

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 5TH JUNE, 2013

List of Amendments received by the Chief Executive

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.8 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR HARRY HARPHAM

1. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Penny Baker, seconded by Councillor Alison Brelsford

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- (1) the deletion of paragraphs (a) to (q);
- (2) the deletion of all the words after the word “examine” in paragraph (r)(ii) and their substitution by the words “what actions the Council can take to support affected residents”;
- (3) the relettering of paragraph (r) as a new paragraph (m); and
- (4) the addition of new paragraphs (a) to (l) as follows:-
 - (a) reiterates its opposition to the ‘bedroom tax’;
 - (b) welcomes concessions that have already been made to the ‘bedroom tax’, notably the exemption made for members of the armed forces and foster families;
 - (c) supports also the Government’s decision to treble the Discretionary Housing Payment budget and provide councils with discretionary funding to help families in difficult circumstances;
 - (d) encourages the Government to go further by agreeing additional exemptions and increasing the Discretionary Payments funding;
 - (e) believes these concessions come as a result of Liberal Democrat influence in Government and thanks Liberal Democrat Ministers for working to improve the policy;
 - (f) reaffirms that the root cause of this problem is the nation’s housing crisis and endorses the current Government’s action to build more affordable housing;
 - (g) contrasts this action with the lamentable record of the previous Government who during their thirteen years in

power:

- (i) saw the building of social housing decline to its lowest figure since the Second World War;
 - (ii) built seven times more prison cells than council homes;
 - (iii) oversaw the Housing Market Renewal Scheme, in which 4,590 houses in South Yorkshire were demolished, while just 2,415 were built, at a cost of £265 million; and
 - (iv) created a legacy where there are now 2 million households in England on housing waiting lists, 250,000 families living in over-crowded accommodation and 1 million bedrooms standing empty;
- (h) recalls that the previous Government implemented an under-occupancy rule in the private sector through Local Housing Allowance, in which no concessions were made for foster children, overnight carers, or service personnel;
- (i) notes that the Leader of the Opposition and the Shadow Secretary of State for Work & Pensions, still refuse to commit to repeal the 'bedroom tax' as well as the commitment of the Shadow Chancellor to "work within" the Coalition's current spending forecasts;
- (j) furthermore, highlights that Her Majesty's Opposition have yet to put forward any credible plans for reducing the record budget deficit that they created or the unsustainable welfare bill that taxpayers are being asked to fund;
- (k) draws attention to the complete lack of action from the present Administration in supporting affected residents and in particular notes the following decisions:
- (i) imposing a 23% cut in Council Tax Benefit, refusing an offer of £1.1 million from the Government to reduce the cut;
 - (ii) consistent dithering over £10 million of New Homes Bonus funding, which should have been used earlier to help provide affordable housing in Sheffield; and
 - (iii) rejecting proposals from opposition councillors for

a cross-party working group to support local residents affected by the 'bedroom tax';

- (l) implores the Administration to offer local residents more than crocodile tears and investigate what action the Council can take to support those who are affected.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.9 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR LEIGH BRAMALL

2. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, seconded by Councillor Andrew Sangar

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of existing paragraphs (c) to (n) and the addition of new paragraphs (c) to (j) as follows:-

- (c) regrets that this progress is now being jeopardised by a dangerous 'anti-business' message being projected by the Town Hall;
- (d) highlights the following decisions as examples of the ruling Group's 'anti-business' rhetoric:
 - (i) rejecting a proposal by NEXT to locate a new department store in Sheffield, which could have created 120 new jobs;
 - (ii) a lukewarm reception to the proposal by IKEA to locate a new £60 million store within Sheffield, which could create 700 new jobs;
 - (iii) a failure to progress the Sevenstones project, which would create 1,000 new jobs;
 - (iv) a decision to hike parking permit fees for local businesses and increase city centre parking charges;
 - (v) ignoring appeals from traders in Millhouses for additional parking over the Christmas period and opposing plans to re-introduce free Christmas parking in the city and district centres;
 - (vi) refusing to hold further scrutiny into Sheffield City Airport, despite calls from small and medium sized businesses; and
 - (vii) voting to ban ice cream vans more than 5 years old;
- (e) notes that this string of illogical decisions has damaged

Sheffield and led to criticism of the Council from the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and the South Yorkshire Federation of Small Businesses;

- (f) contrasts this to the record of the previous Administration who took Sheffield from the 'worst place to do business in South Yorkshire' to the best;
- (g) furthermore applauds the work of Liberal Democrats in Government to build a stronger economy in a fairer society, specifically those Government measures which will help build a stronger economy in Sheffield City Region, including:
 - (i) signing the Sheffield City Region City Deal, a radical agreement and the boldest step a Government has taken to truly put the region in the driving seat for economic growth;
 - (ii) confirming that Sheffield will be the location of a new High Speed Rail station;
 - (iii) creating an enterprise zone for Sheffield City Region, which could produce as many as 12,000 new jobs;
 - (iv) agreeing Tax Increment Financing powers, which should allow the Sevenstones development to proceed;
 - (v) awarding £65 million to Sheffield City Region through the third round of the Government's Regional Growth Fund, to support small and medium sized businesses;
 - (vi) providing £9.9 million for the construction of Sheffield University Technical College, which will provide the next generation of Sheffielders with the skills the City requires;
 - (vii) enabling Sheffield's Streets Ahead project to proceed through a £1.2 billion contribution;
 - (viii) investing millions of pounds in Sheffield's buses, trams, trains and highways;
 - (ix) investing millions of pounds to support construction and infrastructure through the New Homes Bonus and the Growing Places Fund; and
 - (x) funding the Administration's Chapel Walk project, with over £100,000 through the High Street Innovation Fund;
- (h) notes reports that last year, Yorkshire posted the biggest increase in the proportion of people working in the private sector

of any English region, confirming the Government's progress in re-balancing the British economy;

- (i) contrasts this with the previous Government who, in the opinion of Polly Toynbee, "kowtowed to wealth, glorified the City and put all the nation's economic eggs into one dangerous basket" and oversaw the continued decline of UK manufacturing; and
- (j) recommends that the Administration works immediately to shed their "anti-business" image and make Sheffield a genuinely business-friendly city.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.10 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JOE OTTEN

3. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Jack Scott, seconded by Councillor Gill Furniss

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) confirms for the record that overall across the City, fly-tipping has reduced and welcomes that the Council was rated as effective in dealing with fly-tipping, according to national indicators;
- (b) regrets that the main opposition group have falsely stated that fly-tipping is increasing in an attempt to mislead local people about fly-tipping and notes comments from the Head of Environmental Regulation that "The increase percentage figure as quoted is not credible. The categories for this year and last year are different, so only a city-wide view gives the whole picture.";
- (c) welcomes the action taken by the present Administration to tackle fly-tipping, including working with businesses and residents to ensure the correct disposal of waste and strong enforcement activity which has led to approximately 12 people convicted of waste related offences and many receiving cautions in the past 12 months;
- (d) further welcomes that the Council has issued over 100 fixed penalty notices for littering and dog fouling which is a large increase on previous years;
- (e) believes this is a result of the decision to set on two part time staff to help with patrolling and recalls that the previous Administration scrapped posts to tackle littering;

- (f) confirms that reductions in opening hours at Household Waste Recycling Centres were proposed in the 2011/12 budget set by the previous Administration and deplores the hypocrisy of the main opposition group; and
- (g) believes that fly-tipping is caused by irresponsible, ignorant and criminal behaviour and deplores the main opposition group for continuously excusing the irresponsible behaviour of fly-tippers and welcomes the Administration's attempts to crack down on fly-tipping.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.11 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR NEALE GIBSON

4. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, seconded by Councillor Colin Ross

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) supports genuine measures to tackle chronic issues of debt in Sheffield;
- (b) however, regrets that measures agreed in the previous Government's Gambling Act 2005 removed the need for betting shops to prove a local demand before opening another one;
- (c) furthermore, notes comments by Citizens Advice Chief Executive, Gillian Guy, that proposals from The Rt. Hon. Ed Miliband MP, would do "little" to control the much "bigger problem" of predatory payday lenders online;
- (d) notes that the actual purpose of these Government proposals is to allow empty buildings to be converted into much-needed housing, avoiding the need to concrete over treasured green spaces; and
- (e) calls upon the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government to fully consider all the implications of this policy and directs that a copy of this motion is forwarded to him.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.12 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MAZHER IQBAL

5. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Keith Hill, seconded by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- (1) the deletion of paragraphs (a) to (g);
- (2) the relettering of paragraph (h) as a new paragraph (e); and
- (3) the addition of new paragraphs (a) to (d) as follows:-
 - (a) welcomes the commitment within the Coalition Agreement to maintaining the goal of eradicating child poverty by 2020;
 - (b) notes that the most recent official data showed the number of children living in poverty in the UK actually fell by 300,000;
 - (c) regrets that the previous Government failed to meet its child poverty target by hundreds of thousands and that the gap between the richest and the poorest actually rose during their thirteen years in power; and
 - (d) applauds the work of Liberal Democrats in Government to build a stronger economy in a fairer society, specifically those Government measures which will support children living in poverty, including:
 - (i) funding to provide 15 hours of free childcare per week to disadvantaged 2 year olds;
 - (ii) the pupil premium, which will see £18.1 million invested into Sheffield schools next academic year, a figure which will continue to grow year-on-year;
 - (iii) the successful Summer Schools programme, and a further £100m to repeat the programme this year and next; and
 - (iv) an additional £50 million a year to provide extra tuition to 11-year-olds who are struggling with poor maths and reading skills.

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

6. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Mick Rooney

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 recent Government award recognising Sheffield City Council as a 'Best Council to do business with' which was selected by a panel consisting of the Federation of Small Businesses, Confederation of British Industry, British Chambers of Commerce, Local Government Association, Cabinet Office, Department for Business Innovation and Skills and the Department for Communities and Local Government;
- (b) further welcomes that the award recognised work around the Streets Ahead contract, the biggest in the Council's history, where bidders were encouraged to use local suppliers in their sub-contracting arrangements which has been extremely successful and around 80% of sub-contractors are Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) providing support on a variety of jobs;
- (c) confirms that the Council also ran events such as the Bidders Briefing with an open invitation to all local suppliers to attend giving them an opportunity to network with the market leaders in the highway maintenance sector;
- (d) welcomes other actions taken by the present Administration including providing free one-hour sessions for local businesses, filmed training sessions and put them on the internet, and filmed a 'how to' video on Council procurement and posted that online, filmed by a local digital media company;
- (e) welcomes that the present Administration are delivering on their commitment to be a business friendly council and welcomes initiatives to support local businesses and boost economic growth including:
 - (i) breaking down the barriers for SMEs to access the Regional Growth Fund;
 - (ii) the RISE Graduate Scheme which supports local SMEs to employ graduates;
 - (iii) the export project supporting local SMEs to enter new export markets;
 - (iv) the Sheffield Apprenticeship Programme;
 - (v) Skills Made Easy designed by Sheffield City Council, in partnership with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), to put the purchasing power for training for the first time,

in the hands of businesses in the Sheffield City Region (SCR);

- (vi) Business Summits;
 - (vii) the small business loan fund;
 - (viii) up to 50% reductions in off street parking charges;
 - (ix) the Chapel Walk scheme to develop local independent retail businesses;
 - (x) the Digital Direction Programme; and
 - (xi) securing a Start Up Loans for Young People, the only Council to have done so;
- (f) further welcomes the action of the present Administration of establishing the Keep Sheffield Working Fund, recognising the importance of supporting local businesses in the current challenging economic climate;
- (g) notes that this approach is in stark contrast to the previous Administration who:
- (i) broke a promise of its Leader to commit £1 million of Council resources to support the previous Government's Future Jobs Fund;
 - (ii) defended the Government's decision to scrap the loan to Sheffield Forgemasters;
 - (iii) completely failed to move the regeneration of the city centre forward in three years; and
 - (iv) increased market rents by 40% which would have seen many market traders put out of business;
- (h) regrets that even in opposition the Liberal Democrats are attempting to stall economic growth in the region through their proposals to block the creation of a Combined Authority and spending much of the Keep Sheffield Working Fund which would have prevented the development of many of the positive pro-business policies listed above;
- (i) deplores the way the major opposition group played politics with the issue of HS2 by engaging local businesses to campaign for a Victoria station location, noting comments posted on the Sheffield Liberal Democrat website from Councillor Ian Auckland from March 2012: "Locating the station somewhere like

Meadowhall would see passengers travel four miles out of the city and therefore the improved journey time to London would be negated. We believe to maximise the benefits of High Speed Rail the station must come to the city centre – and that the old Sheffield Victoria station would make a great location; a symbol of Sheffield’s enduring affection for its past and its unnerving dedication to the future.”, only to drop the campaign immediately that the Government announced that Meadowhall was their preferred option; and

- (j) recognises that at a time when the Government have categorically failed to take action to secure economic growth it is more important than ever to redouble efforts to grow the local economy and support job creation and resolves to continue being business friendly and to focus on jobs and to build on the recent recognition of the Council’s business friendly approach through the ‘Best Council to do business with’ award.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 15 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR DAVID BAKER

7. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Mazher Iqbal, seconded by Councillor Geoff Smith

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) regrets that this Government is making unprecedented and unfair cuts to Sheffield City Council and that the Council has had to make savings of £140 million over the past two years with a further £50 million for 2013/14;
- (b) is committed to local engagement and community empowerment, but believes that the unprecedented level of cuts that the Council is facing means that spending £2.4 million per year on locality engagement to the detriment of other services is no longer sustainable;
- (c) acknowledges that if this level of saving was not found from the locality budgets, it would need to be found by making cuts to other parts of the Council’s budget and believes it is disingenuous of the main opposition group to call upon the Council to protect Community Assemblies without explaining which budgets they would cut;
- (d) regrets that as a result of the budget position, all areas across the City are facing substantial budget reductions, however, supports the proposals to allocate the remaining funding in line

with the indices of multiple deprivation, noting that a significant proportion of Community Assembly funding was allocated in line with the indices of multiple deprivation;

- (e) welcomes that this is in line with the recommendations of the independent Fairness Commission of which the Leader of the main Opposition Group was a commissioner;
- (f) notes that as a result of the proposals, all areas will receive funding in accordance with the levels of deprivation in their area;
- (g) will continue to encourage local engagement and community empowerment, however accepts that this will be with significantly reduced resources due to the unfair Government cuts that the Council is facing;
- (h) believes that the current Community Assembly system is flawed as it has failed to engage communities sufficiently and has as its main focus formal Assembly meetings which have often failed to attract the public or convince them that they were influencing decisions;
- (i) notes that Councillor David Baker, one of the Lib Dem architects of Community Assemblies, is reported within the write-up of a Sheffield for Democracy meeting, called to discuss Community Assemblies, on 23rd October, 2012, as offering the perspective that “Community Assemblies (other than the North East Community Assembly) have not operated as intended”;
- (j) acknowledges that despite the flaws in the system, some good local work has been achieved by Community Assembly staff, local members and community groups; and
- (k) believes that more of a focus on working at a Ward level will encourage community engagement and participation and represents the best option given the scale of the budget cuts faced by the Council.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO.16 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR COLIN ROSS

8. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Jayne Dunn

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) regrets that the Liberal Democrats in Government have presided

over the slowest economic recovery in 100 years and notes that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have declared the Chancellor's fiscal plans are a "drag on growth" and warned that Britain is "a long way from a strong and sustainable recovery";

- (b) believes this and their complete failure to produce a credible plan for economic growth has led to two and a half years of a flatlining economy;
- (c) notes that in March, the Office for Budget Responsibility halved the growth forecast for this year and downgraded it for next year too;
- (d) further notes that other countries are doing better with the UK economy now 2.6% below its pre-crisis peak and the USA 3.2% above;
- (e) regrets that unemployment is higher now than at the General Election, with almost 1 million young people unemployed and nearly half a million people unemployed for more than two years, the highest figure since May 1997; and
- (f) believes that in addition to their national economic failure, the Liberal Democrats in Government have introduced a range of measures to the detriment of Sheffield's economy including:
 - (i) cutting the funding for regional economic development by two thirds;
 - (ii) cancelling the loan to Sheffield Forgemasters;
 - (iii) suspended a Government grant for the New Retail Quarter; and
 - (iv) brought forward proposals to remove Sheffield as a protected name which was met by disdain within the local business community.