

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 4TH DECEMBER, 2013

List of Amendments received by the Chief Executive

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 9 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR IAN AUCKLAND

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

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraphs (a) to (d) and (f) to (k);
2. the re-lettering of paragraph (e) as a new paragraph (d); and
3. the addition of new paragraphs (a) to (c) and (e) to (k) as follows:-
 - (a) welcomes the locally designed and developed City Deal Sheffield secured from Government as a first small step towards devolving real powers from Whitehall to local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs);
 - (b) welcomes the success of the current Administration and South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority (SYITA) in developing innovative schemes and proposals that have secured tens of millions of pounds, including tram train, and the Bus Rapid Transport North scheme;
 - (c) welcomes proposals to devolve the Northern Rail franchise to a local level;
 - (e) notes the success of the current Administration and SYITA in developing the successful Sheffield Bus Partnership Agreement;
 - (f) notes that the ground-breaking innovation in the development of the Sheffield Bus Partnership Agreement has led to Sheffield securing £18 million to further improve bus services in the City;
 - (g) recalls that local Liberal Democrats consistently opposed the Bus Partnership Agreement, a position that would have denied the city £18 million of investment in public transport, and therefore welcomes the approach taken by the then Liberal Democrat Transport Minister, Norman Baker MP, in contrast to local Liberal Democrats, in recognising the excellent work of the

SYITA and the current Administration to deliver a better bus service;

- (h) notes that the hard work of the partnership between the current Administration and the SYITA led to the SYITA being recognised as the Integrated Transport Authority of the Year at the National Transport Awards this Autumn;
- (i) however, notes that the success in securing capital investment comes amid a backdrop of unprecedented Government cuts to Council funding;
- (j) further notes that the level of cuts being imposed on local government is inevitably reducing and limiting the capacity of many local authorities to undertake work to develop the economy and major transport schemes, and believes this issue demonstrates a complete lack of joined up policy from the Coalition Government and demonstrates that the Coalition has no plan for sustainable growth; and
- (k) welcomes the commitment of the Administration to continue to work to deliver innovative transport schemes, in the face of these unprecedented cuts from Government.

2. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Andrew Sangar, seconded by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

- 1. the re-lettering of paragraphs (h) to (k) as new paragraphs (j) to (m); and
- 2. the addition of new paragraphs (h) and (i) as follows:-
 - (h) notes recent research by KPMG, which highlights South Yorkshire as one of the biggest winners of the proposed High Speed Rail 2 project;
 - (i) fully supports High Speed Rail 2 and regrets that local Labour MPs refused to sign a letter to the Shadow Chancellor calling on him to clarify his position on the project;

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 10 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MAZHER IQBAL

3. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Joe Otten, 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) is appalled by the latest round of excessive hikes in energy prices and believes these have been caused by the last Government, who took the market from seventeen operators to the dominance of the big six;
- (b) welcomes the latest Government proposals, which will see average energy bills reduced by £50;
- (c) notes that this deal was reached while protecting the fuel poor and maintaining support levels for green energy and believes that such a deal could not have been reached without Liberal Democrats in Government;
- (d) confirms that this latest announcement follows a number of measures already taken by the Government to tackle high energy bills, including:
 - (i) the ground-breaking Green Deal, including investment described by the Council's Cabinet Member for Environment as "fantastic news for Sheffield";
 - (ii) reversing the previous Government's planned cut to Cold Weather Payments, which are targeted at the most vulnerable;
 - (iii) promoting 'collective switching' and making it easier for households to switch providers;
 - (iv) reducing fuel bills for 2 million families by up to £130 through the Warm Home Discount;
 - (v) rolling out a 'smart meter' programme, which helps people save money and ensures energy companies meet demand more efficiently; and
 - (vi) working with Ofgem to investigate and tackle the big six's profits;
- (e) rejects spurious claims that rising energy prices are linked to green levies and highlights research which demonstrates that the Coalition Government's climate change policies will save consumers roughly £166 in energy bills by 2020;
- (f) believes the Labour Party's proposed price freeze is a con, which could risk blackouts and jeopardise green jobs as well as billions of pounds of investment in low carbon technology;

- (g) furthermore considers that energy companies will significantly hike prices in anticipation of a freeze and that in the long run a freeze will drive smaller operators out of the market, thereby reducing competition and actually upholding high prices;
- (h) recognises the work already undertaken by the Council to support local residents with energy bills including the previous Administration's Free Insulation Scheme, which insulated over 28,000 homes in Sheffield, and the Big Sheffield Switch;
- (i) however, calls on the current Administration to go further to support local residents struggling with high energy bills by:
 - (i) utilising underspends in the Council capital programme to create a £1 million Local Climate Change Fund, to support community micro-generation projects;
 - (ii) maximising the use of collective switching, by repeating the Big Sheffield Switch;
 - (iii) promoting the Green Deal, by encouraging local residents to make use of free household assessments; and
 - (iv) investigating the use of public health funding to support elderly residents with improved insulation.

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

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

- (g) notes that recent budget amendments by the smaller opposition group would have meant lower bills for thousands of Sheffield residents if they had been supported by this Council;
- (h) is disappointed that this motion contains no suggestion of support from this Council to local residents other than support for promises of possible national action in 2015;
- (i) believes that the announcement of a future Price Freeze policy by The Rt. Hon. Ed Miliband MP will lead to higher energy prices before 2015, adversely affecting the residents of Sheffield; and
- (j) calls on this Administration to produce a report as soon as

possible on ways that it can help cut the energy bills of its residents.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 11 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR LEIGH BRAMALL

5. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed, seconded by Councillor Ian Auckland

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) laments the appalling legacy of unemployment left by the last Government, including a 42% increase in youth unemployment between 1997 and 2010;
- (b) highlights that in the first year of the Coalition Government, spending on apprenticeships increased by £250 million – a 50% increase on the previous Government’s commitments;
- (c) supports all measures to help young people in Sheffield into jobs, including the Sheffield Apprenticeship Programme, Rise Sheffield, the City Deal, the Youth Contract and University Technical Colleges;
- (d) regrets that the Administration have attempted to reduce policies that have cross-party support to party-political point scoring;
- (e) reminds the Administration that criticisms of its policies are not coming from the main opposition group but from local businesses and highlights comments from leaders in the business community such as claims that the Council is “closing its doors for business” and has “lost touch with the business reality of the 21st Century”;
- (f) believes that the only people ‘running Sheffield down’ are the cynical politicians in the Labour Party, including:
 - (i) the local Labour MP who predicted there would be a “post-soviet meltdown” in the city;
 - (ii) the same Labour MP who – as reported by the BBC – warned of race riots on the streets of Sheffield; and
 - (iii) the current Labour Leader of the Council who wrote to a national publication to claim there would be “Rising crime, increasing community tension and ... the break up of civil

society” in Sheffield; and

- (g) condemns the cynical hypocrisy of politicians in the ruling group and their attempts to yet again gag any opposition to their Administration.

6. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Chris Rosling-Josephs, seconded by Councillor Denise Fox

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the deletion of paragraph (g) and the addition of a new paragraph (g) as follows:-

- (g) further welcomes the fact that this commitment to apprenticeships is now reflected in the fact that the City has seen the percentage of young people Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETS) reduce first to 6.5% and, according to the very latest figures, reduce to 6.2% - the first time the Council has recorded NEETS of below 7%;

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 12 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JOE OTTEN

7. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Mazher Iqbal, seconded by Councillor Jack Scott

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) believes Britain’s energy market isn’t working for ordinary families and businesses and the cost of electricity and gas is crippling their family finances;
- (b) regrets that energy bills have risen by almost £300 for families since 2010 and businesses say it’s the second biggest cost they face and is concerned that when the price of energy increases energy companies pass this on, but when it drops consumers don’t see their bills fall;
- (c) notes recent research by Which? estimating that flaws in the market have left consumers paying £3.9bn a year over the odds since 2010;
- (d) fully opposes the unfair price rises recently announced by the big energy companies including a 10.4% increase in Npower’s dual-fuel bills from December, SSE increasing prices by 8.2% from 15th November, British Gas increasing their prices by 9.2% on 23rd November and Scottish Power raising prices by 8.6%

from 6th December;

- (e) notes comments from the Chief Executive of Citizens Advice speaking about the SSE increase “The price rise will be a blow for stretched budgets Many households are facing a daily battle to try to make their frozen incomes cover mounting energy, food and travel costs. Further increases will push people into poverty.”;
- (f) believes that the increases represent a rip-off and believes that the present Government have chosen to defend the big energy companies and have failed to stand up for the consumer;
- (g) regrets that the Council’s main opposition group’s spokesperson for energy has followed the line of the Conservative Party in defending the energy companies rather than Sheffield families and is extremely concerned by the following comments he made in “Lib Dem Voice” on 30th September, 2013 “No energy company has a duty to invest in anything” and “To say that energy prices are the fault of the energy companies is obviously on one level correct, but seems to imply that they have a duty to us rather than their shareholders when they set their prices. They have a legal duty not to operate a cartel, but beyond this they pitch their prices to maximise profits.”
- (h) believes that this demonstrates that the main opposition group is only concerned with defending the excessive profits of the big energy companies and has no concern for Sheffield’s hard pressed families who are faced with extortionate increases in their energy bills;
- (i) welcomes the commitment by The Rt. Hon. Ed Miliband MP to freeze energy bills until 2017 upon the election of a Labour Government;
- (j) further welcomes the commitment that the next Labour Government will reset our energy market so it works for Britain’s families and businesses, with a new tough regulator to stop overcharging;
- (k) notes the recent announcement by the Coalition Government but regrets that even after the proposed changes to levies, energy bills are still rising and the average household will still be paying £70 more for their energy than last winter; and
- (l) recognises that the proposed changes appear to be shifting the burden from energy companies to the taxpayer and so concludes the Coalition’s latest policy is nothing more than smoke and mirrors.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 15 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JILLIAN CREASY

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

That the Motion now submitted be amended by the insertion in paragraph (f) between the word “Government” and the word “to” of the words “campaign for a global agreement”.

9. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Geoff Smith, seconded by Councillor Mohammad Maroof

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraphs (b) to (h);
2. the re-lettering of paragraph (i) as a new paragraph (j); and
3. the addition of new paragraphs (b) to (i) as follows:-
 - (b) believes that the Government’s austerity programme has delayed any economic recovery by three years, unfairly penalised the poor, unfairly targeted local government and unfairly cut the funds of major urban authorities such as Sheffield;
 - (c) further believes that the Government’s taxation decisions have also been unfair and ineffective, raising VAT which is a regressive tax, giving tax cuts to millionaires, and failing to take any effective action to deal with widespread tax avoidance by large corporations and the super-rich;
 - (d) notes the important work undertaken by The Rt. Hon. Margaret Hodge MP, the Labour Chair of the Public Accounts Committee to expose the way in which many major corporations avoid paying taxes at the moment through creative accounting;
 - (e) believes that there is a need for a new Government taxation strategy which provides funds for decent public services, is fair, places greater responsibility for paying taxes on the better off, and includes robust, enforceable methods of combatting tax evasion and avoidance;
 - (f) further believes that this taxation strategy has to support sustainable growth and the necessary rebalancing of the UK economy, and avoid any detrimental impact on productive economic activity;

- (g) welcomes the Labour Party's commitment to introduce a 'Mansion Tax' on property worth over £2m and deplores the decision of the Liberal Democrats to vote with the Conservative Party against this measure in March 2013;
- (h) notes the potential of the extension of the current Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) to include bonds and derivatives to raise significant additional income;
- (i) urges the Government to work towards the implementation of an extended FTT by international agreement to ensure that all major financial centres are subject to the tax and that additional revenues are available for domestic public services and international development;

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 16 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR DIANA STIMELY

10. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Ian Auckland, seconded by Councillor David Baker

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

- (e) welcomes the Administration's decision to re-introduce free Christmas parking and accepts this as an admission of the failure of their parking policies; and
- (f) urges the Administration to now undertake a full review of city-centre parking, including recent hikes, which were branded 'disgraceful' and 'killing' by local businesses.

11. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Neale Gibson

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 current Administration's announcement last week of a 'Free from Three' parking scheme in the run up to Christmas to provide free parking from 3pm on the Wednesdays in December up to Christmas Day, for on-street and off street parking in the city centre;
- (b) further welcomes the announcement of a first ever trial of a

Parking Payback scheme in Broomhill, developed with Broomhill traders, to launch in December;

- (c) notes that the current Administration has also reduced most off-street Council car park fees by up to 50% and has reduced off-prime on-street fees, compared to those levied by the previous Administration;
- (d) further notes that the previous Administration increased parking fees in all but one year of their term, and used Government funding that the Coalition has now cut to fund free Christmas parking schemes; and
- (e) therefore welcomes the current Administration's commitments to be business friendly and focus on jobs, and believes the new parking initiatives recently announced, along with the successful Summer Saturdays programme of activities in the city centre between July and September, demonstrate real action from the Council in the face of unprecedented cuts from the Coalition Government.

ITEM OF BUSINESS NO. 18 – NOTICE OF MOTION GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ROB FROST

12. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Isobel Bowler, seconded by Councillor David Barker

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

- (b) welcomes the £4m the Council has secured in recent years from the Football Association and the Football Foundation, enabling investment in pitches across the city from Totley to Bawtry Road and Parsons Cross to Norfolk Park;
- (c) confirms that the Council is working with governing bodies and Sport England on identifying and funding the next wave of improvements; and
- (d) regrets the significant Government cuts to Sheffield's funding which have resulted in a reduction in the parks budget of £4m since 2010 and further regrets the resulting impact on maintenance and investment budgets for our parks, including sports pitches.

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

13. Amendment to be moved by Councillor Leigh Bramall, seconded by Councillor Robert Johnson

That the Motion now submitted be amended by:-

1. the deletion of paragraph (a) and the addition of a new paragraph (a) as follows:-
 - (a) notes that Government figures show that Sheffield has lower levels of congestion than most other Core Cities;
2. the deletion of paragraph (e) and the addition of a new paragraph (e) as follows:-
 - (e) reaffirms this Council's support for provision for cycle carriage on Tram/Trains and regrets the SYITA decision to reject a Tram/Train vehicle design that would have allowed the carriage of cycles to be trialled.

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