

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 7TH SEPTEMBER, 2011

List of Amendments received by the Chief Executive

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO 8 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JULIE DORE

1. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Colin Ross, seconded by Councillor Joe Otten

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the insertion of the words “which was forced upon the Government by restrictive regulations introduced by the last Government” after the word “Siemens” in paragraph (d);
2. the deletion of paragraphs (e) to (k); and
3. the addition of new paragraphs (e) to (m) as follows:
 - (e) laments the previous Government for bequeathing an inheritance to the Coalition Government of record unemployment, and in particular youth unemployment;
 - (f) notes with regret that under the previous Government unemployment among 16-to-24-year-olds reached an all time high of 952,000;
 - (g) observes with concern that every single Labour Government has left office with unemployment higher than when it entered office;
 - (h) welcomes news that Yorkshire and Humber bucked the national trend with a drop in unemployment from 9.2% to 8.5%, with a total of 223,000 unemployed compared to 239,000 under the previous Government;
 - (i) believes that private sector employment will be the solution to chronic unemployment, rather than bloated public sector subsidies, and is therefore encouraged by the 104,000 jobs created in the private sector nationwide during the last quarter;
 - (j) supports the announcement of a local Enterprise Zone, which will bring an estimated 12,600 new jobs to Sheffield City Region by 2015;

- (k) calls on all Labour politicians to drop their petty opposition to the Enterprise Zone and embrace investment in our area;
- (l) wholeheartedly supports the decision by the Coalition Government to invest £60 million in apprenticeships and work placements in private firms to tackle the scandal of youth unemployment in the UK; and
- (m) highlights that the new Administration's Sheffield Apprenticeship Programme is dependent upon the funding which has been made available by the new Coalition Government.

2. **Amendment to be moved by Councillor Jillian Creasy, seconded by Councillor Robert Murphy**

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the addition of two new paragraphs as follows:-

- () welcomes the opportunity to link a proportion of these apprenticeships to the Green Deal apprenticeships supported by the Built Environment Skills Alliance, which will enable young people to gain employment retrofitting homes in Sheffield for energy efficiency and microgeneration; and
- () notes that, at the budget Council meeting in March 2011, the smallest opposition group proposed a £6 million Invest to Save scheme which would have created hundreds of new jobs in the energy sector and taken advantage of the Feed in Tariff to create a sustainable income stream.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO 9 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ALISON BRELSFORD

3. **Amendment to be moved by Councillor Harry Harpham, seconded by Councillor Isobel Bowler**

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words 'That this Council' and the substitution of the following words therefor:-

- (a) welcomes the news that the major opposition group are supportive of bringing empty homes back into use, however expresses disappointment regarding their appalling record on this when they were in power;

- (b) regrets that in 2010/11, when the major opposition group were in control of the Council, they only brought 13 empty properties back into use, falling well short of the Council's own target of 30;
- (c) notes the comments of the Shadow Cabinet Member for Housing in a press release from the Liberal Democrat Group, dated 31st August, 2011, entitled 'Lib Dems demand action to bring 6,500 empty homes back into use':

"It's great that this Government, unlike its predecessors, is taking action to tackle the lack of affordable housing. Thanks to the Coalition's New Homes Bonus policy Sheffield has £2 million to help build new homes for families in this city."

- (d) expresses disappointment that the major opposition group appear to be unaware that the Government has in fact cut the budget for new social housing by 60% over four years and concludes that the major opposition group are either deliberately trying to mislead the public or are simply in complete denial about what their own Government is doing;
- (e) notes with concern the Institute for Public Policy Research article published on 31st August, 2011, entitled 'More homes, but how?', which states:

'...returning to the fundamental problem of housing supply, we need to start offering solutions. Current government policy isn't up to the task. For a start, cutting central investment in affordable housing by 63 per cent can't help. In fact, history tells us that the only really significant surges in housing supply have come when government has paid for them...'

- (f) also notes with concern Channel 4's Fact Check (published 15 April 2011), which investigated the claims made by Grant Shapps MP regarding the New Homes Bonus, and states that:

'critics like the National Housing Federation (NHF) say the [new homes] bonus will reward wealthier areas that build larger executive homes and act as a disincentive to build higher density accommodation like flats and social housing, which tend to be in a lower council tax band. The Federation says a Government incentive of an extra £350 for every affordable home won't redress the balance. New figures released by Labour's Shadow Housing Minister Alison Seabeck make clear that Britain's poorest areas will lose out. The new stats, seen by FactCheck and available here, use the Government's most recent assessments of which areas of the country are wealthier than others – the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010 – to work out who will be hit the hardest. A clear trend emerges: the more deprived the area, the less money per home it will receive from the New Homes Bonus.'

(g) further notes that Channel 4's Fact Check concluded:

'It's all very well to argue that the South East should benefit handsomely from the New Homes Bonus because that's where the housing shortage is most acute. But when you look at the figures and see that parts of Greater London are getting half the bonus of parts of Surrey, something has to be wrong. Linking the New Homes Bonus to council tax is flawed. What's worse though is the way the scheme is funded once the initial £1bn from the government runs out. Because the shortfall will be met from the government's main grant to councils, and because the poorest areas are more dependent on that main grant, the Government is quite literally robbing inner-city Waltham Forest to pay leafy Waverley.'

- (h) confirms that, although the Government likes to talk tough on reducing the number of empty properties, they have actually reduced councils' powers to deal with the problem;
- (i) further notes that under the empty dwelling management orders, introduced by the previous Government in 2006, councils had powers to take over properties that had been empty for six months, and confirms that under the new rules, a property will have to stand empty for at least two years and owners will have to be given at least three months' notice before the order can be issued;
- (j) understands that, at the moment, homes do not have to be in disrepair for the council to act, however in future, properties will need to have become a magnet for vandalism, squatters and other forms of antisocial behaviour, blighting the local neighbourhood, *before* councils can act;
- (k) confirms that despite the present Government's lack of commitment regarding bringing empty properties back into use and increasing the supply of affordable housing, the Administration will do all it can to address both of these important issues in Sheffield;
- (l) also confirms that the 'Local Growth Fund' report which was presented to Cabinet on 24th August, 2011, proposes that the New Homes Bonus money should be directed to activities that will deliver economic growth, further housing growth (and potentially including support to existing pipeline schemes) and those that bring long term vacant properties back into use, or wider regeneration projects; and
- (m) therefore confirms that bringing empty properties back into use is already part of the Administration's planned strategy regarding the New Homes Bonus and also confirms that a report will be presented to the Cabinet in the future with more detail on this issue.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO 10 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JULIE DORE

4. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, seconded by Councillor Colin Ross

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the substitution of the words "and whilst recognising" for the words "however believes" in paragraph (b), and the insertion of the words ",notes there are no excuses for this behaviour" at the end of that paragraph;
2. the deletion of paragraphs (d) to (i); and
3. the addition of new paragraphs (d) to (f) as follows:
 - (d) echoes comments from the Deputy Prime Minister and other Sheffield MPs, which praised the 'Sheffield Spirit' in light of the unacceptable rioting, violence and theft that has recently been witnessed in other cities;
 - (e) praises local youth workers, the police, community leaders and others whose work is invaluable in helping local young people shun criminality and choose the right path; and
 - (f) reserves the highest praise for Sheffield's young people themselves, who refused to join in with the greed-fuelled criminal activity that was taking place in other cities.

5. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Jackie Drayton, seconded by Councillor Pat Midgley

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:

1. The addition of the following words at the end of paragraph (c):

'which has been built on over 40 years of working in partnership with community organisations and valuing the major contribution of all the communities in Sheffield and recognising the significant contribution they make to the success of the City'
2. The addition of a new paragraph (d) as follows:
 - (d) acknowledges the contribution of the youth service providers, youth advisors and the Youth Council in this difficult time by working hard to maintain calm within the City, and thanks them for their time and commitment and welcomes the positive role models the young people set not just in the City but the also the Country;

3. The re-lettering of original paragraphs (d) to (i) as new paragraphs (e) to (j)

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO 11 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR COLIN ROSS

6. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Helen Mirfin-Boukouris, seconded by Councillor Julie Dore

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:

1. the substitution of the words “is expected to” for the word “will” in paragraph (a);
2. the substitution of the words ‘asks the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to consider inviting’ for the word “invites” in paragraph (c), and the insertion of the words ‘to be managed in conjunction with existing work schedules’ at the end of that paragraph;
3. The deletion of paragraph (d); and
4. The addition of new paragraphs (d) to (m) as follows:-
 - (d) welcomes the fact that the Leader of the Council recently met with Greg Clark MP, the newly appointed Minister for Cities to discuss the regional economy and believes that this illustrates the present Administration’s commitment to standing up for Sheffield and working with the Government where it is in Sheffield’s interest;
 - (e) is however very concerned that the present Government are not doing enough to boost economic growth and supports comments made by former CBI Director General, Sir Richard Lambert, in January, 2011, claiming that the Government:

“has failed so far to articulate in big-picture terms its vision of what the UK economy might become under its stewardship ... taken a series of policy initiatives for political reasons, apparently careless of the damage that they might do to business and to job creation”;
 - (f) regrets that the Government have ignored repeated warnings from economists, business leaders and the Opposition that they are not doing enough to support growth and their decision to cut too far too fast has resulted in growth forecasts being continuously revised down;

- (g) further regrets that the Government abolished Regional Development Agencies without putting in place a replacement structure and has cut significant amounts of investment;
- (h) is extremely concerned that the Regional Growth Fund is a two thirds cut in the budget for regional development;
- (i) notes that this view is supported by the fact that in the first round of the Regional Growth Fund, 464 projects worth £2.78 billion had been submitted for only £450 million of funding;
- (j) is concerned that this problem has continued onto round two with 500 bids totalling £3 billion for only £950 million worth of funding;
- (k) notes the comments only last week by the British Chamber of Commerce (BCC) urging the Government to do more to support business and notes comments by BCC Director General, David Frost:

"The government is right to reduce the deficit but these measures must be matched by policies to stimulate growth. The rebalancing of the economy towards net exports and investment is not yet happening at an adequate pace. If we don't get these policies right, we risk any recovery being weak and short-lived."

- (l) regrets the disappointing unemployment figures released last month and points to claims by recruitment experts that falls in confidence are making businesses reluctant to employ additional staff; and
- (m) resolves to continue to support the development of the Sheffield City Region economy through working as part of the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership and urges the Government to do more to invest in supporting economic development.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO 12 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MARY LEA

7. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Gail Smith, seconded by Councillor Clive Skelton

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraphs (a) to (f);

2. the re-lettering of paragraph (g) as a new paragraph (f); and
3. the addition of new paragraphs (a) to (e) as follows:
 - (a) welcomes the £26 million increase in the 2011-12 revenue allocation for Sheffield PCT;
 - (b) supports the Government's decision to ring-fence NHS spending from the spending reductions that were forced upon this Government by the previous Government's record national deficit;
 - (c) denounces comments by Labour's then Shadow Health Secretary, Andy Burnham, in June 2010 that it would be "irresponsible" to increase NHS spending;
 - (d) notes with concern the implication that a Labour government would have cut Sheffield PCT's revenue allocation rather than increase it; and
 - (e) believes it is irresponsible for Labour politicians to scaremonger about cuts in Sheffield's NHS budget when there has in fact been an increase.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO 13 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR IAN AUCKLAND

8. **Amendment to be moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Denise Fox**

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of all the words after the words 'That this Council', and the substitution of the following words therefor:-

- (a) notes the policy of the South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority to pursue both Quality Contracts and Voluntary Agreements in parallel;
- (b) confirms that this twin track approach has not changed and that this was reiterated at the South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority meeting of 7th July, 2011;
- (c) further confirms that this approach was supported by the Shadow Cabinet Member for Transport, who stated at the meeting on 7th July, "we are absolutely right to continue with a twin track approach", and invites any interested councillors or members of the public to view the web cast of that meeting;

- (d) deplores the blatant political opportunism and cynical scaremongering of the main opposition group and regrets that they have resorted to such tactics over an issue that holds cross-party consensus;
- (e) notes with regret that if the suggestion by the main opposition group was implemented, vital improvements for local bus users would be suspended, causing unnecessary delays in service improvements;
- (f) agrees that “we are absolutely right to continue with a twin track approach” and confirms that the present Administration will continue to work with the Integrated Transport Authority to deliver a Quality Contract in conjunction with continuing Voluntary Agreements;
- (g) supports the present Administration’s approach in continuing work to improve outcomes for local bus users over the political opportunism of the main opposition group;
- (h) asks the mover of the motion to apologise to the Integrated Transport Authority for misrepresenting their position on Quality Contracts and to local bus users for threatening to delay key improvements to local bus services; and
- (i) directs that a copy of this motion is sent to David Brown, Director General of the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO 14 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JILLIAN CREASY

9. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Gail Smith, seconded by Councillor Clive Skelton

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the substitution of the words “may have” for the words “are having” in paragraph (a);
- 2. the deletion of paragraphs (b) to (g); and
- 3. the addition of new paragraphs (b) to (h) as follows:-
 - (b) reaffirms its full support for the enduring values of the NHS – that is an NHS free at the point of use, based on need and not ability to pay, and funded through general taxation;
 - (c) regrets the piecemeal measures of the previous Government, which left behind a half-reformed health service, with command and control driven from Whitehall, hampering the NHS from achieving world-class outcomes;

- (d) supports the successful motion at the 2011 Liberal Democrat Spring Conference in Sheffield, which called on the Government to amend the Health & Social Care Bill and the resulting six month pause to the progress of the Bill;
- (e) welcomes changes already secured through Liberal Democrat influence in Government, such as moves to block competition on price and a 'race to the bottom', prevent private companies from 'cherry-picking', and slow the pace of reform to allow organisations to adapt;
- (f) therefore praises the ongoing work of Liberal Democrat Ministers, MPs and members in protecting the NHS from proposals which could damage the long-term future of a national treasure;
- (g) calls on all MPs to continue to protect the important principles of the NHS, whilst ensuring that it receives the reform it desperately needs; and
- (h) therefore directs that a copy of this motion be sent to all Sheffield MPs.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO 15 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR NIKKI SHARPE

10. **Amendment to be moved by Councillor David Baker, seconded by Councillor Bob McCann**

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraphs (c) to (f);
2. the relettering of paragraph (g) as a new paragraph (i); and
3. the addition of new paragraphs (c) to (h) as follows:
 - (c) concedes that there is political consensus around the need to reform legal aid and accepts the need to reduce the high cost of legal aid;
 - (d) regrets the complete failure of the previous Government's attempts to reform legal aid, despite thirty reviews and consultations on the subject whilst in power;
 - (e) laments the steps taken by the previous Government in relation to cutting legal aid provision, which were ill-considered and inadequately trialled, as repeatedly highlighted by relevant select committees;

- (f) supports the successful motion at the 2011 Liberal Democrat Spring Conference in Sheffield, which calls on the Government to reject any changes to legal aid which would lead to significant reductions in access to justice;
- (g) welcomes positive developments that have already been achieved through Liberal Democrat influence in Government, such as provision of legal aid for children with special educational needs and the announcement of £20 million extra funding for the not-for-profit sector in this financial year; and
- (h) calls on all MPs to improve the Bill to ensure that those most vulnerable retain free access to justice.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO 17 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JULIE DORE

11. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, seconded by Councillor Colin Ross

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the relettering of paragraph (e) as a new paragraph (g); and
- 2. the addition of new paragraphs (e) and (f) as follows:-
 - (e) commends the recent visit of school children from Chengdu to the Lord Mayor to thank Sheffield for the City's support in the wake of earthquakes in 2008; and
 - (f) praises the work of the previous Administration in establishing ties with Chengdu and developing a long-term relationship, which will evidently bring numerous benefits to Sheffield;

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO 18 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JILLIAN CREASY

12. Amendment to be moved by Councillor David Baker, seconded by Councillor Bob McCann

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the substitution of the word "may" for the word "would" in paragraph (a);
- 2. the deletion of paragraphs (b) to (h); and
- 3. the addition of new paragraphs (b) to (h) as follows:

- (b) concedes that there is political consensus around the need to reform legal aid and accepts the need to reduce the high cost of legal aid;
- (c) regrets the complete failure of the previous Government's attempts to reform legal aid, despite thirty reviews and consultations on the subject whilst in power;
- (d) laments the steps taken by the previous Government in relation to cutting legal aid provision, which were ill-considered and inadequately trialled, as repeatedly highlighted by relevant select committees;
- (e) supports the successful motion at the 2011 Liberal Democrat Spring Conference in Sheffield, which calls on the Government to reject any changes to legal aid which would lead to significant reductions in access to justice;
- (f) welcomes positive developments that have already been achieved through Liberal Democrat influence in Government, such as provision of legal aid for children with special educational needs and the announcement of £20 million extra funding for the not-for-profit sector in this financial year;
- (g) calls on all MPs to improve the Bill to ensure that those most vulnerable retain free access to justice; and
- (h) directs that a copy of this motion is sent to the Secretary of State for Justice and all Sheffield MPs.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO 19 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ROBERT MURPHY

13. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, seconded by Councillor Keith Hill

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraphs (c) and (d); and
2. the addition of a new paragraph (c) as follows:-
 - (c) believes that local Members and residents best understand their area and should continue to be allowed to introduce 20 mph speed zones through their Community Assemblies.

14. **Amendment to be moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs**

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraphs (b) to (d) and the addition of new paragraphs (b) to (f) as follows:-

- (b) welcomes the announcement made by the current Administration which will see 20 mph zones implemented around all schools in the City, and work undertaken to consider wider implementation in residential areas across the City;
- (c) supports the extension of 20mph zones across the City, where needed across the City, and welcomes the approach of the present Administration to work with local communities to take 20mph areas forward;
- (d) notes that the report by the AA Foundation for Road Safety from 2003 confirms that the journey to and from school accounts for just under 20 per cent of child casualties for children over 5;
- (e) therefore supports the present Administration's decision to implement 20mph areas around schools first, starting with infant and primary schools, and believes this is a common sense approach; and
- (f) welcomes the Highways PFI and believes that linking the 20mph zones with the Highways PFI will allow changes to be made as efficiently and cost effectively as possible.