhouse Ward from 2016.
- 1.2 She also reported the death, on 8th September, of former Councillor Frank Prince who was Lord Mayor of the City in the Municipal Year 1986/87.
- 1.3 Members of the Council observed a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Wood and former Councillor Prince. After the completion of the business of the meeting, several Members of the Council spoke to pay tribute to Councillor Wood.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Elle Dodd, Terry Fox, Craig Gamble Pugh, Ian Horner, Abdul Khayum, Barbara Masters, Shaffaq Mohammed, Maroof Raouf, Richard Shaw and Gail Smith.

**3. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

- 3.1 There were no items of business identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 4.1 There were no declarations of interest made by Members of the Council.

**5. PUBLIC PETITIONS, QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

**5.1 Public Petitions, Questions and Statements**

The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Safiya Saeed) reported that one petition was to be received at the meeting. No questions had been received from members of the public on matters relating to items of business on the agenda

for the meeting, and no statements had been received from the public. She added that written responses to questions received from two members of the public on matters relating to the remit of full Council had been provided to the questioners and published on the Council's website in advance of the meeting, and one supplementary question arising from those responses had been received.

## 5.2 Petition Calling on the Council to Implement a Residents' Parking Scheme in Crookes

The Council received an e-petition containing 6 signatures calling on the Council to implement a residents' parking scheme on Forres Road, Nairn Street and Lydgate Lane, Crookes.

The lead petitioner, Karen Littlewood, was present at the meeting but had indicated that she did not wish to speak to make representations upon the petition.

The petition was referred to Councillor Ben Miskell (Chair of the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee) to respond. Councillor Miskell thanked the petitioner for bringing the petition. He advised that he understood the frustration people had in the city, regarding parking, and that it was certainly a problem in Crookes, where he was aware of the pressures, especially during peak working hours. He added that this was largely due to workers at the hospitals and university, parking in the area. This was an issue which had been brought to his attention by the ward councillors, Councillor Minesh Parekh and Councillor Ruth Milsom who had been gathering evidence informally for some time. They had also met with transport officers to discuss the feasibility of addressing the problem.

Councillor Miskell explained that implementing schemes like permit parking was incredibly costly, for example a larger, area-wide scheme with permit parking and pay-and-display bays could cost over £500,000 to introduce. Proposals that covered just a few streets, as the petition proposed, often was not viable due to the high costs and the risk of shifting the parking problem to nearby streets. Therefore, the Council needed to think about solutions across a larger area, as well as tackling the root cause of the problem.

Councillor Miskell outlined that parking schemes were just one way to tackle the issue of problem parking. He stated that Transport officers regularly engaged with large employers to encourage more active and sustainable commuting options. This was part of the broader approach needed to address parking challenges in the area. The Council also recognised the need for long-term solutions, particularly when it came to commuter parking, and improving public transport was a key part of that.

Councillor Miskell stated that he was pleased that South Yorkshire's Mayor, Oliver Coppard, had brought the trams back into public ownership and was working hard to bring buses under local control. In Councillor Miskell's view, once that happened, the Council would have more control over routes,

timetables, and fares, making it easier for people to choose public transport for their commute. He advised that the Council needed to take a strategic approach, including improving public transport options, in order to tackle the issue of car-based commuting effectively.

Cllr Miskell advised that he was required by the constitution to propose a way forward for the petition. He confirmed that the petition would be referred to the Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee for any further action which might be necessary.

### 5.3 Supplementary Public Questions

#### 5.3.1 Supplementary Questions, from Moira Gibbons, Regarding her Purchase of a Property From the Council

*Moira Gibbons asked "I purchased 80 Hall Park Hill under a year ago for my retirement after 40 years working in the NHS. I planned carefully for my future, mindful of my physical limitations. However, because of multiple, previously undisclosed, serious problems, the property is not somewhere I can make a home. Furthermore, it is unmarketable.*

*Appendix C of the 2015 Asbestos Survey identifies ACMs that are presumed to be present in the structure of the property unless proven otherwise. As this information also covers parts of the managed building, why did the Council not share this report when completing the LPE1 form as it was legally obliged to do?*

*In a letter dated 4 September, a Senior Council Officer stated that at the time of sale, it was understood and accepted that works were required. Legally defined, to anticipate is to expect something to happen or to know about something before it occurs. This being so, how can the Council contend that it did not have a duty to highlight that Section 20 works were anticipated on the LPE1 form given that the scheduling of such works within a programme would mean that they could no longer be construed as anticipated."*

In response, Councillor Douglas Johnson (the Chair of the Housing Policy Committee) apologised to Ms Gibbons that her question had been passed between himself and the Chair of the Finance and Performance Policy Committee (Councillor Zahira Naz) to answer. He confirmed that he would give a brief answer and then she would receive a more detailed written answer.

Councillor Johnson explained that Ms Gibbons had bought the property from another private purchaser, and that it had originally been a Council property. Her solicitor had been making enquiries to the Council as the Council was the freeholder, and enquiries had been made through the local searches system. He added that neither himself nor Councillor Naz had seen the LPE1 form which was mentioned in the question. Therefore, so that the matter could be looked into properly, he requested Ms Gibbons send in a copy of the form, following which a detailed answer would be given and published on the Council's website. He also requested that she advise whether there was

anything in the information that she would be submitting that she required to be redacted for reasons of privacy, prior to it being published.

5.3.2 *Supplementary Questions, from Representatives of the Royal British Legion, Regarding the Holding of the Sheffield United v Sheffield Wednesday Football Match on Remembrance Sunday*

In attendance at the meeting were several representatives from the Royal British Legion, who were seeking to ask supplementary questions on the response provided by the Leader of the Council to the question from Pat Davey (who was unable to attend the meeting). Notice of this request had been received shortly before the start of the meeting, and the Deputy Lord Mayor agreed to use her discretion and permit the supplementary questions to be asked. She invited the representatives to introduce themselves and ask their questions.

*Alan White asked – “Whilst we are aware that the time of the match has been changed slightly, it doesn't address the concerns of the veterans, cadets, serving members and their families.*

*The time is irrelevant really, it is the fact that this day was chosen knowing that a large proportion of the population of Sheffield will be coming into the city centre to get to the game or watch the game in public venues.*

*After the Remembrance Service at 11am, many people stay to pay their own respects by laying a cross or a wreath for the people they have lost in the great wars.*

*Also, the HMS Sheffield Association join their comrades in Sheffield for Remembrance Parade and stay for the weekend.*

*So, it is commemorated wider than the Football Clubs, the police and the English Football Association realise.*

*We feel that this will put the visitors off coming because of this major game taking place.*

*We believe that the Football Association is showing disrespect to all who have fallen in the past and is placing football first, and we believe the Council needs to give its full support in order for the arrangements to be changed.*

*Will the Leader of Sheffield City Council support us in asking for this game to be changed to another day completely?”*

These questions were supported by Mark Wilkinson and Roy Glease, who also spoke at the meeting.

In response, Councillor Tom Hunt (the Leader of the Council), thanked the veterans for their service, and for the work that veterans' organisations do to honour the memory of those who served, and to ensure that their families are

supported. He also mentioned the professionalism of the cadets who had been part of an event which he had attended recently, to mark the anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Councillor Hunt advised that the scheduling of football matches was not determined by the local authority, it was done by the Football Association. Therefore, Sheffield City Council had played no part in decisions made about the date or timing of the Sheffield United versus Sheffield Wednesday fixture on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November. He explained that the Council did not have the ability to formally object on anything other than safety grounds. However, the Council was keen to ensure veterans could share their concerns with the Police and would ensure that those conversations took place. Councillor Hunt added that he would be at the War Memorial alongside many other councillors for the Remembrance Day service and parade.

## **6. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

### **6.1 Urgent Business**

With the permission of the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Safiya Saeed), Councillors Penny Baker and Douglas Johnson asked the following questions relating to urgent business, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.6:-

*Councillor Baker - The South Yorkshire Mayor recently announced that there is a £65 million hole in the budget of South Yorkshire Police due to a "significant error in the accounts".*

- 1. When will we know more about the impact this deficit will have on police services?*
- 2. Who are the external auditors that will be conducting the independent inquiry ordered by the Mayor?*
- 3. What is the proposed timescale of the inquiry ordered by the Mayor?*
- 4. What representation has been made by the Mayoral Combined Authority or the Mayor to the Government regarding this issue?*

Councillor Johnson –

- 1. Given that £65 million is 20% of the entire annual budget of South Yorkshire Police and more than the whole of the policing precept paid by Sheffield residents on council tax bills, what initial assessment has been made of the probable impact on front-line policing in Sheffield?*
- 2. What assessment has been made of the likely impact on council services?*

In response, Councillor Tom Hunt (the Leader of the Council and the Council's representative on the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority) confirmed that the safety and security of communities in South Yorkshire would remain the first priority of the South Yorkshire Mayor, and of South Yorkshire Police.

Councillor Hunt explained that the Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) had identified potential accounting errors and a report, which was made public by the MCA the previous week, had set out a number of practical steps which were underway and ongoing. He added that this would include engagement with the MCA Audit Committee (whose membership included Members of this Council) and with the external auditors, to notify them of the issue and of the intent to work with them.

Councillor Hunt reported that there would also be engagement with external stakeholders, including the MCA Board, the Police and Crime Panel (whose membership included Members of this Council), and with the Government, to notify them of the issue, and of the MCA's intent to work with them on a way forward. Also, a review would be commissioned to understand what had happened.

Councillor Hunt emphasised that until those steps had been concluded, it was not possible to provide further information, and he would not pre-empt ongoing conversations. He advised that South Yorkshire Police and the MCA would provide further information in due course.

## 6.2 Written Questions

6.2.1 A schedule of questions, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16, and which contained written answers, was circulated. Members of the Council are able to ask the Leader of the Council, or any Policy Committee or Sub-Committee or Regulatory Committee Chairs, or Members appointed by the Council to serve on the South Yorkshire Joint Authorities, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, or any other external body or joint committee, questions on matters within the functions of those Bodies.

6.2.2 Supplementary questions, under the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 16.5, were asked by the Members who had submitted the original questions and were answered by the relevant Member, until the expiry of the time limit for Members' Questions (in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.7).

## 7. **NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "MENTAL HEALTH IN THE WORKPLACE" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR CRAIG GAMBLE PUGH AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ALISON NORRIS**

7.1 At this point in the proceedings, the Lord Mayor (Councillor Jayne Dunn) entered the meeting and chaired the remainder of the proceedings.

7.2 It was moved by Councillor Alison Norris, and seconded by Councillor Gareth Slater, that:-

this Council notes:-

- (a) it is estimated that 1 in 6 people in England report a common mental health problem, such as anxiety or depression, in any given week (NHS

Digital 2016);

- (b) analysis suggests that 10 million people (8.5 million adults and 1.5 million children and young people) in England now require support for their mental health (O'Shea, 2021);
- (c) this year's world Mental Health Day on 10th October highlights the importance of addressing mental health and wellbeing in the workplace;

this Council:-

- (d) believes it is vital to address mental health issues in the workplace, which can affect wellbeing and morale, so we can develop our workforce and deliver high quality services and support;
- (e) further believes we need to raise awareness and reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and create cultures where all workers can thrive;
- (f) applauds the nurses, mental health support workers, volunteers, self-help and VCF groups working in this field across the city;
- (g) believes that trade union representatives have a vital role in addressing mental health problems in the workplace by raising awareness of mental health and wellbeing issues and offering support to people experiencing poor mental health, representing members on workplace issues, and negotiating appropriate workplace policies and procedures;
- (h) believes that the Council's online Workplace Wellbeing resource is a great first step and provides a valuable toolkit signposting staff to appropriate support when required;
- (i) welcomes legislative changes to end fire and rehire and ban exploitative zero-hour contracts, which will make work more family-friendly which is an essential part of ensuring good mental health at work;
- (j) welcomes the Council's new All-Age Emotional and Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the commitment to partnership, involvement of people with lived experience, and co-production which has characterised its development;
- (k) welcomes the Government's plans to create Young Futures Hubs and ensure every young person has access to a specialist mental health professional at school;

this Council resolves to:-

- (l) ensure mental and emotional health and wellbeing are valued the same as physical health, and that they are made everyone's business;



- (m) ensure mental wellness, resilience and the prevention of illness are promoted pro-actively; and
- (n) explore further opportunities for family-friendly policies and improving work/life balance, all of which help to support good mental health.

7.3 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Sophie Thornton, and seconded by Councillor Tim Huggan, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of new paragraphs (h) and (i) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original paragraph (h) as a new paragraph (j):-
  - (h) believes that the establishment of a statutory, independent Mental Health Commissioner would provide greater representation for people in all areas struggling with mental health problems;
  - (i) believes that extraordinary wait times for ADHD and autism assessments contribute to poor mental health in Sheffield;
2. the deletion of the original paragraph (i);
3. the addition of a new paragraph (k) as follows:-
  - (k) would welcome proposed legislative changes to modernise employment rights to boost mental health at work, such as making flexible working a day-one right and setting a higher minimum wage rate for zero-hours contract workers;
4. the re-lettering of the original paragraphs (j) to (n) as new paragraphs (l) to (p).

7.4 It was then moved by Councillor Angela Argenzio, and seconded by Councillor Martin Phipps, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of new paragraphs (l) to (n) as follows:-
  - (l) believes that the ongoing mental wellbeing of thousands of local government workers is being adversely affected by the instability of Local Government finances;
  - (m) believes that harsher steps to make people who are signed off work and claiming sickness benefit look for work will only exacerbate poor mental health in the workplace;
  - (n) welcomes the new Mental Health pilot in Gleadless Valley, one of only six in the country, and pledges to give full support and backing to Heeley Trust in delivering this pilot with the NHS;

2. the re-lettering of the original paragraphs (l) and (m) as new paragraphs (o) and (p);
3. the addition of new paragraphs (q) and (r) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original paragraph (n) as a new paragraph (s):-

(q) ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with a copy of this motion, to request parity of mental health funding with physical health care and to urgently act to reduce waiting times for accessing mental health services for all ages;

(r) ask the Chief Executive to write to the Deputy Prime Minister, with a copy of this motion, to ask for sustainable funding for Local Government to protect the services people rely on and the mental wellbeing of Council staff who deliver them;

7.5 After contributions from four other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Alison Norris, the amendment moved by Councillor Sophie Thornton was put to the vote and was carried, except for Part 2 of the amendment, which was lost.

7.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 35 Members; AGAINST - 33 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 2 Members. Although Labour Group Members voted against, they abstained from voting on paragraph (h) in Part 1 of the amendment and voted for paragraph (i) in Part 1 of the amendment. Although Green Group Members voted for, they voted against Part 2 of the amendment. Although Councillors Denise Fox and Dianne Hurst voted against, they voted for paragraph (i) in Part 1 of the amendment.)

7.6 The amendment moved by Councillor Angela Argenzio was then put to the vote and was carried.

7.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 69 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they abstained from voting on paragraph (m) in Part 1 of the amendment and voted against Part 3 of the amendment.)

7.7 The original Motion, as amended, was then put to the vote as a Substantive Motion in the following form, and was carried, except for paragraph (l), which was lost:-

That:-

this Council notes:-

- (a) it is estimated that 1 in 6 people in England report a common mental health problem, such as anxiety or depression, in any given week (NHS Digital 2016);

- (b) analysis suggests that 10 million people (8.5 million adults and 1.5 million children and young people) in England now require support for their mental health (O'Shea, 2021);
- (c) this year's world Mental Health Day on 10th October highlights the importance of addressing mental health and wellbeing in the workplace;

this Council:-

- (d) believes it is vital to address mental health issues in the workplace, which can affect wellbeing and morale, so we can develop our workforce and deliver high quality services and support;
- (e) further believes we need to raise awareness and reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and create cultures where all workers can thrive;
- (f) applauds the nurses, mental health support workers, volunteers, self-help and VCF groups working in this field across the city;
- (g) believes that trade union representatives have a vital role in addressing mental health problems in the workplace by raising awareness of mental health and wellbeing issues and offering support to people experiencing poor mental health, representing members on workplace issues, and negotiating appropriate workplace policies and procedures;
- (h) believes that the establishment of a statutory, independent Mental Health Commissioner would provide greater representation for people in all areas struggling with mental health problems;
- (i) believes that extraordinary wait times for ADHD and autism assessments contribute to poor mental health in Sheffield;
- (j) believes that the Council's online Workplace Wellbeing resource is a great first step and provides a valuable toolkit signposting staff to appropriate support when required;
- (k) welcomes legislative changes to end fire and rehire and ban exploitative zero-hour contracts, which will make work more family-friendly which is an essential part of ensuring good mental health at work;
- (l) would welcome proposed legislative changes to modernise employment rights to boost mental health at work, such as making flexible working a day-one right and setting a higher minimum wage rate for zero-hours contract workers;
- (m) welcomes the Council's new All-Age Emotional and Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the commitment to partnership, involvement of people with lived experience, and co-production which has characterised its development;

- (n) welcomes the Government's plans to create Young Futures Hubs and ensure every young person has access to a specialist mental health professional at school;
- (o) believes that the ongoing mental wellbeing of thousands of local government workers is being adversely affected by the instability of Local Government finances;
- (p) believes that harsher steps to make people who are signed off work and claiming sickness benefit look for work will only exacerbate poor mental health in the workplace;
- (q) welcomes the new Mental Health pilot in Gleadless Valley, one of only six in the country, and pledges to give full support and backing to Heeley Trust in delivering this pilot with the NHS;

this Council resolves to:-

- (r) ensure mental and emotional health and wellbeing are valued the same as physical health, and that they are made everyone's business;
- (s) ensure mental wellness, resilience and the prevention of illness are promoted pro-actively;
- (t) ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with a copy of this motion, to request parity of mental health funding with physical health care and to urgently act to reduce waiting times for accessing mental health services for all ages;
- (u) ask the Chief Executive to write to the Deputy Prime Minister, with a copy of this motion, to ask for sustainable funding for Local Government to protect the services people rely on and the mental wellbeing of Council staff who deliver them; and
- (v) explore further opportunities for family-friendly policies and improving work/life balance, all of which help to support good mental health.

7.7.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 69 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted for, they abstained from voting on paragraphs (h) and (p) and voted against paragraphs (l), (t) and (u) of the Substantive Motion. Although Sheffield Community Councillors Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraphs (h) and (l) of the Substantive Motion.)

7.8 Accordingly, the resolution passed by the Council was as follows:-

RESOLVED: That:-

this Council notes:-

- (a) it is estimated that 1 in 6 people in England report a common mental health problem, such as anxiety or depression, in any given week (NHS Digital 2016);
- (b) analysis suggests that 10 million people (8.5 million adults and 1.5 million children and young people) in England now require support for their mental health (O'Shea, 2021);
- (c) this year's world Mental Health Day on 10th October highlights the importance of addressing mental health and wellbeing in the workplace;

this Council:-

- (d) believes it is vital to address mental health issues in the workplace, which can affect wellbeing and morale, so we can develop our workforce and deliver high quality services and support;
- (e) further believes we need to raise awareness and reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and create cultures where all workers can thrive;
- (f) applauds the nurses, mental health support workers, volunteers, self-help and VCF groups working in this field across the city;
- (g) believes that trade union representatives have a vital role in addressing mental health problems in the workplace by raising awareness of mental health and wellbeing issues and offering support to people experiencing poor mental health, representing members on workplace issues, and negotiating appropriate workplace policies and procedures;
- (h) believes that the establishment of a statutory, independent Mental Health Commissioner would provide greater representation for people in all areas struggling with mental health problems;
- (i) believes that extraordinary wait times for ADHD and autism assessments contribute to poor mental health in Sheffield;
- (j) believes that the Council's online Workplace Wellbeing resource is a great first step and provides a valuable toolkit signposting staff to appropriate support when required;
- (k) welcomes legislative changes to end fire and rehire and ban exploitative zero-hour contracts, which will make work more family-friendly which is an essential part of ensuring good mental health at work;
- (l) welcomes the Council's new All-Age Emotional and Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the commitment to partnership, involvement of people with lived experience, and co-production which has characterised

its development;

- (m) welcomes the Government's plans to create Young Futures Hubs and ensure every young person has access to a specialist mental health professional at school;
- (n) believes that the ongoing mental wellbeing of thousands of local government workers is being adversely affected by the instability of Local Government finances;
- (o) believes that harsher steps to make people who are signed off work and claiming sickness benefit look for work will only exacerbate poor mental health in the workplace;
- (p) welcomes the new Mental Health pilot in Gleadless Valley, one of only six in the country, and pledges to give full support and backing to Heeley Trust in delivering this pilot with the NHS;

this Council resolves to:-

- (q) ensure mental and emotional health and wellbeing are valued the same as physical health, and that they are made everyone's business;
- (r) ensure mental wellness, resilience and the prevention of illness are promoted pro-actively;
- (s) ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with a copy of this motion, to request parity of mental health funding with physical health care and to urgently act to reduce waiting times for accessing mental health services for all ages;
- (t) ask the Chief Executive to write to the Deputy Prime Minister, with a copy of this motion, to ask for sustainable funding for Local Government to protect the services people rely on and the mental wellbeing of Council staff who deliver them; and
- (u) explore further opportunities for family-friendly policies and improving work/life balance, all of which help to support good mental health.

**8. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "YOUTH MOBILITY FOR THE CITY'S PROSPERITY" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR WILL SAPWELL AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR SOPHIE THORNTON**

8.1 It was moved by Councillor Will Sapwell, and seconded by Councillor Sophie Thornton, that this Council:-

notes:-

- (a) the UK Government currently has a Youth Mobility Scheme in place with several non-EU countries, allowing a set number of young people to live and work in those countries for a specified duration of time, on a reciprocal basis;
- (b) in April 2024, the European Commission proposed a Youth Mobility Scheme between the UK and the EU;
- (c) the proposed Youth Mobility Scheme was rejected by both the previous and current Governments;
- (d) red tape at the UK/EU border has prevented children from taking part in overseas educational trips and that the School Travel Forum has reported a 30% reduction in overseas educational visits between 2019 and 2023;
- (e) between 2007 and 2013 the UK received over £500m more in funding from the EU for education and training than it invested in the Erasmus plus scheme;
- (f) the UK ceased participation in the Erasmus plus scheme in 2021 under the then Conservative government and the new government has not committed to rejoining the scheme;
- (g) barriers to touring erected by Brexit have impacted 30% of musicians, with lowest earners losing 49% of EU revenue on average;

believes that:-

- (h) the former government erected significant barriers to young people with their botched deal with Europe, including removing the right of young people to move, live and work across EU countries;
- (i) young people should not face such barriers to travelling, living and working in Europe;
- (j) Sheffield's universities, manufacturing and healthcare sectors, and local economy would all benefit from accessing the Youth Mobility Scheme;
- (k) Sheffield's cultural offering, if given easier access to European countries, would enrich the lives of our neighbours;
- (l) every opportunity should be taken to repair the country's broken relationship with Europe;

resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, calling for him to:-

- (m) open negotiations with the EU and EEA to extend the Youth Mobility Scheme on a reciprocal basis to EU countries;

- (n) expand opportunities for young people to study, teach and volunteer abroad by returning to the Erasmus Plus programme as an associated country; and
- (o) open discussions with the EU with the goal of reaching a reciprocal exemption from electronic travel authorisation schemes.

8.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Fran Belbin, and seconded by Councillor Ben Miskell, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of all the words after paragraph (l); and
2. the addition of new paragraphs (m) to (r) as follows:-
  - (m) notes the new government has promised to mend the broken relationships with the EU, which was left behind by the previous government, prioritising a new UK-EU security pact, improvements to the UK's trade and investment relationship with the EU, and further agreements on agricultural products, and greatly welcomes these developments;
  - (n) supports the Government's work in resetting relationships with Europe and notes that since taking office the Prime Minister has visited overseas heads of European states and hosted Leaders of more than 40 countries from across the continent for the European Political Community meeting in Oxfordshire;
  - (o) notes that whilst the European Commission's proposal for a Youth Mobility Scheme was rejected by the previous government in April, this was also opposed by representatives of UK universities due to the proposal that students on the scheme could pay the home fees of the university they attended, with UK universities making clear this would lead to a significant loss in income;
  - (p) notes that further proposals on the Youth Mobility Scheme will come forward from the EU Commission next year, and hopes this will be more satisfactory to UK universities than the original proposal;
  - (q) believes the previous government failed spectacularly to tackle skills shortages and other problems in the UK labour market, and supports the new government pursuing a different approach which links migration policy to skills and labour market policies; and
  - (r) believes that the previous government did significant economic damage to the country through their divisive and reckless approach to our European friends, neighbours and allies.



8.3 It was then moved by Councillor Paul Turpin, and seconded by Councillor Peter Gilbert, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of a new paragraph (g) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original paragraphs (g) to (o) as new paragraphs (h) to (p):-

(g) that rejoining the Erasmus Programme was one of the recommendations of the UK Trade and Business Commission in 2023;

2. the addition of a new paragraph (q) as follows:-

(q) consider rejoining the EU at the earliest opportunity to allow all UK citizens the right of free movement and the right to live and work in the EU without restriction.

8.4 After contributions from five other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Will Sapwell, the amendment moved by Councillor Fran Belbin was put to the vote and was lost.

8.4.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 32 Members; AGAINST - 38 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member.)

8.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Paul Turpin was then put to the vote and was carried.

8.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 38 Members; AGAINST - 32 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Labour Group Members voted against, they abstained from voting on Part 1 of the amendment.)

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

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

notes:-

(a) the UK Government currently has a Youth Mobility Scheme in place with several non-EU countries, allowing a set number of young people to live and work in those countries for a specified duration of time, on a reciprocal basis;

(b) in April 2024, the European Commission proposed a Youth Mobility Scheme between the UK and the EU;

(c) the proposed Youth Mobility Scheme was rejected by both the previous and current Governments;

(d) red tape at the UK/EU border has prevented children from taking part in

overseas educational trips and that the School Travel Forum has reported a 30% reduction in overseas educational visits between 2019 and 2023;

- (e) between 2007 and 2013 the UK received over £500m more in funding from the EU for education and training than it invested in the Erasmus plus scheme;
- (f) the UK ceased participation in the Erasmus plus scheme in 2021 under the then Conservative government and the new government has not committed to rejoining the scheme;
- (g) that rejoining the Erasmus Programme was one of the recommendations of the UK Trade and Business Commission in 2023;
- (h) barriers to touring erected by Brexit have impacted 30% of musicians, with lowest earners losing 49% of EU revenue on average;

believes that:-

- (i) the former government erected significant barriers to young people with their botched deal with Europe, including removing the right of young people to move, live and work across EU countries;
- (j) young people should not face such barriers to travelling, living and working in Europe;
- (k) Sheffield's universities, manufacturing and healthcare sectors, and local economy would all benefit from accessing the Youth Mobility Scheme;
- (l) Sheffield's cultural offering, if given easier access to European countries, would enrich the lives of our neighbours;
- (m) every opportunity should be taken to repair the country's broken relationship with Europe;

resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, calling for him to:-

- (n) open negotiations with the EU and EEA to extend the Youth Mobility Scheme on a reciprocal basis to EU countries;
- (o) expand opportunities for young people to study, teach and volunteer abroad by returning to the Erasmus Plus programme as an associated country;
- (p) open discussions with the EU with the goal of reaching a reciprocal exemption from electronic travel authorisation schemes; and
- (q) consider rejoining the EU at the earliest opportunity to allow all UK

citizens the right of free movement and the right to live and work in the EU without restriction.

8.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 37 Members; AGAINST - 0 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 33 Members. Although Labour Group Members abstained, they voted against paragraphs (c) and (n) to (q) of the Substantive Motion.)

**9. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "CELEBRATING THE CITY'S PARALYMPIANS AND OLYMPIANS AND THE POWER OF SPORT" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ROB BANNISTER AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR SAFIYA SAEED**

9.1 It was moved by Councillor Rob Bannister, and seconded by Councillor Ibbly Ullah, that this Council:-

- (a) notes with immense pride the outstanding achievements of Sheffield athletes who represented Team GB at the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris;
- (b) believes these athletes demonstrated extraordinary skill and dedication to compete in Paris;
- (c) recognises the invaluable contribution of Sheffield's sporting infrastructure, training facilities, and local sporting communities in supporting these athletes on their journey to the world stage, noting that Sheffield is home to some of the best sporting facilities in the country, including the English Institute of Sport and Ponds Forge International Sports Centre;
- (d) notes with pride that Sheffield has long been a hub for Olympic and Paralympic development through hosting training sessions, national competitions, and creating pathways for athletes to succeed from grassroots to elite levels;
- (e) further notes with pride that Sheffield is home to GB Boxing, British Para Table Tennis, Para Badminton, Ice Hockey UK, British Ice Skating, Skateboard GB, and the City of Sheffield Diving Club, one of 5 British Diving national performance hubs;
- (f) believes that the success of Sheffield's athletes reflects the city's wider culture of inclusivity, perseverance, and ambition, and believes that Sheffield's commitment to inclusivity in sports has been instrumental in ensuring that all athletes have opportunities to succeed;

in light of these achievements, resolves to:-

- (g) congratulate all Sheffield athletes and their coaches for their exceptional

performances in the Paris 2024 Games;

- (h) support the Council's Sport and Leisure Strategy (2023-2033) and our commitment to investing in an active Sheffield, to inspire people of all ages and abilities, and improve health and wellbeing through continued investment and promotion of sports infrastructure, from grassroots to elite level;
- (i) celebrate the city's status as the Outdoor City, recognising the role that our parks and outdoor spaces play in promoting healthy, active lifestyles; and
- (j) wish all of our athletes and sporting clubs success for the upcoming year.

9.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Kurtis Crossland, and seconded by Councillor Richard Williams, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition, in paragraph (e), of the words "Goalball UK" after the words "Para Badminton".
2. the addition of a new paragraph (j) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original paragraph (j) as a new paragraph (k):-
  - (j) reaffirm our commitment to addressing the differential in life expectancy across the city by promoting the Sports and Leisure Strategy and investing in sports and leisure buildings to provide access to high quality indoor and outdoor facilities for all residents of Sheffield;

9.3 It was then moved by Councillor Marieanne Elliot, and seconded by Councillor Brian Holmshaw, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition, in paragraph (a), of the words "and IOC Refugee Olympic Team" after the words "Team GB".
2. the addition of a new paragraph (h) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original paragraphs (h) to (j) as new paragraphs (i) to (k):-
  - (h) celebrate the achievements of Cindy Ngumba, flagbearer for the IOC Refugee Olympic Team, who trains in Sheffield and won the Refugee Team's first medal;

9.4 After contributions from three other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Rob Bannister, the amendment moved by Councillor Kurtis Crossland was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

9.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Marieanne Elliot was then put to the vote and was also carried unanimously.

- 9.6 The original Motion, as amended, was then put to the vote as a Substantive Motion in the following form and was carried unanimously:-

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That this Council:-

- (a) notes with immense pride the outstanding achievements of Sheffield athletes who represented Team GB and IOC Refugee Olympic Team at the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris;
- (b) believes these athletes demonstrated extraordinary skill and dedication to compete in Paris;
- (c) recognises the invaluable contribution of Sheffield's sporting infrastructure, training facilities, and local sporting communities in supporting these athletes on their journey to the world stage, noting that Sheffield is home to some of the best sporting facilities in the country, including the English Institute of Sport and Ponds Forge International Sports Centre;
- (d) notes with pride that Sheffield has long been a hub for Olympic and Paralympic development through hosting training sessions, national competitions, and creating pathways for athletes to succeed from grassroots to elite levels;
- (e) further notes with pride that Sheffield is home to GB Boxing, British Para Table Tennis, Para Badminton, Goalball UK, Ice Hockey UK, British Ice Skating, Skateboard GB, and the City of Sheffield Diving Club, one of 5 British Diving national performance hubs;
- (f) believes that the success of Sheffield's athletes reflects the city's wider culture of inclusivity, perseverance, and ambition, and believes that Sheffield's commitment to inclusivity in sports has been instrumental in ensuring that all athletes have opportunities to succeed;

in light of these achievements, resolves to:-

- (g) congratulate all Sheffield athletes and their coaches for their exceptional performances in the Paris 2024 Games;
- (h) celebrate the achievements of Cindy Ngumba, flagbearer for the IOC Refugee Olympic Team, who trains in Sheffield and won the Refugee Team's first medal;
- (i) support the Council's Sport and Leisure Strategy (2023-2033) and our commitment to investing in an active Sheffield, to inspire people of all ages and abilities, and improve health and wellbeing through continued investment and promotion of sports infrastructure, from grassroots to elite level;

- (j) celebrate the city's status as the Outdoor City, recognising the role that our parks and outdoor spaces play in promoting healthy, active lifestyles;
- (k) reaffirm our commitment to addressing the differential in life expectancy across the city by promoting the Sports and Leisure Strategy and investing in sports and leisure buildings to provide access to high quality indoor and outdoor facilities for all residents of Sheffield; and
- (l) wish all of our athletes and sporting clubs success for the upcoming year.

**10. NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING "SAVE THE SINGLE PERSON COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT" - GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR KURTIS CROSSLAND AND TO BE SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR REBECCA ATKINSON**

10.1 It was moved by Councillor Kurtis Crossland, and seconded by Councillor Rebecca Atkinson, that this Council:-

notes:-

- (a) the distress caused to residents over the uncertainty regarding the potential removal of the 25% council tax discount for single person households, following the Deputy Prime Minister's refusal to rule it out during weeks of questioning;
- (b) that according to the 2023 Council Taxbase statistics, over 8 million households across the country, particularly in the North of England, have been left anxious about potential financial hardship due to this uncertainty;
- (c) that many of those potentially affected are pensioners who have already endured the removal of their Winter Fuel Payment this year, compounding financial struggles;
- (d) that removing the discount would not only affect pensioners but also impact single parents, first-time buyers and those fleeing domestic violence;

believes that:-

- (e) the Single Person Council Tax Discount needs to remain to provide essential financial relief to those who rely on it;
- (f) after only four months, the Government appears to be targeting the most vulnerable in society, as evidenced by the removal of the Winter Fuel Payment for pensioners and the anxiety caused over the potential loss of the Single Person Council Tax Discount;

- (g) targeting the most vulnerable in our society is unjust and exacerbates inequality, eroding the social safety nets that protect those in need;
- (h) Sheffield residents deserve stability and respect rather than fear and confusion;
- (i) those with the broadest shoulders should bear the brunt of any tax rises and it is fair to ask those who are more able to contribute more, rather than placing the burden on those already struggling;
- (j) there are other methods to raise council tax income, such as increasing taxes on properties purchased as second homes;
- (k) there are alternative ways that exist to secure much-needed funds, such as reversing cuts made to banks by the previous government, redirecting resources from those who can most afford it to those who need it most;

resolves to:-

- (l) oppose any attempt to abolish the Single Person Council Tax Discount;
- (m) call on the Government to provide assurances that policies affecting vulnerable households will be communicated clearly and considerately to prevent unnecessary distress; and
- (n) ask the Chief Executive to write to the Deputy Prime Minister conveying this message and highlighting the detrimental impact of recent policies on the most vulnerable in our community.

10.2 Whereupon, it was moved by Councillor Laura Moynahan, and seconded by Councillor Ruth Milsom, 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 new paragraphs (a) to (g):-

- (a) notes that the incoming government faces a reported £22 billion financial blackhole, and believes that whilst we need a full comprehensive spending review it is welcome the Government has indicated that the single person council tax discount will remain;
- (b) welcomes the commitment by the Government to not raise taxes on working people – through no rises in income tax or VAT, and welcomes the Government's mission to tackle economic insecurity – at work, at home, in our communities and public services;
- (c) notes that the Government has committed to reforming the Department for Work and Pensions to decisively refocus on work – with action to drive higher engagement, higher employment and higher earnings – to boost living standards, power the economy and improve the public

finances;

- (d) notes the difficulties facing local authorities and how inadequate council tax funding is at plugging the hole in council finances, and believes that a growing economy will be essential for supporting councils;
- (e) notes that local government funding is expected to move to multi-year settlements and believes that this will have a hugely positive impact on council funding;
- (f) supports the Government's commitment to reform the benefit system so that it encourages work and provides the right support; and
- (g) supports the Government's maintenance of the pension triple lock, meaning that the State Pension will go up by £460 next year.

10.3 It was then moved by Councillor Christine Gilligan Kubo, and seconded by Councillor Marieanne Elliot, as an amendment, that the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the addition of a new paragraph (g) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original paragraphs (g) to (k) as new paragraphs (h) to (l):-
  - (g) the cut to Winter Fuel payments and retention of the Two Child Cap on benefits shows that the new Government has made a political choice to place the burden on those who can least afford it;
2. the addition of new paragraphs (m) to (q) as follows, and the re-lettering of the original paragraphs (l) to (n) as new paragraphs (r) to (t):-
  - (m) to make Council Tax fairer, a re-valuation of Council Tax bands is needed to reflect big changes in value since 1991;
  - (n) those with the broadest shoulders should contribute more in taxes - those with assets above £10 million at 1% and assets above £1bn at 2% annually;
  - (o) with only a very small minority of people subject to a wealth tax, the overwhelming majority would benefit and those struggling would not bear the burden;
  - (p) the UK has one of the most concentrated land ownership systems in the world, with half of England being owned by less than 1% of the population;
  - (q) as part of shifting taxation towards wealth, a Land Value Tax would ensure that those with the most valuable and largest land holdings would contribute the most;



3. the addition, at the end of newly re-lettered paragraph (t) [the original paragraph (n)], of the words “, including the contents of this motion”.
- 10.4 After contributions from seven other Members, and following a right of reply from Councillor Kurtis Crossland, the amendment moved by Councillor Laura Moynahan was put to the vote and was lost.
- 10.4.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 32 Members; AGAINST - 38 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member.)
- 10.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Christine Gilligan Kubo was then put to the vote and was carried, except for Part 2 of the amendment, which was lost.
- 10.5.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote was FOR - 38 Members; AGAINST - 32 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Liberal Democrat Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraphs (m) to (p) in Part 2 of the amendment and abstained from voting on paragraph (q) in Part 2 of the amendment.)
- 10.6 The original Motion, as amended, was then put to the vote as a Substantive Motion in the following form, and was carried, except for paragraph (a), which was lost:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

notes:-

- (a) the distress caused to residents over the uncertainty regarding the potential removal of the 25% council tax discount for single person households, following the Deputy Prime Minister’s refusal to rule it out during weeks of questioning;
- (b) that according to the 2023 Council Taxbase statistics, over 8 million households across the country, particularly in the North of England, have been left anxious about potential financial hardship due to this uncertainty;
- (c) that many of those potentially affected are pensioners who have already endured the removal of their Winter Fuel Payment this year, compounding financial struggles;
- (d) that removing the discount would not only affect pensioners but also impact single parents, first-time buyers and those fleeing domestic violence;

believes that:-

- (e) the Single Person Council Tax Discount needs to remain to provide essential financial relief to those who rely on it;

- (f) after only four months, the Government appears to be targeting the most vulnerable in society, as evidenced by the removal of the Winter Fuel Payment for pensioners and the anxiety caused over the potential loss of the Single Person Council Tax Discount;
- (g) the cut to Winter Fuel payments and retention of the Two Child Cap on benefits shows that the new Government has made a political choice to place the burden on those who can least afford it;
- (h) targeting the most vulnerable in our society is unjust and exacerbates inequality, eroding the social safety nets that protect those in need;
- (i) Sheffield residents deserve stability and respect rather than fear and confusion;
- (j) those with the broadest shoulders should bear the brunt of any tax rises and it is fair to ask those who are more able to contribute more, rather than placing the burden on those already struggling;
- (k) there are other methods to raise council tax income, such as increasing taxes on properties purchased as second homes;
- (l) there are alternative ways that exist to secure much-needed funds, such as reversing cuts made to banks by the previous government, redirecting resources from those who can most afford it to those who need it most;

resolves to:-

- (m) oppose any attempt to abolish the Single Person Council Tax Discount;
- (n) call on the Government to provide assurances that policies affecting vulnerable households will be communicated clearly and considerately to prevent unnecessary distress; and
- (o) ask the Chief Executive to write to the Deputy Prime Minister conveying this message and highlighting the detrimental impact of recent policies on the most vulnerable in our community, including the contents of this motion.

10.6.1 (NOTE: The result of the vote on the Substantive Motion was FOR - 38 Members; AGAINST - 32 Members; ABSTENTIONS – 1 Member. Although Green Group Members voted for, they voted against paragraph (a) of the Substantive Motion.)

10.7 Accordingly, the resolution passed by the Council was as follows:-

RESOLVED: That this Council:-

notes:-

- (a) that according to the 2023 Council Taxbase statistics, over 8 million households across the country, particularly in the North of England, have been left anxious about potential financial hardship due to this uncertainty;
- (b) that many of those potentially affected are pensioners who have already endured the removal of their Winter Fuel Payment this year, compounding financial struggles;
- (c) that removing the discount would not only affect pensioners but also impact single parents, first-time buyers and those fleeing domestic violence;

believes that:-

- (d) the Single Person Council Tax Discount needs to remain to provide essential financial relief to those who rely on it;
- (e) after only four months, the Government appears to be targeting the most vulnerable in society, as evidenced by the removal of the Winter Fuel Payment for pensioners and the anxiety caused over the potential loss of the Single Person Council Tax Discount;
- (f) the cut to Winter Fuel payments and retention of the Two Child Cap on benefits shows that the new Government has made a political choice to place the burden on those who can least afford it;
- (g) targeting the most vulnerable in our society is unjust and exacerbates inequality, eroding the social safety nets that protect those in need;
- (h) Sheffield residents deserve stability and respect rather than fear and confusion;
- (i) those with the broadest shoulders should bear the brunt of any tax rises and it is fair to ask those who are more able to contribute more, rather than placing the burden on those already struggling;
- (j) there are other methods to raise council tax income, such as increasing taxes on properties purchased as second homes;
- (k) there are alternative ways that exist to secure much-needed funds, such as reversing cuts made to banks by the previous government, redirecting resources from those who can most afford it to those who need it most;

resolves to:-

- (l) oppose any attempt to abolish the Single Person Council Tax Discount;

- (m) call on the Government to provide assurances that policies affecting vulnerable households will be communicated clearly and considerately to prevent unnecessary distress; and
- (n) ask the Chief Executive to write to the Deputy Prime Minister conveying this message and highlighting the detrimental impact of recent policies on the most vulnerable in our community, including the contents of this motion.

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

- 11.1 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** On the motion formally moved by Councillor Mary Lea and formally seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, that the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 4th September 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record.

## **12. MEMBERSHIPS OF COUNCIL BODIES, REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON OTHER BODIES AND RELATED ISSUES**

- 12.1 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** On the motion formally moved by Councillor Mary Lea and formally seconded by Councillor Joe Otten, that:-

(a) approval be given to the following changes to the memberships of Committees, Boards, etc.:-

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee | - Ms Lucy Davies (Healthwatch) to fill a vacancy as Independent Co-Optee.                                   |
| Charity Trustee Sub-Committee | - Councillors Rebecca Atkinson and Tim Huggan to fill vacancies as substitute members of the Sub-Committee. |

(b) representatives be appointed to serve on other bodies as follows:-

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Sheffield Carers and Young Carers Board | - Councillor Toby Mallinson to replace Councillor Dawn Dale. |
|---|--|

(NOTE: The above appointments incorporate the appointment of Councillors Rebecca Atkinson and Tim Huggan to fill vacancies as substitute members of the Charity Trustee Sub-Committee, which were reported to the meeting by Councillor Joe Otten as an addition to the schedule of appointments circulated to the meeting.)